

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



“The Wild Downs and Hills”

...creating Historic Environment Action Plans for the AONB



**Wednesday 20th January
East Knoyle**





Meeting from 10.30am to 13.00 pm

Minutes of Meeting

Item	Details
1	<p>Welcome to the meeting and apologies for absence</p> <p><u>Attendees</u></p> <p>Peter Herring - English Heritage Shane Gould – English Heritage Kae Neustadt Eloise Metson – Tamar Valley AONB Dawn Enright – Natural England Roger Griffen – Natural England Helena Cave-Penney – Natural England Chris Clarke – Dorset Garden Trust Sarah Fitzgerald – Dorset Garden Trust Clive Whitborn – National Trust Cllr George Russell – East Dorset District Council Richard Burden – CCWWD AONB Anne Carney – CCWWD AONB Emma Rouse – CCWWD AONB Shirley Merrick – CCWWD AONB Ben Kerwood – CPRE Trevor Steptoe - CBA</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Jocelyn Sage – Wiltshire Council John Gale – Bournemouth University Tim Yarnell – Forestry Commission Andy Poore Ian Briscoe – Forestry Commission Katherine Barker Linda Nunn – CCWWD AONB Martin Green Chris Minors – Wiltshire Council Matthew Pearson – Wiltshire Council Julie Gardiner - Apologies</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The attendees introduced themselves</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Update on project progress</p> <p>a) Timetable: Stage Three is now finished – Theme statements completed</p> <p>b) Documents produced so far – all now available on the website in draft form (available from www.historiclandscape.co.uk)</p> <p>Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Historic Landscape Character Areas: A methodology • Describing Historic Landscape Character Areas: A methodology <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Archaeological Discovery in the AONB • A description of the archaeology and history of the AONB by time period <p>Character Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Landscape Character Areas Maps and Descriptions • Summary characteristics of themes • Historic Routeways: Full Description <p>c) Update on current structure of HEAP project (See Appendix 1) working towards third tier.</p> <p>Clarification was sought on other HEAPs which have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wessex Downs HEAP did not progress beyond character descriptions. • Isle of Wight has HEAPs but no stand alone actions. • Peter Herring confirmed – HEAPs so far restricted to designated areas including Bodmin Moor, heaths and marshes of Cornwall and the Isle of Axhlope Study. • The CCWWD HEAP project is therefore in the vanguard of creating a clear method. This work is going further than any before. The Partnership approach is proving especially useful. <p>d) Next steps - having gathered together information on key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB the next stage is to put together a Historic Environment Action Plan. Finish date August 2010</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and refinement of methodology for creating HEAPs, including creation of a trial HEAP to test the methodology based on one HLCA or HLT. • Collation of other data to be used including data from HER/SMRs, historic trusts, relevant land managers. • Consultation with relevant individuals/ groups/ organisations on issues relating to individual HLCAs or Historic Landscape Types, as a rolling programme. This may include landowners, land managers, householders, parish councils, historic societies, local authority officers. • Creation of best practice exemplars for inputting into other plans and documents e.g. LDF, CAA, SCSs • Identification of predictable forces for change and management scenarios and issues for each HEAP, together with appropriate recommendations and actions in response to these. • Draft Historic Environment Action Plans prepared.
<p>4</p>	<p>Historic Landscape Themes <i>Feedback on summaries of key characteristics</i></p> <p>a) Clive Whitborn asked about progress with the ‘Foci in the landscape’ theme – ER confirmed questionnaires are to be passed out to parishes</p> <p>b) The group identified additional characteristics which needed emphasis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water including ponds, rivers, water meadows, mills. • Industry, and levels of, include cloth trade. • Transformation of coppice to high forest - main historic development of the last 100 years is the transformation of virtually all of the AONB woodland from a coppice to a high forest structure, either by planting or by natural processes. Even on the Rushmore Estate the actively managed coppice makes up only 15% of the forest area. • Regarding Hunting Landscapes - Their relevance is in the impact of the forestal rights on land use development and land management rather than hunting per se. This point is made but it is important not to become too focused on the hunting aspect. • Farming and fields – changes in land use up to current day, and character of the farmed landscape today, relationship between functional and recreational landscapes • Linkages between historic land use and semi-natural habitats <p>c) Farming, fields and agricultural land use emphasised by the group as especially important as the AONB is predominantly a farmed landscape – farmers are an important group to engage.</p>

	<p>d) The group also identified overarching topics which should form a introductory section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local distinctiveness • Actors – including key individuals and big landowners e.g. 1st Earl of Shaftesbury (changes in taste), 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury (poverty and the poor), Sir Christopher Wren, also influence of smaller landowners within individual parishes, the impact of quirky landowners and styles of management • Land use • Politics and fashion e.g. transformation of Kingston Lacy. Including National and International events and trends e.g. Napoleonic wars, depopulation during great depressions. Wiltshire centre of power during Plantagenet period. Key movements such as the picturesque <p>e) Need an overview of landscape character for both area and themes</p> <p>f) Need good balance between the particular and the peculiar, and between giving examples and not emphasising certain characteristics over others.</p> <p>g) The group emphasised additional maps which may be useful. These were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary loss and gain • Boundaries and parish boundaries – change • Village greens, churches and rectories. • Secondary woodland and woodland loss/gain • Major landholders: subdivide and pick a few key dates from the 500 yrs covered by both the pre 1530 and post 1530 dates? • Ecclesiastical jurisdiction, minister parochia
	<p>New theme summaries for Water, Open Land and Industry</p>
	<p>Changes to theme statements made</p>
	<p>Four overarching topic statements prepared</p>
	<p>Additional maps prepared</p>



Consultation on key foci in the landscape.

5 Historic Landscape Character Areas

Reviewing the modified HLCA statements: General Comments

- Regarding style and structure it was suggested that the evidence could be more clearly signposted, there was a worry expressed that an overreliance on maps could underplay the importance of actors in the landscape and historical depth.
- It was suggested that a preface was needed for each section
- The language was difficult for a lay person - could be more emotive – who is the audience
- Need for a glossary including acronyms
- Need to add key characteristics under threat
- Need vision of current landscape
- Need overarching summary for each – providing the background as to the purpose of the statement
- More on physical characters of the areas.
- Cultural differences between the landscapes?
- How does present business contribute to the landscape?
- Need similarities of structure between theme and area statements
- Need good balance between the particular and the peculiar, and between giving examples and not emphasising certain characteristics over others?
- Need to include the influence of people, politics and fashion
- Identify key players today
- What is the current state of knowledge

Reviewing the modified HLCA statements: Comments on particular Historic Landscape Character Areas.

1. Longleat and Penselwood Hills

- Penselwood 8th century
- Nature of the designations?
- County boundary also Dorset
- Airfield
- Ecbrytestone (check spelling)
- Dukes of Somerset not Norfolk
- Textiles and iron under industry
- A303 has moved
- Greensand to the south

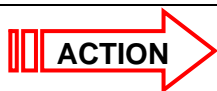
2. Sutton Veny and Cold Kitchen Hill

- Sutton Veny WW1 camp – Anzac graves

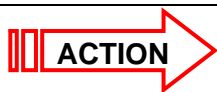
3. Chalk River Valleys

- Is the western part of 3a really the Wylve

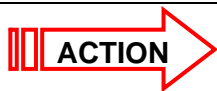
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to new water theme • Do all valleys have sustained pattern of landownership? • What does long duree mean? • Is the abandoned settlement at Tarrant Rawston? • Church landscapes – especially important in certain villages • Other hunts in the valleys • Refer to archaeological activity and discovery in relationship to scatters • Locally listed Parks and Gardens <p>4. Northern Wylve and Ebble Valley Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to river and river industries • Field patterns reflect history of mixed farming <p>5. Downland Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are 5A and 5B sufficiently similar to be grouped? 5A (open downs and ridges) 5B cut by many river valleys – geology, gravels, permanently farmed • Add mills and quarries to industry • Add Tarrant Rushton airfield and Kingston Lacy hospital to Military • Racecourses are in fact more copious – Woodyates, Badbury • Focus more on settlement development– e.g. Shapwick relation between domesday settlement and RB sites, <p>6. Great Ridge and Grovely Wood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant trees? Ancient Tree hunt • Check order of points? • Rackham’s interest in Grovely • Assarts • WWI structures/buildings and remains • Woodland industries • Style of forestry planting – layer, species mixes, removal of species. • Soils <p>10. Wooded Chalk Downland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful of over emphasising site specific information
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Review HLCA text – add physical characteristics



Provide glossary to text



Provide preface for each HLCA



Review balance of “detail”

6 Next steps – Actions

Compiling a list of targeted actions

- a) Four themes from which actions could be derived were identified by the group
 - Local distinctiveness
 - Actors
 - Politics
 - Fashion
- b) Importance of education, research, presentation and understanding crucial
- c) Participants were asked to identify the five most important characteristics from a summary list. The characteristics which were chosen by more than one group were:
 - The landscape legacy of the great estates
 - Medieval hunting areas
 - Remains of military camps
 - Complexes of Prehistoric monuments
 - A legacy of archaeological research and inquiry
 - Complex system of historic routeways
 - Rich vernacular architecture
 - Historic woodland and its transformation from coppice to high woodland
 - Pockets of open downland

Of course the key characteristics could be ranked in other ways e.g. amount of risk
- d) Four ways that practical action could be undertaken were identified
 - conservation ownership/management
 - increased designation
 - survey and understanding
 - preservation by record
- e) Make distinction between physical threat and less tangible threats e.g. lack of understanding
- f) Specific threats identified were:
 - Future of RAF Chilmark and the current knowledge of buildings etc remaining
 - Elements of the landscape which were not designated – often landscape scale under particular threat, although it was recognised

that designation often did not remove a threat to a feature

- A distinction was made between real/physical threats and conceptual ones
- Loss of character of small/medium settlements
- Ploughing
- Scrub encroachment
- Removal of field boundaries
- Loss of woodland?
- Redundant farm buildings

Obviously a change in itself does not necessarily constitute a threat

g) Opportunities for action identified were

- Agri environment
- Land Management
- Education
- RDPE
- Tourism
- Business
- Research

h) Need to add sections to each HLCA and theme statement

- Issues
- Condition
- Loss
- Risk
- Opportunities
- Asset reviews including statement of significance

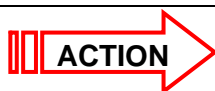
i) It was suggested that scenario models could be linked to risks and level of predictability with both best and worst case scenarios and model effects /impacts. Plus the equivalent for model effects and impacts

Changes for the future which were discussed included


- Woodland management – lack there of and viability
- Housing and transportation
- Government change post election
- CAP reform post 2013
- Climate change



Add new sections to HLCA and theme statements



Create scenario models

 Devise list of actions based on four themes	
7	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next meeting to be July 2010
 Set date for next meeting	
8	Lunch <p>Over lunch a trial version of the overhauled project website www.historiclandscape.co.uk was available to view.</p>

Appendix 1: Current Structure of HEAP

