



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

B9



Area



Theme



Supplementary



Method

Background

Historic Environment Action Plans

Background 9: Full List of
Historic Environment Actions






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)**

Contents

Introduction	1
A. Actions to Deal with Heritage Under Threat	2
B. Actions to Deal with a Lack of Information or Knowledge	6
C. Actions to Deal with a Lack of Appreciation or Understanding.....	10
D. Actions to Deal with Lack of Appropriate Management.....	13
Matrix of Actions	17

Introduction

The actions listed in this document form the core of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Environment Action Plans. They form a series of specific, attainable time based actions which address key threats and opportunities relevant to the historic environment of the AONB landscape.

They flow from assessments which describe the key historic and archaeological characteristics of the landscape of the AONB, and set out the significance, condition and forces for change affecting these historic characteristics.

Those assessments are divided into two types:

- Summaries of the historic environment of the AONB by **area**
- Summaries of the historic environment of the AONB by **theme**

These twenty actions have been identified by the Historic Environment Action Plan Steering Group as representing either solutions to the threats facing the historic environment of the AONB or opportunities to enhance management and understanding. The Steering Group was comprised of local residents, landowners, land managers, local historians and archaeologists, heritage interest groups, AONB representatives, heritage professionals and representatives from key organisations including Natural England, English Heritage, and the Forestry Commission, and was coordinated by a dedicated HEAP project officer. This wide base of expertise has ensured that the actions identified fully address the key threats and opportunities relevant to the archaeology and history of the AONB and fully cover the range of historic environment assets present in the landscape.

The actions are split into four types dealing with:

- A. Heritage under threat
- B. Lack of information or knowledge
- C. Lack of appreciation or understanding
- D. Lack of appropriate management

Each action is accompanied by:

- Details of the threat that the action is seeking to address
- A potential mechanism through which the action can be implemented
- A table showing potential stages for the mechanism
- Areas which the action is linked with

- Themes which the action is linked with

Finally the Area(s) or Theme(s) the action is related to are displayed in a matrix for convenient cross referencing.

The actions are aimed at all people or organisations who have an interest in conserving and enhancing the history and archaeology of the AONB.

The actions have been subdivided into smaller potential stages to enable people or organisations to sign up to deliverable actions without being overwhelmed by a given task. This will also allow the implementation of actions to be effectively monitored. The Actions could be prioritised by threat level or scale of likely benefits but the success of the action plan will be to respond to opportunities as they arise.

The implementation of actions will be overseen by an Implementation Group with individuals or organisations signing up to oversee the implementation of a particular action. The minutes of these meetings of this implementation group will be made available on the AONB's historic landscape website www.historiclandscape.co.uk. A crucial spin off from these meetings and the activities generated through the implementation of actions will be to raise awareness of the special characteristics of the history and archaeology of the area.

Actions are targeted at the landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB but they can naturally be implemented by programmes of work across larger areas such as districts or counties.

A. Actions to Deal with Heritage Under Threat

ACTION 1: Provide an AONB wide synthesis of the distinctive character of historic settlements.

The Threat and the Opportunity – Guiding change within the AONB's numerous historic villages is done best when there is an informed understanding of their particular development and character. Over half of the Conservation Areas in the AONB do not have a Conservation Area Appraisal, and there are only three Village Design Statements. Only one District has a design guide. This means that there is no easily available information source identifying the distinctive character of either individual settlements or the rural settlements of the AONB overall.

The Potential Mechanism – Characterisations of local settlements could be prepared to provide an accessible source of information on the historic characteristics of individual settlements and the range of characteristics found in the AONB's settlements as a whole to inform planning decisions and ensure that the distinctive character of the AONB settlements is conserved and enhanced.

STAGE	DETAILS	COMPLETED?
1	Determine scale and format of settlement characterisation	
2	Develop methodology for settlement characterisation	
3	Pilot study completed to show as good practice	
4	Encourage the adoption of the methodology for other settlements/areas/districts	



STAGE	DETAILS	COMPLETED?
5	Promote the use of the pilot studies to demonstrate the usefulness of the survey.	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 11.



ACTION 2: Record and maintain historic orchards

The Threat and the Opportunity – Orchards were once found on the edges of most of the AONB’s villages, but few survive. There is no coherent approach to the maintenance of surviving traditional orchards in the AONB. However before this issue can be dealt with more information is required on the location, extent and survival of historic orchards.

The Potential Mechanism - 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show that orchards were once numerous, especially in the chalk river valleys of the AONB. This action would first identify the location and extent of both former and surviving orchards within the AONB, then consider the issues involved in their sustainable maintenance and then identify the next steps to ensure that they are conserved and enhanced.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Make contact with groups already interested in orchards and determine current extent of knowledge.	
2	Potential to map orchards from historic maps as a baseline	
3	Determine what additional information is required and how it would be recorded. Establish logistics and organisation needed to gather information.	
4	Gather further information perhaps via written survey to landowners	
5	Collate responses	
6	Publish a list of findings	
7	Review potential for orchard restoration & maintenance.	
8	Determine the next steps in the process	

Linked to: Areas 3, 9

Linked to: Theme 13



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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Choose location for a pilot trail and identify its key features	
2	Create example self guided trail	
3	Advertise trail	
4	Review success of pilot and roll out others as appropriate	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 10



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 19th 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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Contact key stakeholders to establish current level of interest in this issue, e.g. industrial archaeology groups, Environment Agency, SPAB Mills Section http://www.spab.org.uk/spab-mills/for-mills-section-members/	

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
2	A desk based project could map former locations of historic mills	
3	Develop community project to identify, map and record surviving features associated with historic water mills	
4	Use the material gathered to more thoroughly assess the state of the resource in the AONB, and to consider its historic importance as a whole and that of individual mills. Consider preparing guidance on management, maintenance and reuse, aimed at owners and planners.	
5	Develop community project to identify, map and record features associated with historic water mills	

Linked to: Areas 3, 9

Linked to: Theme 6, 12



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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Explore Historic Environment Countryside Advice Services and other similar schemes adopted in other areas, to determine best model for AONB	
2	Explore funding opportunities for HECAs	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 8.



B. Actions to Deal with a Lack of Information or Knowledge

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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Contact EH for update on progress and plans for NMP Programme, including establishing degree of commitment to completing NMP of Designated Areas (or Protected Landscape)	
2	Define objectives of a NMP project for the AONB	
3	Explore funding opportunities should they be required to support the EH programme	
4	Apply for funding for project	

Linked to: Areas 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11



ACTION 7: Record information on hazel underwood trade

The Threat and the Opportunity - Hazel coppice is a major component of the woodlands of the Cranborne Chase which until recent times were still managed traditionally. However, there is a lack of easily available information on the recent economic and social history of the industry (who practiced it, what the markets for produce were, why it flourished here in particular, and why it declined, etc). there is also a lack of information recorded on historic management practice and the condition of surviving hazel coppice. With increased understanding should come better material for presenting this part of the AONB's history, and a clearer rationale for any efforts to revive aspects of the industry. This information would help assist with the modern management of the woodland and provide an opportunity for increasing awareness and understanding of this important historic land use.

The Potential Mechanism It is likely that such understanding would best be developed through discussion with people of the area, those who may have practiced coppicing or those who remember aspects of the activity. The individuals who were involved in the traditional hazel underwood trade are now retired and there is an opportunity to record their memories and knowledge of managing the hazel coppice via an oral history project.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Establish reasonable scope of the project, including identifying communities and individuals to target for interview.	
2	Determine funding opportunities perhaps via Landscape Partnership Scheme bid	
3	Oral History project commences	
4	Review results; publish as appropriate and consider the potential and feasibility of further positive management.	

Linked to: Areas 6, 10

Linked to: Theme 13.

**ACTION 8: Increase knowledge of woodland archaeology in the AONB**

The Threat and the Opportunity - The woodlands are a feature of the AONB which conceal a wealth of information on past human activity. This includes archaeological sites such as settlements and field systems, as well as information on the historic management of the woodland, such as ancient pollards and wood banks, and evidence for historic woodland industries including saw pits, charcoal burning pits and lime kiln. The lack of information on the archaeological and historic features in the woodland means potentially nationally important and locally distinctive historic assets could be under threat from inappropriate management.

The Potential Mechanism – One approach to filling the gap in our knowledge of the archaeology concealed in the ancient and new woodlands of the AONB is undertaking a LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) survey. This could provide woodland owners

and managers with the information they need to conserve and enhance these features. LIDAR is an optical remote sensing technology, normally used when flying over a study area. It is normally able to penetrate the canopy of woodland and accurately record as dense arrays of points the positions of earthwork and structural remains that would take considerable resources to plot with traditional ground survey. Quality of LiDAR results in tree cover is very dependent on how much finance was invested in the original air coverage, and it is likely that this action will require new surveys to be commissioned

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Investigate scope of project, including the qualities of the canopies of the AONB's woods in relation to the effectiveness of LIDAR, the HLC to assess which woods might have the greatest potential to contain important remains, etc	
2	Investigate other alternative recording schemes	
3	Define the scope of project	
4	Identify funding opportunities and project timescales	

Linked to: Areas 1, 6, 10

Linked to: Theme 13.



ACTION 9: Gain greater understanding of the components of the Medieval hunting areas of the AONB.

The Threat and the Opportunity - The Historic Environment Action Plans have identified the Medieval hunting forests of the AONB (Cranborne Chase, Grovely Forest and Selwood Forest) as one of the most important components of the historic landscape of the AONB. However although the history of these areas has been studied their physical archaeological and historical components have not received similar attention. The role of the Medieval hunting areas, combined with the ecclesiastical powers who dominated land ownership within the AONB, and the relationship to land use and feudal society is poorly understood.

The Potential Mechanism – A forum could be established of local people and experts to direct research into the Medieval landscape of the area. This would help to fill the gap in our knowledge of the landscape legacy of Medieval hunting areas of the AONB.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Define scope of hunting forest forum	
2	Contact people to determine interest	
3	Organise first meeting perhaps in the form of a seminar	
4	Forum to decide scope and range of group's activities, and whether outcomes would be related in any way to AONB management and presentation.	



Linked to: Areas 1,6,10

Linked to: Theme 5.



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

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Make contact with groups already undertaking farmstead characterisation work (such as the Wiltshire Buildings Record’s project that is also using the EH farmstead characterisation method)	
2	Synthesise information from listed building records as a first step	
3	Investigate characterisation techniques adopted in other areas	
4	Define scope of project	
5	Apply for project funding	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 2.



C. Actions to Deal with a Lack of Appreciation or Understanding

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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Review current provision of public access to Prehistoric [sites and supporting presentational literature in the AONB. Identify areas with potential for improved access and presentation.	
2	Determine if trails are the most important mechanism for increasing appreciation.	
3	Establish whether there might be land ownership or other issues relating to establishing access.	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 8.



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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Contact LAs for examples of good practice [and liaise with Jeremy Lake of EH Characterisation Team who has wide experience of farmstead and farm building issues, and has a clear idea of best practice.] There may need to be an early appraisal of what trends are for farm buildings and farmsteads in the AONB, whether many have a viable	

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
	future as farm buildings and if not what sorts of uses can be found to ensure that they have a viable future and will be maintained as important structures in the AONB landscape.	
2	Collate examples of good practice	
3	Determine format of output	
4	Publicise results	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 2.



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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Contact military history organisations in the AONB	
2	Promote publicly available information and ask for other sources of information.	
3	Determine how to present information so it is accessible	
4	Plan event to coincide with 100 year centenary of WW1	

Linked to: Areas 3, 7, 8, 9, 12

Linked to: Theme 7.



ACTION 14: Increase understanding of extensive woodland not part of former Medieval hunting areas

The Threat and the Opportunity - Several large woodlands in the AONB, including Great Ridge, are notable for not forming the core of a Medieval hunting forest. This

means that their development and history, which is likely to have been different from that of woodland in the hunting grounds, is not very well understood.

The Potential Mechanism - This action will target these areas and historical and archaeological investigations will provide the context to their key archaeological and historical features; investigate the likely reasons why they were not incorporated into a Medieval hunting landscape; and establish how their medieval and later histories may have differed from the hunting landscape woodlands.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Identify which woodlands were not within medieval hunting grounds and establish whether these are considered to have been anciently woodland.	
2	Establish level of community and land owner support for a project that investigates these woods from historical records and by archaeological field work,	
3	Draw up a draft project design and determine funding opportunities	

Linked to: Areas 6

Linked to: Theme 13.



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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Organise field day/seminar to identify themes and learn what is currently known of this period.	
2	Create research framework and identify projects that will help deepen understanding while drawing a range of interested parties together, including academic and local archaeologists and historians, and members of the wider community.	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 1, 3, 5, 11.



D. Actions to Deal with Lack of Appropriate Management

ACTION 16: Make more widely available enhanced and targeted information on managing archaeology in woodland.

The Threat and the Opportunity - The Historic Environment Action Plan Steering Group felt that there was a lack of simple readily available information targeted at woodland owners to help them more effectively manage the heritage assets in their woodland. The use of the heavy machinery involved in woodland management and harvesting can be very damaging to archaeological remains and lack of awareness of issues amongst forestry operatives has so far been a major stumbling block.

The Potential Mechanism – Invest effort in improving working relationships between forestry operatives, managers and archaeologists. An information base could be created for forestry operatives to help them better conserve and enhance the archaeology of woodlands, including information on protected heritage, good practice, information sources and heritage grant schemes for woodland. This could be promoted through a training day.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Draw together examples of positive woodland management and from published guidance material	
2	Create resources	
3	Organise training day	

Linked to: Areas 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 13.



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.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Establish the nature of the two issues – boundary management and boundary loss	
2	Review current knowledge of the range of field boundary types within the AONB and establish whether further study is required before realistic management recommendations can be produced. Involve interested members of the farming community in this process.	
3	Review and adapt any relevant material dealing with conservation and management of field boundaries that might be readily available	
4	Establish through liaison with the key players, such as NFU, CLA, local Farming Clubs, Defra, Natural England etc the likely level of interest in organising training sessions.	
5	Determine content of training sessions	
6	Organise training day	

Linked to: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 **Linked to:** Theme 3, 8, 9.



ACTION 18: Identify key characteristics of hundreds and associated beneficial management

The Threat and the Opportunity – The Medieval hundreds in the AONB are associated with unique patterns of historic land use and management. For example the Chalk Hundred centred on the Ebbles Valley was the focus of a consistent pattern of landownership until the 20th century. This has resulted in a recognisable and locally distinctive historic landscape character in the area which is not widely recognised and understood. The distinctive patterns of land use that underpin that character may be in

danger of erosion through management that may not be based on historical awareness.

The Potential Mechanism - This action aims to help deal with the erosion of the distinctive landscape scale character of the Hundreds in the AONB first through study of changing land management and then through the use of the results of that to inform the raising of awareness among land managers and farmers.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Organise historical and archaeological studies of the changing land use and land management systems that have created the unique landscape characteristics of the hundreds in the AONB	
2	Collate results and prepare material that can be disseminated to land managers and farmers.	
2	Organise event for land managers in which present and past land management systems can be discussed with a view to developing viable ways of working that maintain the valued character of the hundreds landscape.	
3	Use the outcomes of those discussions to develop a model management plan that farmers and land managers are able to work with.	

Linked to: Areas 3, 4

Linked to: Theme 1.



ACTION 19: Coordinate advice on historic parks and gardens management

The Threat and the Opportunity - Historic parks and gardens are a key characteristic of the landscape of the AONB but some historic parks and gardens are under threat from lack of resources and inability to become involved in management schemes to conserve and enhance their key features.

The Potential Mechanism – An initial approach to this issue might be to provide the owners and managers of historic parks and gardens with advice and a readily accessible source of information on achievable best practice. Such material is available elsewhere in southern England (often generated by HECAS officers and usually based on carefully constructed Conservation Management Plans). This could be reviewed and tailored to the needs of the AONB as a whole and to particular parks and gardens as required. Registered Parks and Gardens and those that contain assets subject to other forms of designation (Scheduling, Listing, SSSIs, etc) should ideally be subjected to the preparation of a fully and carefully considered management plan.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Draw together examples	
2	Create resources	
3	Organise training day	



Linked to: Areas 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Linked to: Theme 4.



ACTION 20: Promote understanding of positive management of water meadows systems by identifying good practice, benefits and skills and training required.

The Threat and the Opportunity - The sheep-corn system of agriculture was a dominant part of the rural economy in the AONB landscape between AD 1600 and AD 1900, and is still represented by the extensive pattern of historic water meadow systems which exist throughout its chalk valleys of the AONB. These extensive features have never been surveyed and are no longer in a landscape scale system of management.

The Potential Mechanism - This action will help to combat this threat by providing, as a starting point, a survey of the extent and surviving components of the water meadows in the AONB; and identifying good practice examples of their management. If a National Mapping Programme project can be established for the AONB then this could include the careful plotting of the patterns of water meadow systems.

STAGE	DETAILS	ACHIEVED YET?
1	Determine locations, extents, forms and original working methods of water meadows in the AONB	1
2	Review and adapt any relevant material dealing with conservation and management of water meadows that might be readily available	2
3	Establish through liaison with the key players, such as NFU, CLA, local Farming Clubs, Defra, Natural England etc the likely level of interest in organising training sessions	3
4	Determine content of training sessions	4
5	Organise training sessions.	5

Linked to: Areas 3, 9

Linked to: Theme 12.





Matrix of Actions

The following matrixes below allow the actions in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Historic Environment Action Plans to be easily related to the Areas and Themes to which they relate. As can be seen a particular area in the AONB can be associated with several actions reflecting the breadth of historic character across the AONB. Typically threats to a particular theme are addressed by one action reflecting the fact that this theme can occur across the whole of the AONB landscape.



AREA	Longleat to Penseolwood Hills and Klimington Common	Sutton Verry, Cold Kitchen Hill and Zeals Knoll	Chalk River Valleys	Northern Wylve and Ebble Side	West Wiltshire Downs	Great Ridge and Grovely Woods	Fovant Terrace and the Area Between Chalbury and Woodlands	Chalk Escarpments	Vale of Wardour	Wooded Chalk Downland of the Cranborne Chase and Chetterswood	Downland Hills	Southern Downland Belt
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12
A. Actions to address heritage under threat												
1. Provide an AONB wide synthesis of the distinctive character of historic settlements.	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Record and maintain historic orchards			✓						✓			
3. Identify and record components of historic highways	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 Highlight historic water mills in the AONB under threat			✓						✓			
5 Reduce unintended/accidental damage to buried archaeology or extant monuments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
B. Actions to address lack of information or knowledge												
6 Gain AONB wide coverage of mapping and interpretation of archaeological features from aerial photographs		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
7 Record information on hazel underwood trade							✓			✓		
8 Increase knowledge of woodland archaeology in the AONB	✓						✓			✓		
9 Gain greater understanding of the components of the Medieval hunting areas of the AONB	✓						✓			✓		
10 Gain greater understanding of historic farm buildings and farmsteads	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C. Actions to address lack of appreciation or understanding												
11 Enhance appreciation of the Prehistoric archaeology of the area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 Widen knowledge of ways and means of maintaining historic farm buildings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 Enhance appreciation of the military history and archaeology			✓				✓	✓				✓
14 Increase understanding of extensive woodland not part of former Medieval hunting areas							✓					
15 Increase understanding of Medieval landscape elements of the AONB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D. Actions to address lack of appropriate management												
16 Make more widely available enhanced and targeted information on managing archaeology in woodland	✓						✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
17 Improve management of historic boundaries and ensure they are retained	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18 Identify key characteristics of Hundreds and associated beneficial management			✓	✓								
19 Coordinate advice on historic parks and gardens management	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 Promote understanding of positive management of water meadows systems.			✓						✓			



THEME	Andent 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	Historic Features of Local Value	
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12	T13	T14	
ACTION	A. Actions to address heritage under threat														
	1. Provide an AONB wide synthesis of the distinctive character of historic settlements.										✓				
	2. Record and maintain historic orchards												✓		
	3. Identify and record components of historic highways									✓					
	4 Highlight historic water mills in the AONB under threat					✓						✓			
	5 Reduce unintended/accidental damage to buried archaeology or extant monuments							✓							
	E. Actions to address lack of information or knowledge														
	6 Gain AONB wide coverage of mapping and interpretation of archaeological features from aerial photographs		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
	7 Record information on hazel underwood trade													✓	
	8 Increase knowledge of woodland archaeology in the AONB													✓	
	9 Gain greater understanding of the components of the Medieval hunting areas of the AONB					✓									
	10 Gain greater understanding of historic farm buildings and farmsteads		✓												
	F. Actions to address lack of appreciation or understanding														
	11 Enhance appreciation of the Prehistoric archaeology of the area								✓						
	12 Widen knowledge of ways and means of maintaining historic farm buildings		✓												
	13 Enhance appreciation of the military history and archaeology							✓							
	14 Increase understanding of extensive woodland not part of former Medieval hunting areas													✓	
	15 Increase understanding of Medieval landscape elements of the AONB	✓		✓		✓						✓			
	G. Actions to address lack of appropriate management														
	16 Make more widely available enhanced and targeted information on managing archaeology in woodland													✓	
17 Improve management of historic boundaries and ensure they are retained			✓					✓	✓						
18 Identify key characteristics of Hundreds and associated beneficial management	✓														
19 Coordinate advice on historic parks and gardens management				✓											
20 Promote understanding of positive management of water meadows systems.												✓			



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Background	B1	Introducing the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Environment Action Plans
	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 Ebbel Valley Sides
	A5	West Wiltshire Downs
	A6	Great Ridge and Grovelly 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	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

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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