

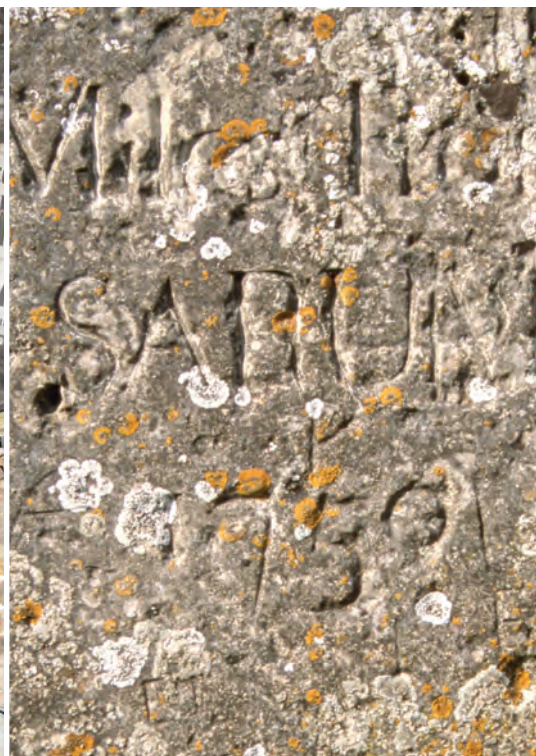


Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



# Historic Environment Action Plans

Theme 6: Industry in  
the Landscape






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.

The theme descriptions aim to provide an overview of each theme which encapsulates the main features of the Historic Environment present and include both the archaeological and historical, the very old and the more recent.



The process through which the Historic Landscape Character themes 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 Themes'.

## Introduction to Theme 6: Industry in the Landscape

*“The reason why these churches are built of stone instead of the usual flints become apparent to us when we see the quarries, a mile to the south of the road between Teffont and ..Chilmark.”*

E. Hutton 1917

The aims are to provide an overview of the impact of past and current industry on the AONB and on the evidence of the surviving remains of these activities in today's landscape.

Industry in the AONB has tended to be small scale and local as befits a predominantly rural area, utilising local geology and materials for local consumption.



*Stone Mine in the Nadder Valley  
(Courtesy of the Tisbury Local History Society)*

## Summary of Key Characteristics

- Evidence of quarrying at Pen Pits to the west of Zeals. The pits cover 700 acres and are accepted as being pre-Norman multi-period quern stone quarries dating back to the Iron Age.

- Redundant multi-period chalk pits and quarries dot the edge of the chalk escarpments.
- Former mills, now residential houses, associated with mill races, ponds and water wheels along all of the chalk river valley systems, provide evidence for the former importance of water power.
- Surviving stone quarries in the Nadder Valley and near Melbury Abbas provide an important local source of Chilmark stone and Greensand stone respectively for the repair of historic buildings and for the construction of local distinctive new buildings.
- There are relic stone quarries within the Nadder Valley. The disused stone quarry at RAF Chilmark consists of several underground chambers; others consist of overgrown open faces or survive as place names.
- Expansion of small scale commercial endeavours away from villages and farm complexes due to the improvement of transportation networks. These include granaries, modern telecommunications, commercial chicken farms and transportation depots.
  - Impact in the 20<sup>th</sup> century of purpose built trading estates, business units and distribution centres on the edges of village. These are associated with urbanised infrastructure including new traffic systems, street lights and signage. Some reuse historic industrial and military sites.

### Linkages 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.

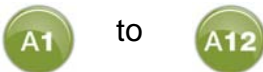
Other Themes of particular relevance to this theme are:



Theme 10: Routeways in the Landscape

Theme 12: Water in the Landscape

All the Historic Landscape Character Areas are of relevance to this theme.



### History and Context

Industry in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has tended to be small scale and local as befits a predominantly rural area, utilising local geology and materials. This paints a picture of small scale local industry serving local villages and farms and the surrounding market towns. The industrial archaeology of the AONB is an understudied component of the areas history. There are few post Medieval industrial

sites recorded in the county based sites and monuments record. Nearly all former industrial activity has now ceased with the exception of limited stone quarrying in the AONB. The industrial development of the AONB in the 20<sup>th</sup> century has followed a slightly different course, with the expansion of small scale commercial endeavors situated away from villages and farm complexes. This includes a wide range of activities including modern telecommunications, game farms, granaries and commercial chicken farming.

Archaeological evidence relating to former industrial activity in the AONB can be grouped into three categories: -

1. The generation of power through the harnessing of water and wind, and the exploitation of that power to grind corn, to make cloth, and to pump water.
2. The exploitation of raw materials through quarrying for building material and for the creation of secondary products.
3. The manufacturing of brick, tile and lime.

Many of these processes have a long history, quarrying for example can be dated back to the Iron and Romano-British periods. However until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the coming of the Railways these industrial activities tended to be small scale in operation and to serve primarily local needs. During the industrial revolution larger scale industrial sites were developed including brick and tile works and cloth factories, which could exploit the new markets provided by the railways.

### Key Secondary Sources

There has been little targeted research on the industrial archaeology of the AONB.

The main source of detail on the wider industrial pattern in the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation report available from [www.historiclandscape.co.uk](http://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.

The main archaeological record for the area is the county based Historic Environment Record in Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset 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> .

The Wiltshire Geology Group has produced a useful overview of Wiltshire building stone  
<http://www.wiltshiregeologygroup.org.uk/projects/buildingstones/buildingstones.php>



## Landscape Scale Characteristics and Components

### 1. Water powered mills in the AONB

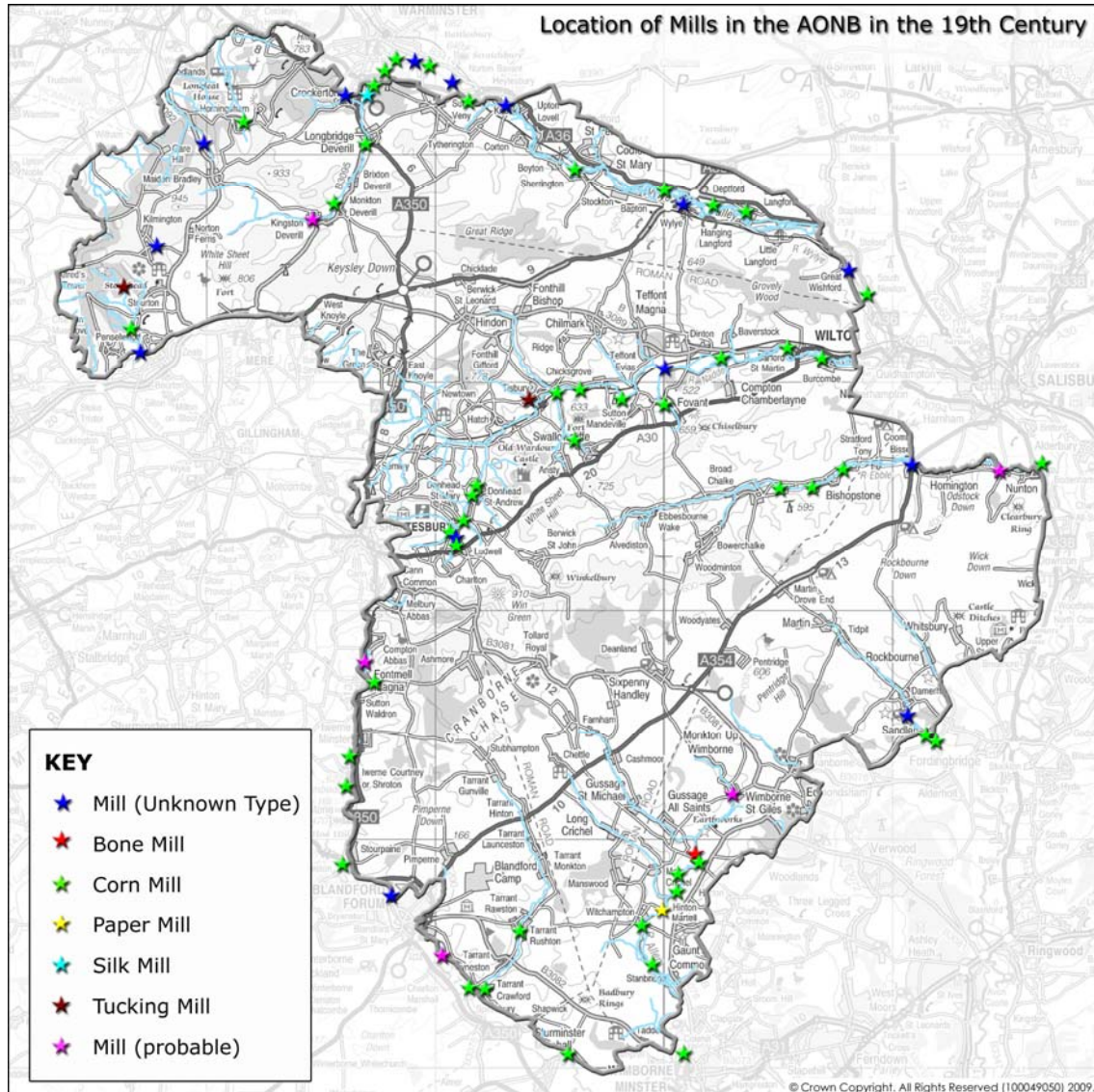


Figure One: Location of Water Powered Mills in the AONB in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

#### Background

Watermills in the AONB date to at least the early Medieval period. The majority of settlements located on rivers in the AONB are associated with documentary evidence for at least one Mill in the Domesday Book. These would have been water powered cornmills. These tend to remain on the same site so a mill that looks 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century could be concealing a much longer history. These would have been vertical wheel mills utilising the undershot or overshot method. The latter was introduced in the AONB in the Medieval period. Also during the Medieval period the invention of mechanical fulling by waterpower was also introduced to the AONB. Fulling was a crucial process in the production of woollen cloth, which involved the cleansing of cloth to eliminate oils, dirt, and other impurities, and making it thicker. During the Post Medieval period other water

powered industries were introduced into the AONB including a silk mill on the River Wylye, and a bone mill in the south east of the AONB, probably used for the production of agricultural fertilisers.

#### *Landscape scale impact*

Information on watermills in the AONB is extremely scarce. The map in Figure One was created through analysis of place name evidence of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century 6" inch Ordnance Survey maps and modern Ordnance Survey maps. This has pinpointed the location of over 70 water mills in the AONB including corn mills, tucking mills (for fulling cloth), bone mills, silk mills and paper mills. It is likely that many of these locations are associated with surviving mill buildings, mill races, mill ponds and potential water wheels and other mill workings. However more primary research is needed.

## **2. Windmills in the AONB**



*Figure Four: East Knoyle Windmill*

#### *Background*

Windmills appear in England in the Norman period. The known sites of windmills in the AONB date to the post Medieval period.

#### *Landscape scale impact*

There is one surviving windmill in the AONB at East Knoyle, a tower windmill probably c1800 in date which lost its sails in the 1930s. Other windmills in the AONB have disappeared but their locations are recorded on modern and historic Ordnance Survey maps and may well be associated with earthworks.



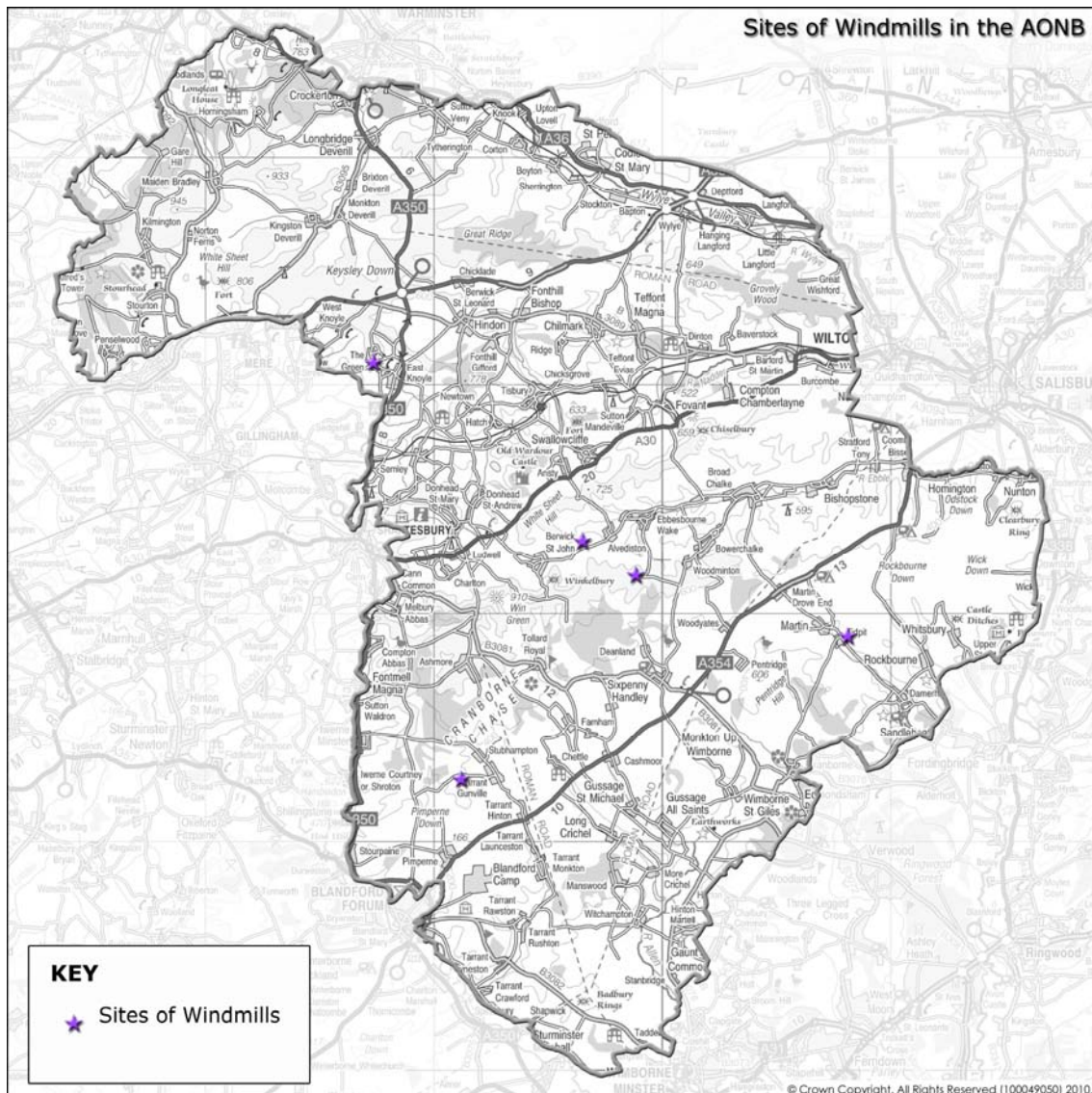


Figure Two: Sites of Windmills in the AONB

### 3. Quarrying including stone quarries and chalk pits

#### Background

The earliest quarrying in the AONB dates from the Iron Age, but the majority of known quarries and chalk pits date from the post Medieval period. The majority of these were created for building materials for example:

3. In the Vale of Wardour, the upper part of the group, the Portland Stone Formation, has been quarried extensively for building since Medieval times. It is generally known as Chilmark stone.
4. Upper Greensand known as Hurdcott stone is quarried in the Nadder Valley.
5. Flints which are particularly common as nodules or bands in the Upper Chalk were commonly used in walls as a protective outer layer.
6. Chalk though not a satisfactory building stone has been used in the past in buildings. This stone is known as "clunch". Chalk has also traditionally been ground



up and mixed with water into slurry with clay, plus chopped straw, horsehair or other binders like manure to make “cob”.

Chalk was also used to produce quicklime in a lime kiln (See Section 4 Other Historical Industrial Sites in the AONB below), which could be used as a mortar and as a fertilizer.

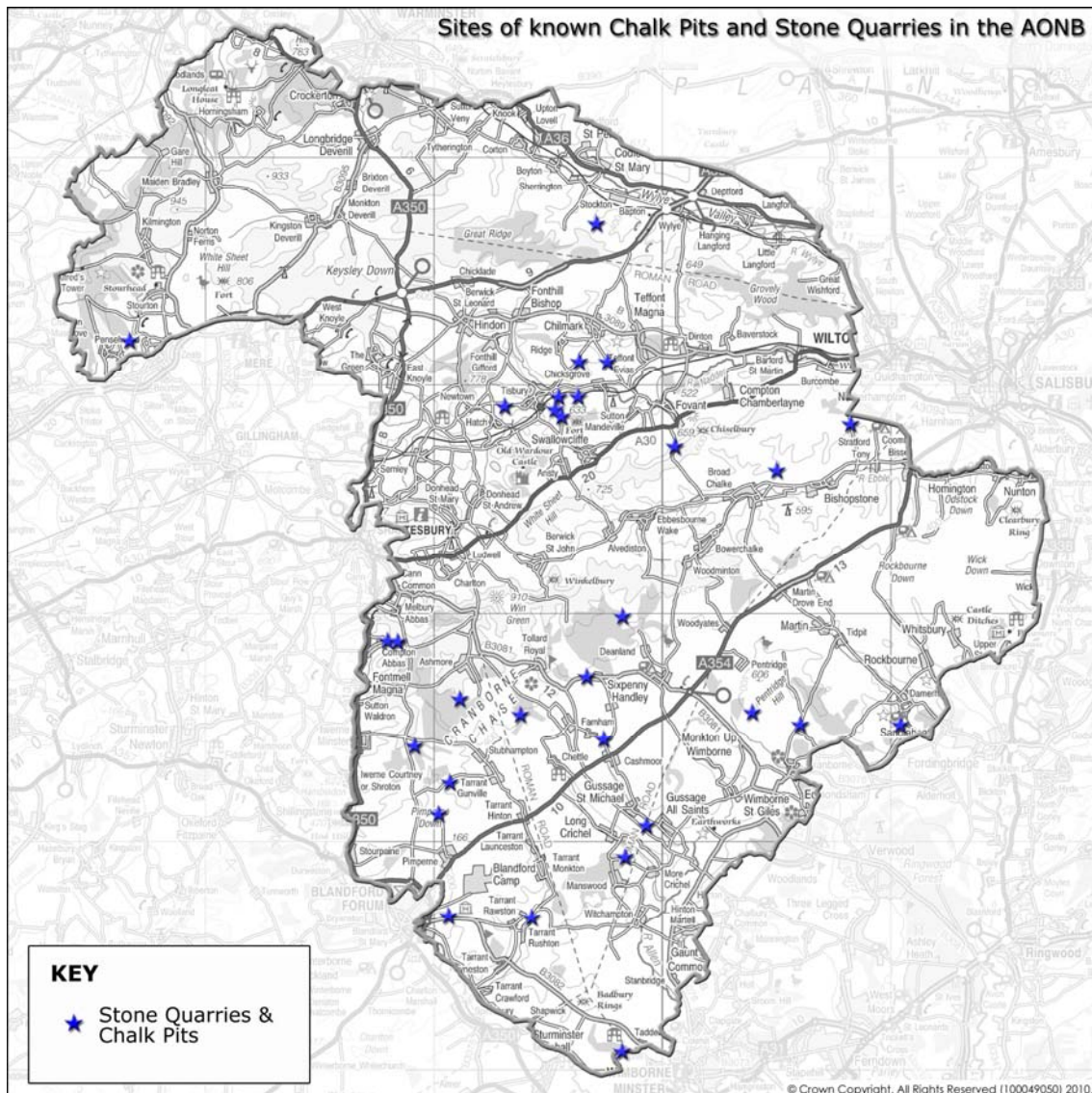


Figure Five: Sites of Known Chalk Pits and Stone Quarries in the AONB

#### *Landscape scale impact*

The earliest quarries in the AONB are the Pen Pits straddling the Somerset/Wiltshire border in the parishes of Pen Selwood and Stourton. These are comprised of pits, now collapsed, covering an area of some 700 acres. These are now accepted to be pre-Norman quern quarries, probably of more than one period, extending to the Iron Age. There is also suggestion that the stone quarries in the Nadder valleys may have a Roman origin.

More general information on the distribution and dates of quarries in the AONB, however, is extremely scarce. The map, in figure seven, was created through analysis of place name evidence of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century 6" inch Ordnance Survey maps and modern Ordnance Survey maps. This has pinpointed the location of over 30 quarries and chalk pits in the AONB. More primary research is required.

At Chicksgrove quarry around 20 metres of this Tisbury Member are still worked and Hurdcott Stone is still quarried near Barford St Martin, 6 miles east of Tisbury. The stone mines at Chilmark still survive and are situated on the former site of RAF Chilmark. Quarry remains an historic place name in the Nadder valley centred on the village of Tisbury.



Figure Six: Hurdcott Quarry

#### 4. Other Historic Industrial Sites in the AONB

##### *Background*

A range of other Post Medieval industrial sites are known in the AONB, these include cloth factories, brick and tile works, limekilns, and pottery kilns.

The earliest example of the use of brick in the AONB is at Abbey House, Witchampton, which dates from 1500. In the eighteenth and nineteenth-centuries brick and tile was produced locally where there were deposits of clay. For example, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a brick works at Dinton, in the Vale of Wardour.

Limekilns were used to manufacture quick lime from chalk which was used as a render and as an agricultural fertiliser. The common feature of early kilns was an egg-cup shaped burning chamber, with an air inlet at the base. The development of the national



rail network increasingly made the local small-scale kilns unprofitable, and they gradually died out through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, replaced by larger industrial plants.

*Landscape scale impact*

More general information on the distribution, dates and remaining archaeological evidence associated with these kinds of industrial sites is extremely scarce. The map, in figure seven, was created through analysis of place name evidence of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century 6" inch Ordnance Survey maps and modern Ordnance Survey maps. This has pinpointed the location of over 30 kilns, brick works, and factories in the AONB. More primary research is required.

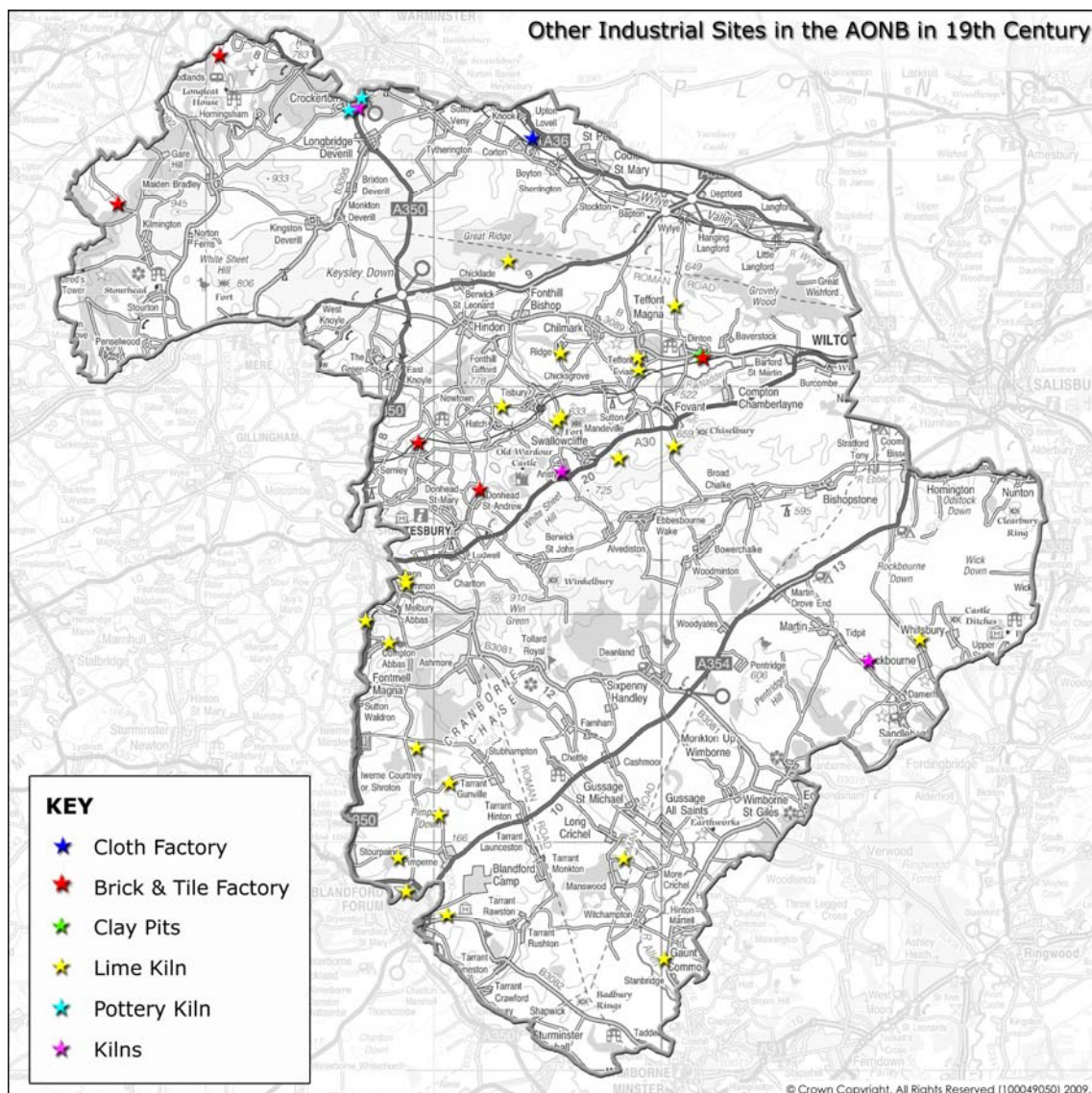


Figure Seven: Other industrial sites in the AONB.

#### 4. Modern day Industrial Sites in the AONB

##### *Background*

Modern day industrial sites in the AONB tend to consist of business units, storage complexes, light industrial facilities, granaries, and high intensity farming practices. They are often a direct result of the planning system and the zoning of activity within specific areas. They mark a departure from the historical pattern which would have seen small scale commercial endeavours occurring within villages or within existing farm complexes.

##### *Landscape scale impact*

The greatest impact has been from the creation of purpose built trading estates, business units and distribution centers with the importation of associated urban infrastructure, including new traffic systems, street lighting and signage. Examples can be found at Dinton and on the outskirts of Blandford.

### Historic Environment Actions



See Background Paper 9 for a full list of Historic Environment Actions and the stages identified in their implementation.

#### **ACTION 4: Identify historic water mills and associated features under threat**

**The Threat and the Opportunity** - Historic mills are an unstudied and under appreciated component of the AONB, although historic 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps demonstrate that there were numerous examples along the chalk river valleys of the AONB. Lack of awareness of the history, numbers and condition of surviving mills leaves this important historical resource vulnerable, especially at a time when many rural buildings are subject to alteration in advance of reuse. The lack of information about this historic feature means that key features may be lost through development, lack of maintenance, lack of modern use or unsympathetic land management.

**The Potential Mechanism** - This action, as a starting point, could determine the extent of former and surviving mill buildings and associated features such as water wheels and mill races. It would also determine their general condition and suggest further steps which could be taken to ensure their preservation.

#### **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.



Version 1 December 2010. Written by Emma Rouse, HEAP Officer  
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	B2	Description of the Archaeology of the AONB by Time Period
	B3	History of Archaeological Discovery
	B4	Land Use
	B5	Local Distinctiveness
	B6	People in the Landscape
	B7	Major Historical Events, Trends and Fashions
	B8	Designated Heritage Assets
	B9	Full List of Historic Environment Actions
	B10	References and Glossary
Area	A1	Longleat to Penselwood Hills and Kilmington Common
	A2	Sutton Veny, Cold Kitchen Hill and Zeals Knoll
	A3	Chalk River Valleys
	A4	Northern Wylde and Ebble Valley Sides
	A5	West Wiltshire Downs
	A6	Great Ridge and Grovely Woods
	A7	Fovant Terrace and the Area Between Chalbury and Woodlands
	A8	Chalk Escarpments
	A9	Vale of Wardour
	A10	Wooded Chalk Downland of the Cranborne Chase and Chetterwood
	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	<b>Industry in the Landscape</b>
	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

[www.historiclandscape.co.uk](http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk)

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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