



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Historic Environment Action Plans

Theme 14: Historic Features
of Local Value










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 Theme Statements

Fourteen distinct Historic Landscape Themes have been identified in the AONB. These were chosen by the HEAP Steering group as representing the topics which best encapsulate the historic character of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

Introduction to Theme 14: Historic Features of Local Value

In order to achieve the aim of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, a concept which includes cultural as well as natural heritage, we must first grapple with the elements which make this special landscape locally distinctive. Local distinctiveness encompasses the special and common place features that define an individual's sense of place

This A to Z of locally distinctive historic features in the AONB presents the results of a brief survey which was conducted via the AONB Annual Forum, and a written request to local Women's Institutes and Parish Councils. The survey asked people in the AONB to identify their favourite local historic feature and say why it was special to them. This list is, of course, in no way comprehensive either in content or in geographical coverage. It is idiosyncratic, personal and local. It goes some way to starting to achieve an aim which is not fully realised in the rest of the Historic Environment Action Plan. That is to capture the historic places and features of the AONB which are important to the people who live, work and visit it.

Another way to look at this document is as a series of locally important heritage assets. These assets range from buildings, designed landscapes, archaeology and elements of the natural environment. They have not been defined by a top down approach but rather offer a contrasting view of the heritage of the AONB to comprehensive historic environment records or lists of heritage assets.

Links to other Historic Landscape Character Statements

This statement forms one of 14 AONB wide Historic Landscape Character Theme descriptions. These are accompanied by a series of 12 Historic Landscape Character Area descriptions which cover the whole of the AONB. These documents together build up a picture of the key characteristics of the Historic Environment of the AONB at a landscape scale. These statements combined inform the Historic Environment Action Plans created for the AONB landscape.

Background Document 5 provides a fuller discussion of local distinctiveness, while Background Document 8 discusses designated heritage assets in the AONB.



The A to Z

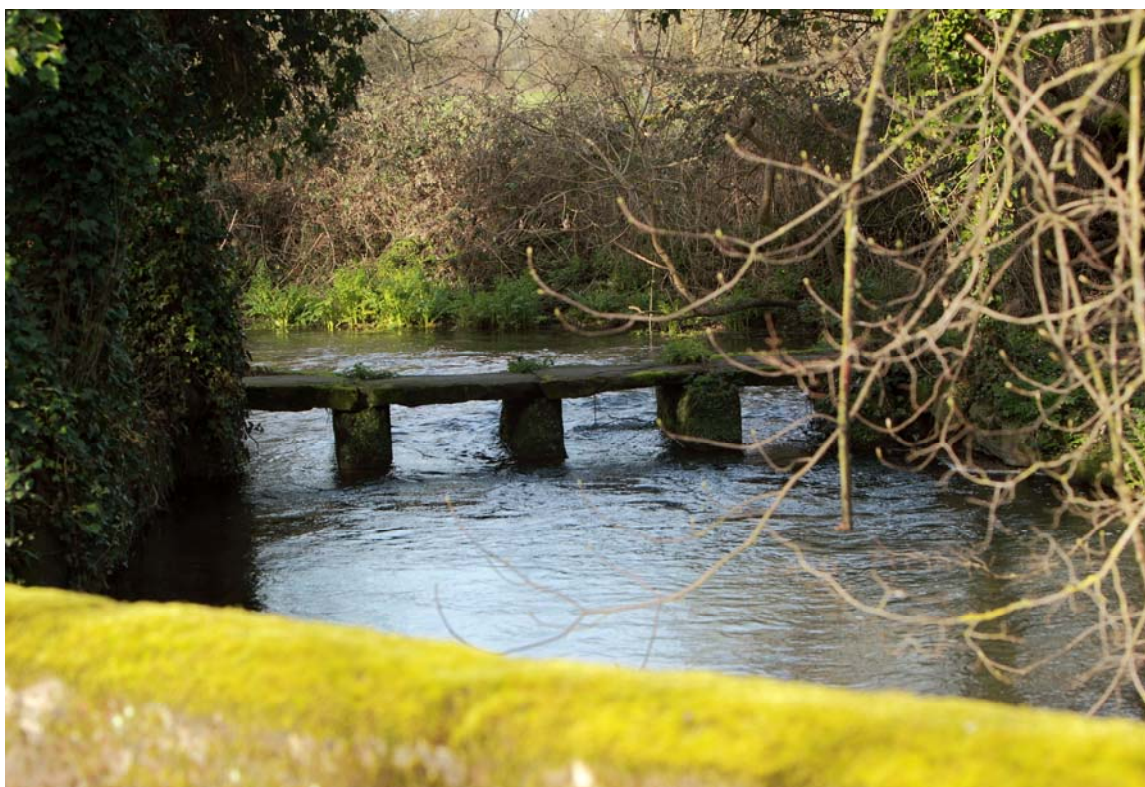
A	Airfields	Tarrant Rushton Airfield	It is special to me because the hanger reminds me of D Day preparations and the sacrifices made.
			It is special to me because corn buntings are so hard to find in Dorset – but easily seen and heard there. The area is also of historical significance.
		Control tower and former Aerodrome at Zeals airfield between Zeals and Stourton	It is special to me because it will in the future be of greater historical interest than it is now as WW2 becomes a living memory. Taxiways and dispersed areas of concrete are still evident.
	Avenues	Beech Avenue on road from Sixpenny Handley just prior to turning left to Ebbesbourne Wake	It is special to me because it is a majestic beech avenue consisting of mature character specimens.
		Avenue of trees at the Crichel Estate Near Moor Crichel	It is special to me because I've worked in the area and always admired them.
		Beech Avenue, Badbury Rings	For over twenty years I could see it from my kitchen window when cooking for my wonderful family
		It is special to me because of the brambling flocks feeding on beech masts in winter.	



Beech Avenue, on road to Bowerchalke

B	Bridges	<p>Bridge over the Teffont Stream, Between 3 Post Office Cottages and Barnmead</p>	<p>It is special to me because it is one of the few remaining pre 18th century bridges over the stream.</p>
		<p>The clapper bridge over the Teffont Stream, Teffont Magna next to church</p>	<p>It is special to me because of its age and its central position to Magna Village.</p>
		<p>Bridges over the Nadder and disused water meadow structures Nadder valley – Ugford near Wilton.</p>	<p>It is special to me because of the evidence of works and systems which are historically important and give us a glimpse of the past.</p>

	Bridges	Burcombe Bridge, River Wylfe	It is special to me because the pools are full of life; trout grayling and mayfly. The banks have water voles and there is even a walnut tree! The bridge is a rare point to see the chalk stream complete with babbling water.
		Breamore Mill and Bridge, on the road from Breamore to Woodgreen	I cross it everyday and hope to preserve its natural appearance for future generations, I worry because 21 st traffic often hits it and this could mean 21 st century intervention.



Clapper Bridge, Bishopstone

C	Castle Hill	Castle Hill, Cranborne	It is special to me because I played there when I was younger.
	Chimney	Whitsbury	It is special to me because it is the tall pot on top of the village hall
	Churches and Chapels	Sixpenny Handley Church Bells, Sixpenny Handley	They are special to me because they are familiar as I go past. There is a sense of history knowing that bells have chimed for years.
		St Mary's Church, Alvediston	It is special to me because I like to think of the drovers walking down Elcombe Lane from Bigley on their way to church at St Marys on a Sunday morning. It's a very atmospheric place and has such a wonderful view
		St. Michaels Church, Church Street, Mere	It is special to me because it is part 13 th & 14 th Century but mostly 15 th Century with a 38m high tower. The beautiful interior features a 15 th Century Parclose Screen, carved Jacobean Pews, alabaster tablet from 1375 and Medieval glass in the south chapel. It is mentioned in the "Best Churches" book.
		The Deverill Valley Churches	They are special to me because they are rare.
		Donhead St Mary Parish Church SP7 9DL	It is special to me because I ring the bells there and there are old yews.
		St. Leonards Church In the parish of Pitcombe, which is between Bruton & Castle Cary	It is special to me because it was designed by Street and is historically interesting. The setting is particularly attractive

Churches and Chapels	St. Leonards Church, Whitsbury	<p>It is special to me because It's a 13th Century Church and is well maintained</p> <p>It is special to me because it has such wonderful views</p> <p>It is special to me because it is 13th Century. Beautiful views towards Bournemouth and Breamore</p>
	Methodist Chapel, Dinton, now known as Pembroke fields	It is special to me because it was a piece of history, although it did not qualify for designation as a scheduled ancient monument.
	Tarrant Crawford Church, Tarrant Crawford	It is special to me because of its history and culture and the seasonal variety of the area.
Copse	The beech copse and field barn on the Bowerchalke to Handley Road	It is special to me because this split beech copse is a visible landscape feature of Bowerchalke Parish and has been "adopted" as the village logo



Breamore Church

D	Downland	Fontmell Down	It is special to me because of the landscape, biodiversity and access.
		Martin Down and Bokerley Dyke	It is special to me because it is the only place where you can walk, totally surrounded by chalk grassland/downland evoking what the landscape may have been like in the past when flocks of sheep were the key source of wealth and the downland landscapes supporting those sheep were extensive. Bokerley Dyke and other archaeological features provide a link to an even more distant past.
		Little Langford Down, on the north side of Grovely Wood towards Little Langford	It is special to me because one can scarcely see any modern manmade features from it.
		Melbury Down, Melbury Abbas and Compton Abbas	It is special to me because of its landscape value, and because of the orchids, and butterflies.
		Mere Down Between Mere and Kingston Deverill	It is special to me because of its openness and lack of modern intrusion.
		Pentridge Down, between Pentridge and Cranborne	It is special to me because it is open with large views and quiet spaces.
		Drove Ways	Drove Roads throughout the AONB
	The Drovers in the Chalke Valley		They are special to me because it provides real evidence of the history of life in south Wiltshire and relationship to Salisbury.



Open Chalk **Downland** on Martin Down with Bokerley Dyke



Historic **Drove Way**

E	Estate Style	Longleat Estate	It is special to me because the area around the house maintains the ancient drives whilst the surrounding valleys have clusters of houses in the landscape, among working woodlands. It is both beautiful and useful.
		Pembroke Style Farm Buildings, Mill Lane, Bishopstone	It is special to me because it is a very typical complex of early Victorian farm buildings.



Estate Village at Fonthill

F	Fingerposts	Old wooden fingerposts and road signs, forming the local style of way markers all over the AONB.	They are special to me because they're just fun and quirky when they are falling apart.
			They are special to me because these are distinctive features of the area and should be maintained

	Fingerposts	Old wooden Fingerposts	They are special to me because they all have locally distinctive vernacular styles
	Ford	Ford across River Wylde, Eastern edge of Kingston Deverill	They are special to me because it ties in with old Roman (?) road alignment and old stock to the south.
	Fountain	Foxes Head Memorial Fountain, Maiden Bradley, Church Street near the crossroads	It is special to me because it is an old water trough that was used to rest horses coming up from the Frome way. It is situated on the village green and is kept full of flowers and is a fascinating memorial
		Hinton Martell Fountain	It is special to me because It is unique as a village fountain. I have researched its history and headed the group restoring it. The centre-piece was donated in memory of my husband
	Fields	Ancient Field system and sunken track on Southdown just west of Eastcoomb Wood	It is special to me because I can sit there facing north painting the landscape and watching the birds flying over in great flocks and thinking how ancient the track must be as it is so deep. Some butterflies and wildflowers there too.



Fields looking towards the Vale of Wardour

G	Village Green	West Knoyle opposite Fox and Hounds	It is special to me because the evidence of village life is very picturesque.
	Gatehouse	Tisbury	It is special to me because it is a reminder of the former power of Shaftesbury Abbey
	Gallops	Whitsbury Downs	It is special to me because they are a rare open downland feature



Green in front of Dinton Church

H	Hedgerows and boundary features	Across AONB, but specifically the landscape contribution to the Vale of Wardour	It is special to me because it creates a wonderful landscape and illustrates the impact, change and history of human involvement with the area.
	Hillfort	Badbury Rings, NW of Wimborne	It is special to me because it is a landmark, providing a vista of area.

Hillfort	Badbury Rings, NW of Wimborne	Its is special to me because of its association with point to point horse racing
		It is special to me because there are stunning earthworks, fantastic views and lovely walks.
	White Sheet Down, Kilmington (ST803346)	It is special to me because this site of an Iron Age Hill Fort offers stunning views and amazing wildlife.
	Whitsbury Castle Ditches	It is special to me because it is a unique feature
	Castle Ditches, Near Donhead St Mary	It is special to me because it is an Iron Age Hillfort.
The Hatches	Hanging Langford (opposite the entrance to Langford Lakes	It is special to me because you can take the kids there swimming in the Wylde in the summer.

Winkelbury Camp **Hillfort**

Inns and Pubs	The Bat and Ball Inn, centre of Breamore	It is special to me because it is an important meeting place for the parish.
	Metal Sign of the Bath Arms Public House Horningsham Common	It is special to me because it is an old metal sign which looks like an ornate lamppost, painted white, on the edge of the green.
	The Oak Pub at Swallowcliffe, in the heart of the village	It is special to me because It was part of a tannary now going derelict and will be turned into a private residence It is needed as a meeting place for the village.



The Crown Inn, Alvediston

J	Junction	The junction of the Ox Drove with the track up from Elcombe Farm, Alvediston	It is special to me because I can think of all the drovers who passed by taking flocks between Salisbury & Shaftesbury, stopping at the Old Inn just to the west of this point. Also the views are spectacular right over to the Isle of Wight where I was brought up, across Cranborne Chase, north over the Ebbles Valley and a little further down the tract you can see the Spire of Salisbury Cathedral
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**Junction** of chalk trackways

K	Knowlton	Knowlton Church and Henge	It is special to me because it is deserted, very eerie and there are several layers of history on view with the church and the underlying Henge. This combines with an 'unspoilt' landscape to create a special feel. The yew trees and peoples offerings also add to the sense that people care.
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**Knowlton** Church and Henge

L	Lake	Teffont Evias	It is special to me because it is a beautiful lake in a valley setting, located close to a stunning church and other historical buildings and is a habitat for wildlife
	Lodge	Fonthill Gifford	It is special to me because it is a beautiful building and imposing on landscape.



Lake at Langford Lakes Nature Reserve

M	Military Cap Badges	Fovant and Wylve Chalk Badges	They are special to me because they are spectacular. They are a traditional form of expression in a chalk landscape and a poignant reminder of wartime history
		Anzac Badge, cut into the chalk on Lam Down, just outside Codford	It is special to me because It is synonymous with Codford's recent military history, and is also a reminder of our fellowship with others across the world

Military Cap Badges	Military Badges Fovant	It is special to me because my father who was in the machine gun corps in 1914-18 war was stationed there and helped in the construction of the cap badge on the hillside (cross machine guns) unfortunately no longer there.
Marsh	Breamore Marsh	It is special to me because I look at it every day from my home; it is a very beautiful place.
Meadow	Catherine Meadows, Dinton	It is special to me because it is peaceful & calming walking across the meadows
Mill	Dinton Mill, on footpath joining eastern end of Dinton with Compton Chamberlayne	It is special to me because the mill used to commercially grind corn until about 100 years ago. The mill pond and associated sluices are still used to control the level of water in the River Nadder. Water used to be diverted to the water meadows.
Metal Field Railings	Upper Deverills including Monkton, Brixton and Kingston Deverills	It is special to me because they are a distinctive feature of the area.

Fovant **Military** Cap Badges

N	New Wardour House	Wardour, Near Tisbury	It is special to me because of the juxtaposition between the old castle and the new stately home.
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View from Old Wardour Castle to **New Wardour House**

O	Old Oak Tree	At grid ref ST849405 on the south side of the single track road from Longbridge Deverill to Horningsham, just west of Rye Hill Cottages	It is special to me because of its great size, shape, location and age
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Old Oak Tree in Grovelly Wood

P	Plague Stone	Homington Rd, Coombe Bissett	It is special to me because it represents old local folklore
	Plaque	Bread Plaque, Great Wishford Church Wall	It is special to me because it pinpoints the historical price of bread.
	Pits	Chalk Pits including those on the escarpment adjacent to the A30	It is special to me because I grew up messing about in chalk pits – they are much less evident now – fresh chalk exposures illuminate what lies beneath the turf – what the hills are made of brilliance in the sun – bring back the chalk pit.
	Ponds	Ashmore Village Pond.	It is special to me because it provides a focal point to the village and significant sense of place.
		The Pond, Tollard Royal	It is special to me because it is in the centre of the village
		Village Ponds throughout AONB	It is special to me because they are a focal point to villages and a reminder of historical drovers' routes where animals were watered en route. They are a link with local history but within a wider landscape e.g. people/drovers moving their stock around the countryside

Village **Pond** at Semley

Q	Quarry	Lime Quarry, Whitesheet Hill, above Stourton	It is special to me because my children enjoy scrambling up it in the same way we did as kids.
	Quintessentially English	Pimperne Village	It is special to me because it is a quintessential English village which has hardly changed.



Chilmark stone from the local **quarry** creating a **quintessentially** English Cottage

R	Red Telephone Box	Burcombe Lane between the manor and the paddock	It is special to me because it sums up a typical old English village.
	Roman Road	Ackling Dyke Roman Road, east of Sixpenny Handley roundabout	It is special to me because of its accessibility, diverse wildlife and views.

	Roman Road	Ackling Dyke Roman Road, east of Sixpenny Handley roundabout	It is special to me because though it is surrounded by tumuli which are much older this represents civil engineering 2000 years old, purpose, direction and man management.
		Roman Road near Donhead St Mary	It is special to me because part of it is <u>almost</u> visible (i.e. the stones are near the surface) in one of the farms and passes through Donhead St Mary (about 100 metres below my house).
	Roman Villa	Rockbourne	It is special to me because I have a personal interest in Roman history.
	Rivers	Walk on the River Wylde – just before bridge in Wylde Village.	It is special to me because it is very close to the water and there are historic buildings opposite.



Mosaic at Rockbourne **Roman Villa**

S	Seat	Rest & be thankful Seat, Witchampton	It is special to me because It was constructed originally about 1870. It was replaced with public subscription in 2004(?). It is used as a reporting point by ramblers and cycling groups
	Shops	Clarks Butchers Shop, High Street, Sixpenny Handley	It is special to me because it has a wonderful carved façade and represents a time gone by when the high street would have been full of local shops.
	Sunken Lanes	Road between Wylve and Dinton	It is special to me because it is very distinctive.
		Melbury Abbas Area	It is special to me because it creates an air of mystery as gateways open up fantastic views of the chalk downland.
	Stocks	The Village Stocks. Wimborne St Giles (close to the school)	It is special to me because I played there when younger before it was fenced off.



Sunken Lane near Broad Chalke

T	Towers	Faulstone Tower, Faulstone House, Faulstone Land, Bishopstone	It is special to me because it links Middle Ages history, the civil war, the history of the village, and the development of village. It acts as a symbol of our village.
	Trackways, Footpaths and Rights of Way	Trackways all over the AONB	They are special to me as routes from villages to churches, along rivers, and between settlements and pubs. Sharing habits and lifestyles from the past for people to enjoy today - they can also take you first hand through a wide range of wildlife habitats.
			They are special to me because these are of great historic importance and have no statutory protection.
		Trackway between Fovant and Fyfield Bavant up on the hill	It is special to me because it is full of flowers in the summer but untouched.
		The Herepath, from Shaftesbury to Salisbury on top of the downs	It is special to me because of the wonderful views, lovely walks and because it passes Gibbet Hill.
	Tree Clump	Win Green	It is special to me because it is a distinctive landmark.



Tree Clump on Wyn Green

U	Untouched places	The Cranborne Chase Woodlands	It is special to me because the traditional coppices remain untouched
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Untouched woodlands of the Cranborne Chase

V	Views	South from Burcombe Crossroads	It is special to me because you can see east to Salisbury, west towards Compton Chamberlayne and north to Grovely Woods. The wildlife, including plants, are abundant in this area.
		View from road at Compton Abbas Airfield	It is special to me because of the fantastic views. Win Green is very beautiful.
		Win Green SE of Shaftesbury	It is special to me because it is a lookout area for Bath and Southampton.

Views	View through the railway tunnel up to Grovely Wood, Great Wishford (by the pub)	It is special to me because it's an amazing view which you don't expect to get as you go under the bridge.
	Whitesheet Hill, Mere	It is special to me because the views across North Dorset – where I live (and grew up) are amazing. I go there because others are not.
	The Ebble Valley	It is special to me because of the view from St Mary's church Alvediston follows the course of the Rivver Ebble taking in tranquil rural views an unchanging way of life.
	Castle Hill, Mere	It is special to me because from the top of Castle Hill, you can see the most magnificent views of the Blackmore Vale. A Medieval castle stood on top of the hill for about 200 years although little is known about the castle, it is widely believed that stones from the Castle were used to build some of the houses in Mere
Vernacular	Cottages at Higher & Lower Hadspen	It is special to me because the cottages that form the combined hamlet of Higher & Lower Handspen represent a rare, unspoilt survival of early modern Somerset vernacular dwelling
Village Hall	Burcombe Village Hall, at the crossroads in the middle of the village	It is special to me because I'm chairman of the hall's management committee! But it is the old Victorian village school and provides a focal point for numerous village social activities – especially important in a very small village.



View across Martin Down

W	Windmill	The Windmill. West Knoyle	It is special to me because of the good views, open space, and historic buildings.
	Woodland	Stourton Woods, Stourhead	It is special to me because I can walk cross country for miles.
		Ancient woodlands on steep sided hills, particularly around Sixpenny Handley	It is special to me because it puts humans and their activities into perspective, it is something we could never create but have potential to destroy if we don't take care of the area in the most sensitive way.
		Formerly part of Selwood Forest between Witham Friary and Longleat	It is special to me because I can appreciate changing seasons on long walks.
		Dinton Bluebell Wood on the steep hill north of Dinton where the road turns sharp left and right	It is special to me because it is very beautiful. The wood habitat is very different to the open expanse of Salisbury Plain and the farmland. A dark lane, winding down the valley side. The bluebells are a blur of violet when I drive through the Nadder Valley.
		Grovely Wood	It is special to me because it is peaceful. Accessible to walkers and a good wildlife habitat.
		Garston Wood	It is special to me because it is an extensive coppiced area which is unusual. It has a very special feel and light and I saw my very first hare in the arable/woodland margin there.
	It is special to me because of the Bluebells, Wild Garlic and Chestnut Coppice.		

World War II Remains	Depot Dinton	It is special to me because of its historic significance to Britain's war effort.
	WW2 buildings especially in the Wylve and Nadder Valleys	They are special to me because these will be of greater interest in the future, as WW2 becomes a living memory



Windmill at East Knoyle

X	Extraordinary Landscape	The Whole AONB	It is special to me because it is a beautiful and extraordinary landscape.
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Y	Yews	Great Yews Wood South of Homington	It is special to me because it has an atmosphere of peace and great antiquity.
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Yew trees in the churchyard at Dinton

Z	Zigzag Hill	Zigzag Hill	It is special to me because it was voted the bendiest road in the country
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Version 1 December 2010. Written by Emma Rouse, HEAP Officer
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