

“The Wild Downs and Hills”....

...creating Historic Environment Action Plans
for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB



FEEDBACK FROM INTERACTIVE SESSION: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION



Thursday 12th March 2009

East Knoyle Village Hall



Interactive Session:

Thinking in particular about the Historic Environment

Based on your personal and/or professional interest and passions, what would be your top 5 priorities for ACTION in the AONB?



Interactive Session: Prioritising Action

- Discovering, Defining, Understanding
- Management and Conservation
- Places, Spaces, Sites, Objects, Landscape
- People, Engagement, Interpretation, Presentation



ACTIONS – DISCOVERING, DEFINING AND UNDERSTANDING

Defining ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

- Borderlands – 6th-13th century land-use history
- Digitise – Cranborne Chase Historic documents and maps
- How History influences the presence
- Woodland Archaeological survey & LIDAR
- Prehistoric Funeral Landscapes – Define and integrate with modern landscape

Discovering ● ● ● ● ●

- Discovering Previously unknown archaeological/historical features
- Discovering and defining prehistoric fields systems & their integration with later field divisions
- How human land use and activity have created the rich diversity of landscapes we have inherited
- Identify sites of notable interest

Local Distinctiveness ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

- Local Distinctiveness in the AONB
- Effecting planning applications
- Wider community participation
- Including places, sites, buildings and archaeology
- Local materials

Time ●

- Landscapes as the overarching framework
- Define, explore and communicate the long time-depth and (pre)-history of the landscape

Analysis ● ● ●

- Landscape study and palaeoenvironmental analysis to improve understanding of past environments and development
- National Mapping Programme (analysis and mapping of archaeology from aerial photographs)

Recording & Research ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

- Rushmore Underwood Industry – history including oral history of workers
- Value and Significance (define how to evaluate)
- Encourage Research – embracing studying, discovering, interpretation & surveying
- Ensure research informs planning process in a meaningful way
- Research – define the ‘natural’ postglacial ‘landscapes’ because we have shown that this influence latter human settlement and land use activity
- Explore the early/prehistoric human interaction with and modification of the landscape
- Intensive recording and analysis of old historic buildings including dendrochronology as appropriate
- Relating History to now
- Survey and record rural/agricultural industries e.g. oral history
- Identification and protection or below ground archaeology
- How to balance modern needs with historic values



ACTIONS – PEOPLE, ENGAGEMENT, INTERPRETATION, PRESENTATION

Consultation ● ● ●

- What do people want
- Do not ignore aspirations

Understanding ● ● ● ●

- Awareness of grants
- HLC
- Archaeology buildings
- Local distinctiveness
- Buildings

Access ● ●

- Better access to key places in the landscape e.g. archaeological and historical sites
- Transport and accessibility – trails, public transport

Local Engagement ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

- Local engagement with conservation
- Local distinctiveness engaging local people to understand what they value and why
- Memories
- Engage with key groups

Interpretation ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

- Educating people on history of a place and why it is important
- Education for lay public on prehistoric landscapes
- New approach to guided walks, talks and events
- Wider community involvement and awareness
- Promotion to visitors into the AONB
- Booklet on historical and archaeological development of the AONB
- Wider distribution of displays in village halls etc.
- Interpretation of archaeological and historic environment features
- Enable residents and visitors to the AONB to understand, appreciate and invest in the historic environment
- Public understanding of the deep time of the AONB as a context for decisions
- Centre for study and interpretation, exploration of the region leading to active involvement in projects e.g. conservation or oral histories
- Disseminating what you have produced so far to wide audience
- Enable visitors to communicate and understand and discover historic landscape
- Communicate the long and diverse landscape/land use history of human intervention

