

**CRANBORNE CHASE AND WEST WILTSHIRE DOWNS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**



“The Wild Downs and Hills”

...creating Historic Environment Action Plans for the AONB



Thursday 8th July Wimborne St Giles Village Hall

Minutes

Item Details

1 Welcome to the Meeting and Apologies for absence

Attendees

Peter Herring - English Heritage
Shane Gould – English Heritage
Helena Cave-Penney – Natural England
Chris Clarke – Dorset Garden Trust
Cllr George Russell – East Dorset District Council
Ray Bird – East Dorset District Council
David Vaughan – Wiltshire Council
Claire Pinder – Dorset Council
Linda Nunn – CCWWD AONB
Richard Burden – CCWWD AONB
Emma Rouse – CCWWD AONB
Jo Taylor – CCWWD AONB
Ben Kerwood – CPRE
Trevor Steptoe – CBA
Martin Green
Ian Briscoe – Forestry Commission

Apologies

John Gale – Bournemouth University
Andy Poore
Eloise Metson – Tamar Valley AONB
Dawn Enright – Natural England
Roger Griffen – Natural England
Sarah Fitzgerald – Dorset Garden Trust
Clive Whitborn – National Trust
Anne Carney – CCWWD AONB
Kevin Morris – North Dorset District Council

2 Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves

3 Update on project progress

a) Completed since last meeting:

- New sections added to Historic Landscape Character Area descriptions
- Scenario models and forces for change created
- New theme summaries – water, open land, industry, farms and farming
- Four new overarching topics added
- Added physical characteristics to area summaries and provided preface
- Started work on foci in the landscape

b) Documents produced as of June 2010 – all now available on the website in draft form (available from www.historiclandscape.co.uk)

- **Background** (require minor edits)
 - Description of the archaeology of the AONB by time period
 - History of archaeological discovery
 - Land Use
 - Local Distinctiveness
 - People in the Landscape
 - Politics and Fashion
 - Ancient Boundaries and Land Ownership
- **Areas** (require minor edits)
 - 1: Longleat to Penselwood Hills and Kilmington Common
 - 2: Sutton Veny, Cold Kitchen Hill and Zeals Knoll
 - 3: Chalk River Valleys
 - 4: Northern Wylde and Ebbel Valley Sides
 - 5: West Wiltshire Downs
 - 6: Great Ridge and Grovelly Woods
 - 7: Fovant Terrace and the area between Chalbury and Woodlands
 - 8: Chalk Escarpments
 - 9: Vale of Wardour
 - 10: Wooded Chalk Downland of the Cranborne Chase and Chetterwood
 - 11: Downland Hills
 - 12: Southern Downland Belt
- **Theme** (some require minor edits, others in draft form)
 - Ancient Boundaries and Land Ownership
 - Farms and Farming
 - Fields in the Landscape
 - Historic Parks and Gardens in the Landscape
 - Hunting Landscapes
 - Industry in the Landscape

- Landscapes of Militarism, Commemoration & Defence
- Landscapes of Prehistory
- Open Land
- Routeways in the Landscape
- Settlement in the Landscape
- Water in the Landscape
- Woodland and Trees in the Landscape
- Focal Points in the Landscape
- **Supplementary** (require minor edits)
 - Planning and Historic Landscape Character: A guide for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB
 - 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** (require minor edits)
 - Creating and Describing Historic Environment Areas
 - Creating and Describing Historic Environment Themes

c) **Work remaining**

- Methodology for other protected landscapes and project review
- Legacy of project
- Glossary of key terms
- Look at balance of detail in all the documents
- Linkages to existing plans and projects
- List of actions (which is the main focus of this meeting)

d) **Next steps** – From September programme of promotion and preparation of methodology and project review

4 Historic Landscape Character Areas

The steering group had a brief discussion on the Historic Character Area descriptions, individuals had been asked to look at one HLCA and answer the following questions:

Regarding the Summary Boxes (Pages 2 and 3)

Do these adequately capture the detail in the rest of the document?

Regarding the Statement of Significance

*Are there any aspects of this area which need to be given greater emphasis?
Are any aspects given undue significance?*

Regarding the State of the Historic Environment

*Does it capture all the relevant issues?
Are all the issues expressed fully enough?*

Corrections were received on the detail within the documents which are not listed within these minutes. It was generally felt that the balance of these documents was good, though care needs to be taken to ensure that buried archaeology or non visible archaeology is not downplayed. The issue of Communal value was discussed and the lack of information to be extracted from parish plans etc.

5 Historic Environment Actions

This item formed the main crux of the meeting. The Steering Group was asked to consider actions which could be taken to address twelve of the issues identified in the Historic Environment Action Plans. They were asked to consider whether these actions consisted of existing mechanisms or new initiatives.

ISSUE : LACK OF INFORMATION ON HISTORIC FARM BUILDINGS

Existing Mechanism

- Wiltshire Building Farmstead Project (Secretary WBR Dorothy Treasure)
- Dissemination via training/advisory events (EH, NE, FWAG)

New Initiative

- Collate existing information for wider and more effective use
- Need to celebrate progress in maintenance

ISSUE : LOSS OF HISTORIC ORCHARDS

Existing Mechanism

- Agri-environment Schemes (NE)
- Wiltshire Orchard Group
- Cider makers

New Initiative

- Parish initiatives to plant and maintain orchards

ISSUE : LACK OF INFORMATION ON THE LANDSCAPE LEGACY OF THE MEDIEVAL HUNTING FORESTS

Existing Mechanism

- HERs including sources and reports (WC, DCC, HCC and SCC)

New Initiative

- Establish a hunting forest forum – landed estates, Forestry Commission etc.

ISSUE : EROSION OF HISTORIC CHARACTER IN SETTLEMENT

Existing Mechanism

- Local Planning Authorities – new localism policy base (LPAs)
- Historic Landscape Characterisation (LPAs, AONBs)

New Initiative

- Local List
- Local characterisation of smaller settlements

ISSUE : LOSS OF FEATURES RELATING TO HISTORIC HIGHWAYS

Existing Mechanism

- Agri-environment schemes (NE)
- Planning system (LPAs)
- Woodland management (Land owners, FC)

New Initiative

- Signage/trails/routes (where appropriate)
- Focus on droveways

ISSUE : LACK OF APPRECIATION OF ASPECTS OF THE AREAS PAST INCLUDING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Existing Mechanism

- Use World Heritage Site model – key monuments expressing wider attributes of the landscape
- Dorset Architectural Heritage Week
- Festival of Archaeology
- Existing publications
- Martin Greens tours
- HER records (WC, DCC, HCC and SCC)
- Access forms part of Agri-environment schemes (NE)

New Initiative

- Signpost key elements – do we need to establish criteria? Is car parking an issue
- Trails
- Interpretation panels, but we need to look at which audience we are targeting
- Work with schools
- Themed tours
- Use a skilled historian to open eyes of general public

ISSUE : DAMAGE AND LOSS THROUGH PLOUGHING

Existing Mechanism

- Agri-environment Schemes and the whole farm approach (NE)
- Legislation (EH, LPAs)
- Cosmic (EH)

New Initiative

- Higher profile in agri-environment schemes
- Need HECA officers attached to agri-environment schemes
- more evidence gathering NMP and refreshing information that we have
- Targets of Historic environment in agri-environment scheme
- Focus on the legacy of agri-environment

ISSUE : LACK OF MAINTENANCE/MANAGEMENT – BUILDING/WOODLAND AND SCRUB CLEARANCE

Existing Mechanism

- Listed building legislation, but does not cover SAMs (EH)
- Heritage at Risk (EH)
- Advisors including formal, rangers, and voluntary organisations (NE, EH, FWAG etc)
- SAMs legislation allows restrictions to be placed on tree planting (EH)
- Monument Management Scheme

New Initiative

- Remove scrub and increase knowledge of scheduling, legislation, restrictions
- Wider information on good practice and grant schemes
- Ensure advisors known and used
- Increase knowledge and traditional skills buildings and rural crafts
- Appropriate materials/styles and designs
- Traditional skills
- Access to traditional materials

ISSUE : LACK OF INFORMATION ON ARCHAEOLOGY IN WOODLANDS

Existing Mechanism

- National Mapping Programme (EH)

New Initiative

- LiDAR
- Training of local volunteer surveyors

ISSUE : LACK OF APPRECIATION OF SURVIVING MILITARY FEATURES

Existing Mechanism

- Mapping of existing features by special interest groups

New Initiative

- In Wiltshire there are a number of ex-military who have collections of information not in the public domain e.g. Norman Parker at Amesbury

ISSUE : LOSS OF HISTORIC MILLS AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES

Existing Mechanism

- Agri-environment Schemes grants for water meadows or grassland (NE)

New Initiative

- Identification of WM in AONB condition and extent
- Feasibility study assess potential for modification/reuse for energy gen on local scale

ISSUE : HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS NOT IN HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT

Existing Mechanism

- Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (EH)
- Local lists (LPAs)

New Initiative

Need to have a separate action plan including timetabling, £, who monitoring etc. relating generic issue to area specific action.

6 Focal points in the Landscape – Update

ER provided update on ongoing progress of consultation on local peoples favourite features of historic interest. The Steering Group was presented with the results so far, primarily from the AONB Annual Forum, in the form of an A-Z and the Steering Group debated how this information can be used in the HEAP as a whole. The following points were raised:

- Do these represent the quintessential elements which make the AONB tick? Can we distil out AONB elements into systematic statements?
- Represent a personal list – a very small sample
- Need to undertake the exercise at similar events to the AONB Annual Forum in the future
- Could become supplementary to AONB Management Plan
- Could be enlarged in separate booklet

- Threats identified very personal
- Care needs to be taken – as these represent the visible and the obvious – be careful of perceived features.
- Look at how they contrast with statutory designations – how differs from tangible heritage
- Represents personal value – could analysis different facets such as childhood, experiential, memory
- Not strictly speaking a focal point – do we need a different name
- Provided visual clues through which people can access the past
- Can champion landscape approach
- Must be careful not to give them undue weight – but are a valuable aid in building up a picture of the AONB
- Dip into the aesthetic
- Could be used as an educational tool
- Relate well to EH principles
- Look separately at communal focal points
- Create GIS layer for information

7 Presentation of Historic Environment Action Plans: An opportunity to comment

The Steering Group were asked to comment on a draft design template for the HEAP documents

8 AOB

9 Lunch