



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Historic Environment Action Plans

Area 7: Fovant Terrace
and the Area Between
Chalbury and Woodlands





This document forms part of a suite of documents which together comprise the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Environment Action Plans.

The HEAPs provide a summary of the key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB at a landscape scale, they then set out the significance, condition and forces for change affecting the historic fabric and character of this special landscape and identify proactive actions to conserve and enhance these special characteristics. These summaries are divided into two groups:

1. Summaries of the historic environment of the AONB by area
2. Summaries of the historic environment of the AONB by theme

These core documents are accompanied by documents which provide background information, supplementary information and detail on the methodologies used to create these documents.

A series of icons help you navigate this suite of documents:



Background - Provides an introduction to the AONB Historic Environment Action Plans and provides background information on the history and archaeology of the landscape **(B1 to B10)**



Area - Summarises key characteristics of discrete geographical areas within the AONB, they then set out the significance, condition and forces for change affecting the historic fabric and character of each area and identify proactive actions to conserve and enhance its characteristics **(A1 to A12)**



Theme - Summarises key characteristics of historic environment themes, each document then sets out the significance, condition and forces for change affecting the historic fabric and character of each theme and identify proactive actions to conserve and enhance its characteristics **(T1 to T14)**



Supplementary - A series of documents which explore supplementary issues of relevance to the Historic Environment Action Plans **(S1 to S2)**

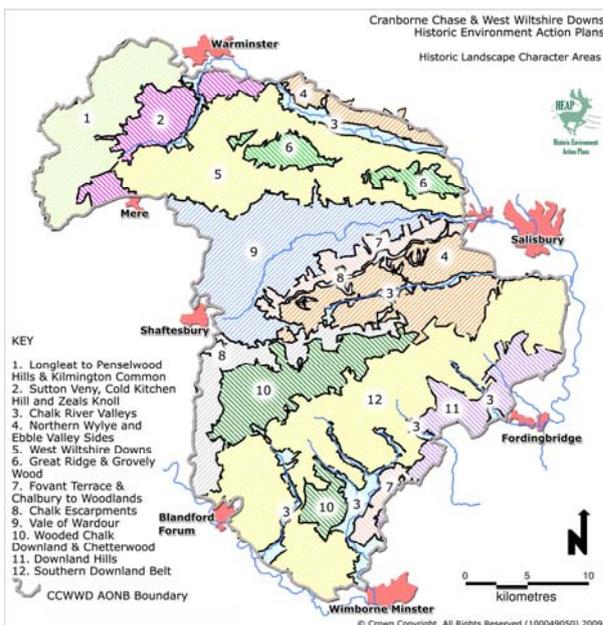


Method - Introduces the methodology behind the production of the Historic Environment Action Plans **(M1 to M3)**

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Introducing the Historic Landscape Character Areas



Twelve distinct Historic Landscape Character Areas have been identified in the AONB. The attributes used to identify the Historic Landscape Character Areas was based on information in the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation. The HLC provided two key pieces of information:

1. The present day historic landscape character present in the AONB.
2. The surviving evidence of the historical development of the area.

The following descriptions aim to provide an overview of each area

which encapsulates the main features of the Historic Environment present and include both the archaeological and historical, the very old and the more recent.

M2

The process through which the Historic Landscape Character Areas were identified, and mapped, and the sources of information used to create these descriptions is documented in the methodological statement 'Creating and Describing Historic Character Areas'.

Location, Geology, Land Use and Topography

A8

A9

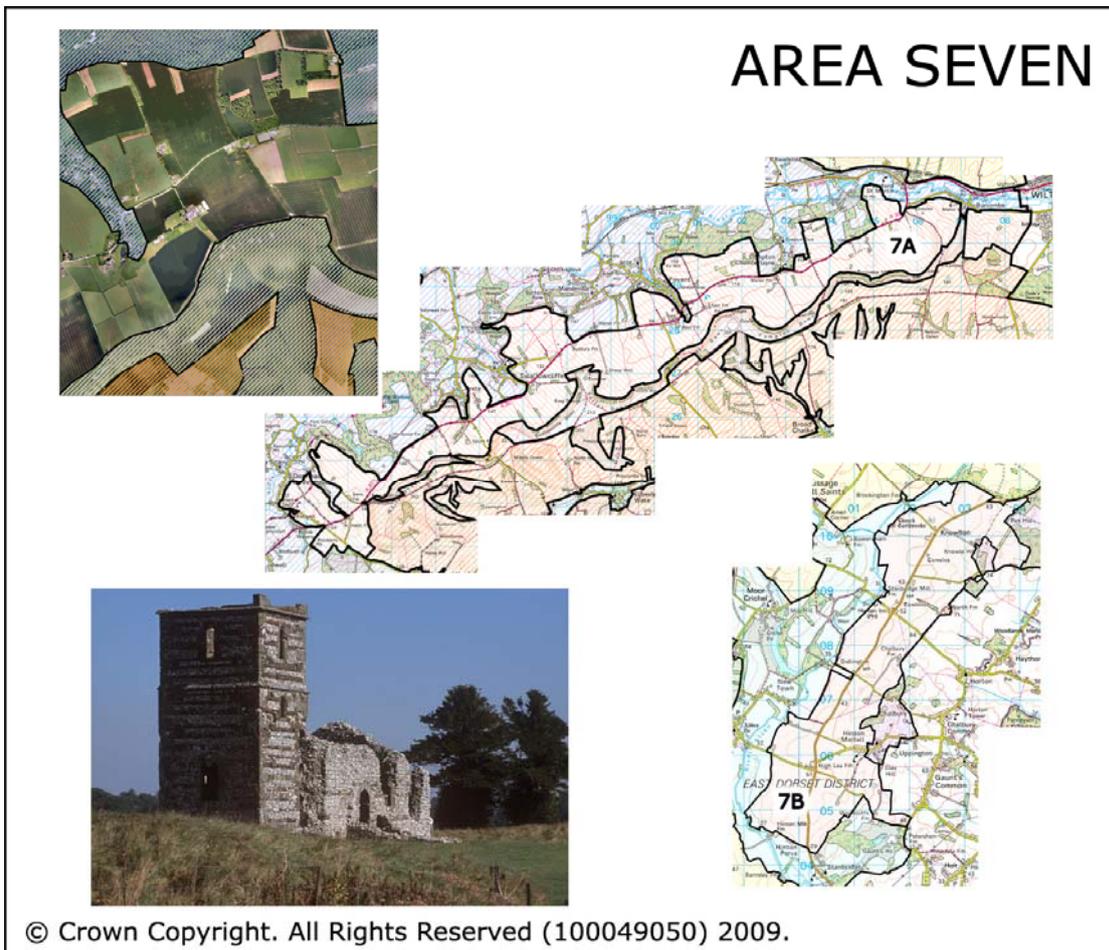
Area 7A is located on the greensand Fovant Terrace. The landscape appears flat but slopes away to the north. The landscape is dominated

by arable crop production. It is bounded by the vale of Wardour to the north (see Area 9) and the Fovant Chalk escarpment to the south (See Area 8A)

A3

Area 7B is located in the south side of the AONB on a flat low area of upper chalk between Chalbury and Woodlands. It is bounded to the west by the Allen Valley (see Area 3D). The predominant land use is arable.

Location Map



Summary

Summary of Key Characteristics

- *Areas dominated by grid like regular parliamentary enclosure which has obscured previous land uses.*
- *Both areas have historic turnpikes at their heart, with the parliamentary fields being spread out either side.*
- *The Fovant Terrace is associated with the remains of the former military camps stretching between Sutton Mandeville and Fovant and with views of the chalk badges on the escarpment.*
- *The area between Chalbury and Woodlands is associated with the great Neolithic henge at Knowlton and associated monuments.*

Summary of Statement of Significance

- *The area is moderately significant in terms of the coherence of the historic landscape character and the clarity which the parliamentary landscape is displayed compared with other areas under the AONB.*
- *The prehistoric archaeology in the two areas has a high evidential value.*
- *The known archaeological sites between Chalbury and Woodlands have a high historic value*
- *Significant historical value of traces of military camps on the Fovant terrace*

Summary of Forces for Change

- Changes in Agriculture and Farming
- Changes in Natural Environment
- Changes in Settlement and Infrastructure Development
- Changes in Climate

Summary of State of the Historic Environment

- Coherent historic landscape character
- Nationally important prehistoric sites are much less coherent with only the one Henge at Knowlton visible
- Potential for further erosion of historic landscape character by the further subdivision of fields
- Loss or damage to nationally important buried archaeology through ploughing

Summary of Historic Environment Actions

- *ACTION 3: Identify and record components of historic highways*
- *ACTION 5: Reduce unintended/accidental damage to buried archaeology or extant monuments*
- *ACTION 6: Gain AONB wide coverage of mapping and interpretation of archaeological features from aerial photographs*
- *ACTION 10: Gain greater understanding of historic farm buildings and farmsteads*
- *ACTION 11: Enhance appreciation of the Prehistoric archaeology of the area*
- *ACTION 12: Widen knowledge of ways and means of maintaining historic farm buildings*
- *ACTION 13: Enhance appreciation of the military history and archaeology*
- *ACTION 15: Increase understanding of Medieval landscape elements of the AONB by academics, teachers and public.*
- *ACTION 17: Improve management of historic boundaries and ensure they are retained*

Linkages to other Historic Landscape Character Statements

This statement forms one of 12 Historic Landscape Character Area statements which cover the whole of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These are accompanied by AONB wide Historic Landscape Character Theme statements. These documents together build up a picture of the key characteristics of the Historic Environment of the AONB at a landscape scale.

Other Historic Landscape Character Areas adjacent to this area are:



Area 3: Chalk River Valleys

Area 5: West Wiltshire Downs

Area 9: Vale of Wardour

Area 11: Downland Hills

Area 12: Southern Downland Belt

Historic Landscape Character Themes of particular relevance to this area are:



Theme 2: Farms and Farming
 Theme 3: Fields in the Landscape
 Theme 7: Landscapes of Militarism, Commemoration & Defence
 Theme 8: Landscapes of Prehistory
 Theme 10: Routeways in the Landscape

History and Context

Both areas are notable for concentrations of prehistoric activity. The Fovant Terrace for scatters of stone tools and the Chalbury to Woodlands Terrace for Prehistoric monuments, including the great Neolithic enclosures at Knowlton.

The distinctive historic landscape characteristics of these two areas are derived from the imposition of Parliamentary enclosure.

Enclosure is the process “by which land that has formerly been owned and exploited collectively is divided into separate parcels, each owner exchanging rights in part of it” (Sandell 1971: 1). These Parliamentary enclosures consolidated strips in the open fields into more compact units, and enclosed much of the remaining pasture commons or wastes. Parliamentary enclosures usually provided commoners with some other land in compensation for the loss of common rights, although often of poor quality and limited extent.

On the Fovant Terrace military conflict from 1914 to 1918 bought the first experience of total war to the area. This is represented in this landscape by the remains of former military camps, a railway line and views afforded of the chalk cut cap badges.

B2

See Background Paper 2 for an overview of the archaeology and history of the AONB by time period.

B6

See Background Paper 6 for an overview of the key historical figures associated with the AONB.

B7

See Background Paper 7 for an overview of Major historical events trends and fashions and their impact on the AONB.

Key Secondary Sources

The main source of detail on the historic landscape is the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation report available from www.historiclandscape.co.uk

The main archaeological record for the area is the county based Historic Environment Record in Dorset and the Sites and Monuments Record in Wiltshire.

Information on the listed buildings in the area is available from English Heritage's Listed Buildings Online <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk> .

Information on historic farm buildings in the area is only available at the scale of National Character Area as part of English Heritage's preliminary characterisation of historic farmsteads.

The Wiltshire Community pages on the Wiltshire Council Website provide a wealth of information on the parishes in Wiltshire. This is complemented by descriptions of parishes in the Victoria County History of Wiltshire which are organised by Hundred.

Details of survey and excavation of the Knowlton Prehistoric Complex has been published in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History Society* 117: 131-2

The excavations of round barrows at Hinton Martell is discussed by John Gale in *The Chase, the Hart and the Park. An exploration of the historic landscapes of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB* (2009) available from the AONB Office, and in volumes 126: 160-166 and 128: 100-106 of the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History Society*.

Rolland Gant's book *Dorset Villages* (1980) provides a useful potted history of the villages near this area in Dorset.

Nearly all parishes in the AONB have had parish histories created for them and these are available from the relevant county reference library.

Information on the woodland in the area can be found in the AONB booklet 'A landscape view of trees and woodland' (2010).

Wiltshire Parliamentary enclosure are discussed in *Abstracts of Wiltshire Inclosure Awards* published by the Wiltshire Record Society in 1971.

B10

A full list of References is provided in Background Paper 10.

Landscape Scale Characteristics and Components

Ancient Boundaries and Land Ownership

- The ancient parish boundaries on the Fovant Terrace form a north south slice across the escarpment but these are less elongated and more irregular than those related to the chalk river valleys.
- The ancient parishes of the area between Chalbury to Woodlands are much more irregular.

T1

See 'Ancient Boundaries and Landownership' for more information on this theme

Farms and Farming

- Predominantly arable land with some pockets of grassland.
- There are a few isolated farms. The farmsteads in this area are late 18th century or later in date. The oldest examples are made of brick with a loose courtyard plan.

T2

Farms and Farming' for more information on this theme.

Fields in the Landscape

- This area is characterised by grid like regular 19th century parliamentary enclosure which obscures earlier land use. These are the two areas of the AONB in which the imposition of parliamentary enclosures has been most rigorously applied.
- This is interspersed with 20th century fields which have modified the parliamentary pattern.

T3

See 'Fields in the Landscape' for more information on this theme.

Historic Parks and Gardens in the Landscape

- N/A

T4

See 'Historic Parks and Gardens in the Landscape' for more information on this theme.

Hunting Landscapes

- The Fovant escarpment is on the edge of the outer bounds of the Cranborne Chase.
- The Chalbury to Woodlands area is outside the outer bounds.

See 'Hunting Landscapes' for more information on this theme.

T5

Industry in the Landscape

- N/A

T6

See 'Industry' in the Landscape for more information on this theme.

Landscapes of Militarism, Commemoration and Defence

- Several temporary camps were constructed during World War One to along the Fovant Terrace between Barford St Martin to Swallowcliffe. These were served by a military railway.
- There are signs of those camps even now, almost 90 years later. From the chalk escarpment particularly when the sun casts long shadows, marks on the ground where the camps once stood can be discerned along with the track which the railway took.
- The Fovant Cap Badges are also intended to be viewed from the Terrace (see HLCA 8).

T7

See 'Landscapes of Militarism, Commemoration & Defence' for more information on this theme.

Landscapes of Prehistory

- The known archaeological record is dominated by the nationally important Prehistoric complex at Knowlton, including several henges and a large number of round barrows.
- Fieldwalking has uncovered clusters of Prehistoric finds on the greensand of the Fovant Terrace.

T8 See 'Landscapes of Prehistory' for more information on this theme.

Late 20th Century Activity in the Landscape

- N/A

Open Land

- N/A

T9 See 'Open Land' for more information on this theme.

Routeways in the Landscape

- In both areas the parliamentary grid runs either side of an important historical turnpike.
- The Fovant Terrace is crossed north south by a network of parallel footpaths and bridleways which lead south onto the escarpment and connect with the ancient droveway the Salisbury Way and northwards into the dense network of routeways in the Vale of Wardour.
- Between Chalbury and Woodlands roads run off at right angles from the turnpike. There are also a few linear footpaths.

T10 See 'Routeways in the Landscape' for more information on this theme.

Settlement in the Landscape

- Settlement is sparse on the Fovant Terrace with stone farm buildings and modern farms.
- The area between Chalbury to Woodlands is also devoid of major settlements. There are clusters of settlements at the crossroads with the turnpike road, for example at the Horton Inn.

T11 See 'Settlement in the Landscape' for more information on this theme.

Water in the Landscape

- N/A

T12 See 'Water in the Landscape' for more information on this theme.

Woodland and Trees in the Landscape

- Belts of natural ash woodland occur along the boundary with the chalk escarpment
- Occasional mixed woodland game covert blocks planted at right angles to the escarpment interrupt the smooth, open character of the terrace
- Generally, tree cover is quite even but sparse towards the west of the area and, combined with the more undulating landform, provides a greater sense of enclosure.
- Occasional small blocks of veteran woodland also remain.

T13 See 'Woods and Trees in the Landscape' for more information about this theme'

Statement of Significance

Introduction

The area is moderately significant in terms of the coherence of the historic landscape character and the clarity which the Parliamentary landscape is displayed compared with other areas in the AONB. The Chalbury to Woodland Terrace is very significant in terms of the prehistoric complex of monuments sited at its core.

Coherence, Local Distinctiveness, Rarity, and Time Depth

The wider historic landscape character of this area is extremely coherent and homogenous forming a grid of 19th century parliamentary enclosure. These are visually dominant and have obscured earlier traces of land uses.

Time depth in the wider landscape is mainly displayed where Prehistoric archaeological earthworks are visible in the landscape on the Chalbury to Woodlands Terrace especially in the form of the Knowlton Henges, a unique complex of prehistoric monuments. Other archaeological sites however are under the plough.

Typical surviving components of the area

- Ancient parish boundaries.

- Grid like regular 19th century parliamentary enclosure interspersed with 20th century fields.
- Signs of former military camps.
- The Parliamentary grid runs either side of an important historical turnpike.
- Sparse settlement pattern.
- Occasional small blocks of veteran woodland.

Nationally Protected Heritage



See Background Paper 8 'Designated Heritage Assets' in the AONB for an introduction to nationally designated heritage.

There is a high density of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (23) compared with other areas. These are concentrated in area 7B with only one SAM in 7A. These represent the cluster of sites associated with the Knowlton Prehistoric Complex centred on Knowlton Henge

There are only 18 listed buildings, a low number compared to other areas in the AONB. These are associated with the historic farms or represent milestones or boundary markers. They are all Grade II apart from the ruins of Knowlton Church which is Grade II*.

There are no registered park and gardens.

There are no Conservation Areas

Archaeological Fieldwork in the AONB



See Background Paper 3 'History of Archaeological Discovery in the AONB' for more information on this topic.

Bournemouth University, led by John Gale, has undertaken a programme of excavation at the Neolithic Henge at Knowlton and of a group of Bronze Age barrows at High Lea Farm, Hinton Martell.

Evidential Value

Parts of the area (on the Chalbury and Woodlands Terrace) have been subject to detailed archaeological excavation and systematic survey. Where information is available the county Historical Environment Records amongst other sources, indicate features including:

- Archaeological sites on the Fovant Terrace:
 - Extensive undated field systems.
 - Bronze Age round barrows.
 - Roman settlement with enclosure.
 - Medieval settlement related to historic farmstead.
- Find spots on the Fovant Terrace including Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters.
- Archaeological sites between Chalbury and Woodlands including:

- Neolithic Knowlton henges and Medieval church.
 - Bronze Age round barrows and cemeteries.
 - Deserted Medieval Settlements.
- Find spots between Chalbury and Woodlands including medieval pottery

Many of these features are under the plough, the exception being Knowlton Henge which is in English Heritage ownership, however adjacent Henges are not under grass.

- Sparse architectural evidence on the Fovant Terrace including milestones and historic farmhouses.
- Sparse architectural evidence between Chalbury and Woodlands including milestones and vernacular cottages. Knowlton Church forms an exception to this rule.

The key to the unique historic landscape character of the area is the history of Parliamentary enclosure forming the ruler straight fields.

Historical Value

Illustrative Value

The group of Prehistoric monuments surrounding Knowlton Henge which exist as visible earthworks.

The modern picture of regular grid like fields can be used to illustrate the enclosure of land through Parliamentary acts and informal enclosure.

The remains of Kitchener's new armies camp on the Fovant Terrace and the lasting legacy of views of the Chalk Cap Badges provide a visible link to the First World War.

Associative Value

Kitchener's new armies' camps are associated with the regiments which created the chalk cap badges.

Aesthetic Value

The aesthetic value of the landscape is derived from the homogenous blocks of parliamentary fields and their landscape juxtaposition by a network of parallel routeways.

Communal Value

Knowlton is an important visitor attraction and is valued for its picturesque qualities.

State of the Historic Environment

Introduction

The coherence of this landscape is derived from the defining influence of parliamentary enclosure, this means that this area has a fairly robust historic

landscape character but one which has been obscured through the subdivision of the grid like field pattern. The Prehistoric features and monuments of the area have been subject to detailed archaeological enquiry, however several important Prehistoric monuments remain under the plough.

Current Knowledge

The major Prehistoric monuments on the Chalbury to Woodlands Terrace have been the subject of systematic and detailed archaeological enquiry. The archaeology of the Fovant Terrace is also slowly being revealed through ad hoc fieldwalking although this evidence still needs to be synthesised.

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation has revealed the character of the wider historic landscape

Existing levels of protection and heritage at risk

Twenty one of the SAMs out of twenty-three are at high risk and are under threat from ploughing (English Heritage at Risk Register 2009). This is indicative of the risk to the wider known archaeological record.

Loss and condition

Approximately 150 to 200 years ago this landscape was radically altered with the imposition of a regular grid of fields on the landscape. This pattern of fields has gradually been eroded with the subdivision of the original fields and the addition of over 100 new boundaries across the area.

The density of arable land in this area means that the majority of archaeological features are under plough

Coherence

The most coherent feature of this landscape is the pattern of 19th century Parliamentary enclosure. This remains visible despite the addition of boundaries. The only coherent Prehistoric site in the area is the Knowlton Neolithic Henge with a ruined Medieval church in the centre, which is in English Heritage guardianship and accessible by the public.



See Background Paper 4 for an overview of the change in land use patterns in the AONB.

Forces for change

Overview of the sensitivities of the landscape area to change

In general, the sensitivity of these landscape lie in there openness and the simplicity of land cover. Built elements or 'alien' land cover often exert a strong influence on the Fovant Terrace in particular, for example, the profiles and volumes of modern farm buildings are a noticeable element and coniferous plantations intrude on the character of deciduous woodland. The visual relationship between terrace and scarp

on the Fovant Terrace is also important. These landscapes have a moderate-high sensitivity to change.

For more information see “Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Landscape Sensitivity Study 2007”.

Overview of forces for change operating on the historic environment

Theme 1: Agriculture and Farming

- Archaeological monuments already under the plough will continue to be ploughed for the foreseeable future. New crops and further intensification may increase damage to buried archaeology, and change appearance of landscape, and result in further removal of field boundaries.
- Increased positive management of elements of the historic environment by landowners until 2013 as an increasing number of farmers enter agri-environment schemes for a 10 year period. Maintenance of current levels of agri-environment scheme monies would increase the numbers of land holdings undertaking positive management of historic environment assets. However the likely possibility of reduced levels of agri-environment money post 2013 could have a major impact on the positive management of archaeological sites and the wider historic landscape in the future.

Theme 2: Climate Change

- A possible increase in the frequency of extreme weather, or a change in its geographical distribution, which could pose an increased risk of damage to some historic landscapes and buildings as well as trees.
- New biomass crops may pose a risk to buried archaeology or radically change the appearance of the wider historic landscape character.
- An increased reliance on wood fuel might provide opportunities for the more active management of the woodland, thereby helping to protect archaeological remains; conversely increased woodland exploitation could intensify use of heavy machinery and increase woodland planting, providing a threat.

Theme 5: Natural Environment

- Closer dialogue between historic and natural environment interests should lead to the design of initiatives that have mutual benefit. A better understanding of long term historical change may suggest potential for more innovative schemes that could include some reversion of intensively used land.

Theme 7: Settlement and Infrastructure Development

- Reuse of historic farmsteads provides increased opportunities for maintaining these structures that contribute much to the historic landscape character of the AONB as long as care is taken on the design of any conversions to retain original materials, openings and character. The creation of new farmyards with standardised farm buildings adjacent to the historic farmstead may lead to neglect of these historic assets or

conversely to opportunities to ensure their future through well considered conversion.



For more information see supplementary document "Forces for change operating on the historic environment of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB at a landscape scale and their past, current and future impacts".

Summary of Key Threats

- Further erosion of historic landscape character by the further subdivision of fields.
- Loss or damage to buried archaeology through ploughing.

Historic Environment Actions



See Background paper 9 for a full list of Historic Environment Actions.

ACTION 3: Identify and record components of historic highways

The Threat and the Opportunity - The historic highways of the AONB are an under appreciated component of the environment of the AONB and there is no coherent approach to their management and maintenance. The forms of the numerous routeways that thread through the AONB's countryside, and the lines they take, reveal much about their complex history. They are often the means by which people still move around and appreciate the Area's landscape, but like all other parts they are subject to change and the erosion of character and fabric can lead to a loss of historic meaning. Although individual historic features associated with ancient highways, such as milestones, are recorded, the way that these features relate to each other, and the setting of the historic highways, is often ignored. This action would increase understanding, appreciation and knowledge of historic highways and by doing so ensure that their key features are retained and appropriately managed. This action is intended to draw attention to the issues at the same time as realising the potential of routeways to enhance people's enjoyment of the AONB.

The Potential Mechanism - attention could be focused initially on the droveways of the AONB as these represent some of the oldest routeways and are served by a good Rights of Way network. One possible Mechanism could be through the creation of self-guided trails.

ACTION 5: Reduce unintended/accidental damage to buried archaeology or extant monuments

The Threat and the Opportunity - Approximately 55% of the agricultural land in the AONB is cultivated. One result of this activity is the unintended damage and loss of buried archaeology. This is especially damaging in the AONB due to the complex archaeological remains which survived into the 19th century, for example prehistoric settlements set within extensive field systems. This damage can be mitigated against through advice to land owners delivered, in part, through agri-environment schemes. Another area where advice can be of assistance is in increasing awareness and

appreciation of more recent components of the historic landscape such as historic field boundaries (see Action 17).

The Potential Mechanism - Examples from other areas in the country suggest that advice to landowners aimed at reducing damage is most effectively delivered by specialist advisors. Many local authorities maintain a Historic Environment Countryside Advisor Service (HECAS) to maximise the gain for the historic environment from the various schemes designed to support the environment and rural economy (Higher and Entry Level Environmental Stewardship, Woodland Grant Schemes the AONB's own Sustainability funding, etc). A HECAS officer can be crucial in transforming the potential of these schemes into reality and in so doing help a range of agencies achieve their wider aims with regard to managing and enhancing the historic environment. In the CCWWD AONB it may be expected that a key role for a HECAS would be to provide targeted agri-environment advice aimed at reducing damage and loss of buried archaeology through ploughing.

ACTION 6: Gain AONB wide coverage of mapping and interpretation of archaeological features from aerial photographs

The Threat and the Opportunity: The buried or surviving archaeology of the AONB has never been systematically recorded from crop marks or earthworks displayed in aerial photographs. This means that there is potential for important archaeological sites to be damaged or inappropriately managed because they have not yet been recognised.

The Potential Mechanism - A mapping project for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB could fill gaps in knowledge of plough damage sites, uncover new sites (through crop marks, earthwork patterns etc.), and spatially link known buried archaeology. The aim of English Heritage's National Mapping Programme (NMP) is to enhance the understanding of past human settlement, by providing primary information and synthesis for all archaeological sites and landscapes visible on aerial photographs, or other airborne remote sensed data.

ACTION 10: Gain greater understanding of historic farm buildings and farmsteads

The Threat and the Opportunity - Historic farm buildings and farm complexes are a key feature of the locally distinctive vernacular architecture of the AONB. There is, however, a lack of information on the location and character of historic farm buildings in the AONB, including their types, ages, typical components, materials, the ways buildings and spaces like yards work together within farmsteads, and the ways they have changed in the last few decades.

The Potential Mechanism - The national farmstead characterisation work championed by English Heritage could be built on to fill gaps in our knowledge of historic farm buildings and thereby help to ensure that they are properly conserved and enhanced in the future, or to ensure that any reuse is undertaken sensitively and on the basis of full understanding of the original form and function of the structures and spaces. One approach would be to:

- Collate existing information and make it accessible
- Undertake additional research & survey

ACTION 11: Enhance appreciation of the Prehistoric archaeology of the area

The Threat and the Opportunity - Although the Cranborne Chase is widely accepted in academic circles as containing internationally important complexes of Prehistoric archaeology, this is not widely appreciated by local people and visitors.

The Potential Mechanism - The lack of appreciation of the AONB's Prehistoric archaeology could be combated through the establishment of a series of self guided trails through which people could explore different aspects of the Prehistoric archaeology of the AONB.

ACTION 12: Widen knowledge of ways and means of maintaining historic farm buildings

The Threat and the Opportunity - The Historic Environment Action Plan Steering Group identified that although there had been some good examples of schemes which had reused historic farm buildings, while still maintaining their historic characteristics, these were not widely known.

The Potential Mechanism - Good examples of the maintenance and reuse of historic farm buildings could be celebrated and shared with Local Planning Authorities and land owners thereby helping to inspire the conservation and enhancement of other historic farm buildings and farmsteads.

ACTION 13: Enhance appreciation of the military history and archaeology

The Threat and the Opportunity - The military history and archaeology of the AONB landscape is an under appreciated component of the story of the AONB. This includes the camps established for Kitchener's new armies in 1914, Second World War camps and airfields, and Cold War sites, including RAF Chilmark.

The Potential Mechanism - The lack of appreciation of surviving military remains in the AONB could be combated by making information on the military historic and archaeology of the AONB more accessible and by identifying private collections of information which will shed light on these important aspects of the historic environment of the AONB. Individuals who have drawn together historic material could be encouraged to become involved in a study of surviving remains. An event could be organised to coincide with the centenary of WW1 in 2014.

ACTION 15: Increase understanding of Medieval landscape elements of the AONB by academics, teachers and public.

The Threat and the Opportunity - There is perceived to be a lack of appreciation of the Medieval components of the AONB's landscape: settlements, buildings, castles, fields, pastures, woodlands, roads, mills, hunting chase, parks, etc, all of which contribute greatly to the fabric and character of the AONB as it survives today.

The Potential Mechanism - The lack of appreciation of the Medieval components of the AONB landscape could be combated by a seminar and the creation of a research framework that encourages and sets out a range of achievable goals for further research in the area.

ACTION 17: Improve management of historic field boundaries and ensure they are retained

The Threat - The historic fieldscapes of the AONB are key characteristics of the AONB landscape which are not at present subjected to integrated and holistic management. There has consequently been loss and gradual removal of the historic patterns of pre 1800 boundaries, including the distinctive pattern of small curving irregular fields around the Donheads. Elsewhere older field boundaries have not been maintained and are either degrading or, if originally hedgerows are becoming overgrown.

The Potential Mechanism - This action would aim to halt the decline in the condition of particular field boundaries and the legibility of historic field patterns by providing training for agri-environment and other land management advisors. There is already much advice available on historic field boundary conservation (including implementation of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations) and management, often generated via the HECAS officers mentioned under Action 5, but most of this is specific to the region's where it was generated. However, this material can be reviewed and tailored to suit the needs of the AONB once a clearer understanding has been gained of the character and needs of the field boundaries within the Area.

This material should then form the basis of training sessions for farmers and land managers working within the AONB. Involvement in such an initiative might be attractive to partners such as FWAG, the National Trust, Natural England and the local Wildlife Trusts.



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	A11	Downland Hills
	A12	Southern Downland Belt
Theme	T1	Ancient Boundaries and Land Ownership
	T2	Farms and Farming
	T3	Fields in the Landscape
	T4	Historic Parks and Gardens in the Landscape
	T5	Hunting Landscapes
	T6	Industry in the Landscape
	T7	Landscapes of Militarism, Commemoration & Defence
	T8	Landscapes of Prehistory
	T9	Open Land
	T10	Routeways in the Landscape
	T11	Settlement in the Landscape
	T12	Water in the Landscape
	T13	Woodland and Trees in the Landscape
	T14	Historic Features of Local Value
Supplementary	S1	Planning and Historic Landscape Character: A Guide for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB
	S2	Forces for Change Operating on the Historic Environment of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB at a Landscape Scale and their Past, Current and Future Impacts
Method	M1	Creating Historic Environment Action Plans for Protected Landscapes
	M2	Creating and Describing Historic Environment Areas
	M3	Creating and Describing Historic Environment Theme

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Historic Environment Action Plans

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This document forms part of a suite of documents which together comprise the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Environment Action Plans, or HEAPs for short. The HEAPs provide a summary of the key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB at a landscape scale, they then set out the significance, condition and forces for change affecting the historic fabric and character of this special landscape and identify proactive actions to conserve and enhance these special characteristics.



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