



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Historic Environment Action Plans

Supplementary 1: Planning and
Historic Landscape Character;
A Guide for the Cranborne Chase and
West Wiltshire Downs AONB






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)**

A guide to the role of historic landscape characterisations in planning in and around the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Preface

National Guidance from English Heritage¹ emphasises that understanding the value of the historic environment and making the most of its potential is an important element in place-shaping. This understanding can be enhanced through using historic characterisation tools which help us understand how places have evolved and are currently perceived. These tools help us to manage change through:

- the spatial planning network
- enhancing existing landscape characterisations
- informing land management practices especially agri-environment agreements
- education and outreach

This document focuses on historic characterisations created by the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- The **Historic Landscape Characterisation** which provides a detailed evidence base which captures maps and analyses the present day historic landscape character of the AONB and identifies time depth in the landscape.
- The **Historic Environment Action Plans** which form a more accessible synthesis of the key characteristics of the historic aspects of the AONB landscape. The HEAPs also identify the most significance historic features within the AONB landscape, look at their condition and the forces of changes enacting upon them.

This document uses a series of case studies to demonstrate how these tools can add value to spatial policy and application decisions within the constituent Local Planning Authorities in particular to inform:

- the strategic evidence base for Local Development Frameworks and other strategies
- forward planning documents including regeneration strategies and masterplans
- development management decisions.

This document also looks at how these tools can help planners to:

- have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty within the landscape of the AONB inform understanding of local distinctiveness,
- understand the character of place and its capacity for change which are central themes in Planning Policy Guidance.
- understand the historic landscape context in which a development sites and help shape this context for developers

¹ English Heritage 'Understanding Place: An Introduction' June 2010

Finally it identifies the role of these tools in the implementation of the national Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment.

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Background to the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area which straddles three Counties², one Unitary³ and five District councils⁴. It is clear from the Act, subsequent government sponsored reports, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 that natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage. It is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks are therefore designated to conserve both our most significant natural and historic landscapes. This position is supported by the European Landscape Convention which defines landscape as 'an area perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.

² Dorset County Council, Hampshire County Council, Somerset County Council

³ Wiltshire Council

⁴ East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Mendip District Council, New Forest District Council, South Somerset District Council

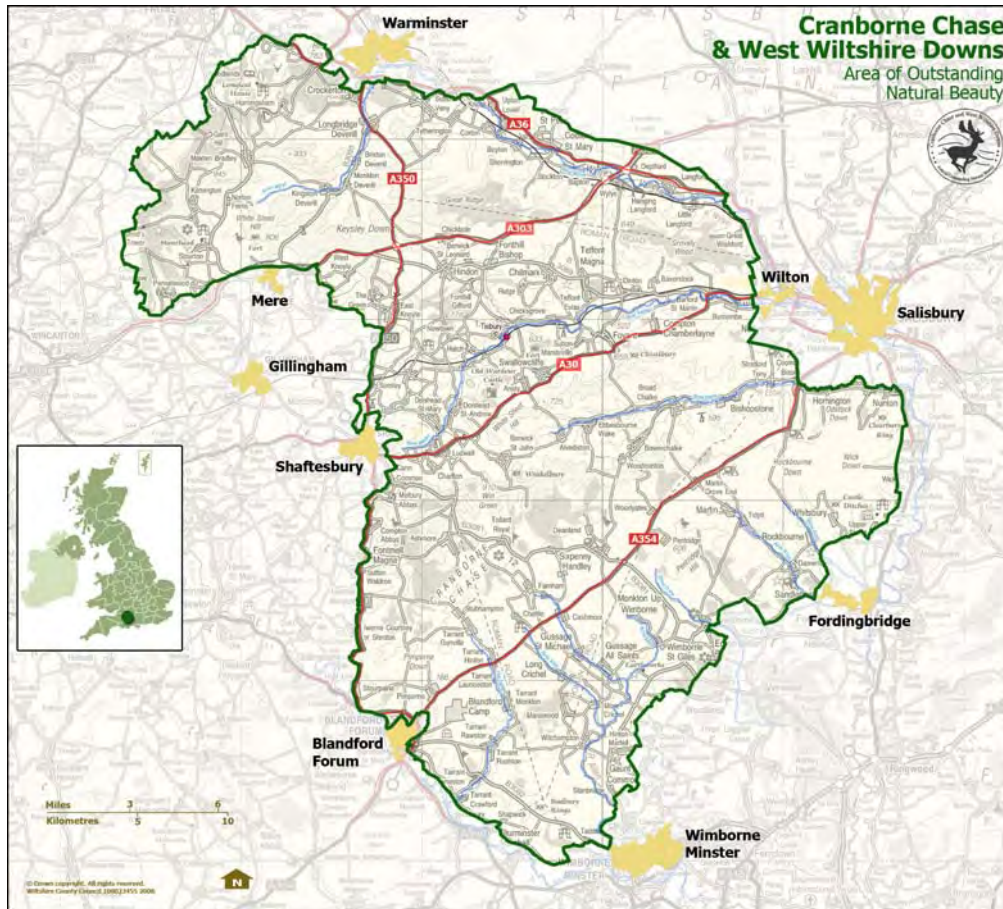


Figure One: Map of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB

The landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Beauty can only be fully conserved and enhanced through recognition and management of the attributes of the historic environment within its borders. Following the definition provided in Planning Position Statement 5 the term 'Historic Environment' is taken to mean 'all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora'. The elements of the historic environment which hold significance are referred to as 'heritage assets'.

The AONB Management Plan and the Historic Environment

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Management Plan (2009-2014) is the statutory management plan for the nationally designated and protected landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as required under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This plan was formally adopted by each of the Local Authorities within the AONB area. Under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 it is a legal duty for all relevant authorities to "have regard to" the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty. A key part of local authorities satisfying their section 85 duty is active support for the implementation of this plan.

The AONB Management Plan sets out broad objectives and policies for both planning and the historic environment within the area.

The relevant objectives for planning are:

- Objective K. The AONB inputs effectively to national, regional and local strategies, policies and plans.

Policy K2: Encourage coherent and consistent formulation and implementation of planning policies that take full account of the local distinctiveness, character and quality of the AONB and its setting.

- Objective L. Coherent and consistent formulation and implementation of planning policies across the AONB takes full account of the purposes of designation and the character and quality of the area and its setting.

Policy L3: Ensure that where new development is permitted it complements the special qualities of the AONB and takes full account of the area's setting and context through the consideration of appropriate Landscape Character Assessments and sensitivity and design studies.

The relevant objectives for Historic and Cultural Heritage are:

- Objective G. The Historic, archaeological and cultural elements of the landscape of the AONB are conserved and enhanced.

This is supported by explicit policies:

Policy G1 Promote and develop the Historic Landscape Characterisation study as a tool for managing the historic and cultural environment of the AONB, providing a framework for policy making, planning decisions and research agendas.

Policy G2 Ensure that the historic landscapes, designated and listed sites and areas, together with sites of local importance are appropriately identified, recorded and managed.

Finally Objective B of the Management Plan aims to ensure that '*Strategic and local decisions are guided by a full awareness and understanding of the landscape designation and purposes*'.

The AONB team helps implement this objective through the development of position statements, fact sheets and good practice notes which help decision makers on all issues affecting the AONB. Two of these documents are of particular relevance:

- Fact Sheet 4 Historic Landscape Characterisation
- Position Statement 4 Historic Landscape Characterisation

These are included in Appendix A and B and are discussed more below.

National Planning Policy context of the Historic Environment and AONB's

Historic Environment policies of relevance to the AONB include Planning Policy Statement 1 'Delivering Sustainable Development' which identifies protecting and enhancing the historic environment as a key facet of sustainable development;

PPS1 Paragraph 5: Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by:

- *protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities;*

Planning Policy Statement 7 7 'Sustainable Development in Rural Areas' highlights the importance of the character of the countryside and local distinctiveness.

PPS 7 Paragraph 1 (vi): All development in rural areas should be well designed and inclusive, in keeping and scale with its location, and sensitive to the character of the countryside and local distinctiveness.

It also recognises that heritage is an intrinsic part of protected landscapes and states that:

*PPS 7 Paragraph 21. Nationally designated areas comprising National Parks, the Broads, the New Forest Heritage Area and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), have been confirmed by the Government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should therefore be given great weight in planning policies and development control decisions in these areas. **The conservation of wildlife and the cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas.***

In addition the importance of this policy is reiterated in paragraph 5 of the new Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment.

Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment Policy HE7 states that:

'In decision-making local planning authorities should seek to identify and assess the particular significance of any element of the historic environment that may be affected by the relevant proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset)'. This would include taking account of the 'historic environment record and similar sources of information'.

In the supporting guide 'PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide' it states

In collecting and collating the evidence base for plan-making local planning authorities are advised to:

10. Consider how established methods of environmental appraisal might contribute to a better understanding of the asset in question and its wider context. These can vary from large-scale historic landscape characterisations, to more detailed, local conservation area appraisals, Village Design Statements, area assessment studies and intensive

urban surveys. Historic characterisation might also be used in sensitivity studies and in the development of green infrastructure strategies.'

Identifying and Assessing the Historic Character of the AONB

Both national planning policy and the AONB management plan demonstrate that a full understanding of the historic aspects of landscape and their contribution to wider landscape character, local distinctiveness and sense of place is crucial both for:

1. ensuring a full regard for the purposes of conserving and enhancing natural beauty
2. ensuring the fullest range of historic environment attributes at a landscape scale form part of planning policy and development control decisions.

The first step in this process as outlined by English Heritage guidance⁵ is the collation of an evidence base for plan making. Two such evidence bases focusing specifically on the historic landscape exist for the designated landscape of the AONB,

1. An AONB wide Historic Landscape Characterisation.
2. Historic Environment Action Plans.

Introducing the AONB wide Historic Landscape Characterisation

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) forms part of a national programme led by English Heritage. It is a desk based method used to define and map the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape.

The underlying philosophy behind HLC is that particular areas of present day landscape which display similar characteristics and attributes and have similar land use history can be allocated to a particular Historic Landscape Type. For example 19th century water meadows or parliamentary enclosure. This Type can be mapped, described and compared to other Types in the landscape, allowing a deeper understanding of the contribution of historic land use patterns to present day landscape character.

HLC is concerned with "time depth" in the landscape. Time depth can be defined as the evidence of past human land use which remains fossilised in the landscape. These layers of past human activity build up to create the landscape we see today. The HLC seeks to record previous episodes of land use which contribute to the character of landscape but which are not the dominant Historic Landscape Type. This helps to build up a picture of the complex interaction between people and place.

Every part of the landscape has some form of historic character which may be affected by any given change differently. The HLC dataset is designed to be a "value neutral" dataset which analyses and records the historic and archaeological dimension of the whole landscape, rather than focusing on the special and the unique. It provides the landscape context in which designated assets such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Assets sit. Value can be added later.

⁵ *'PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide'*

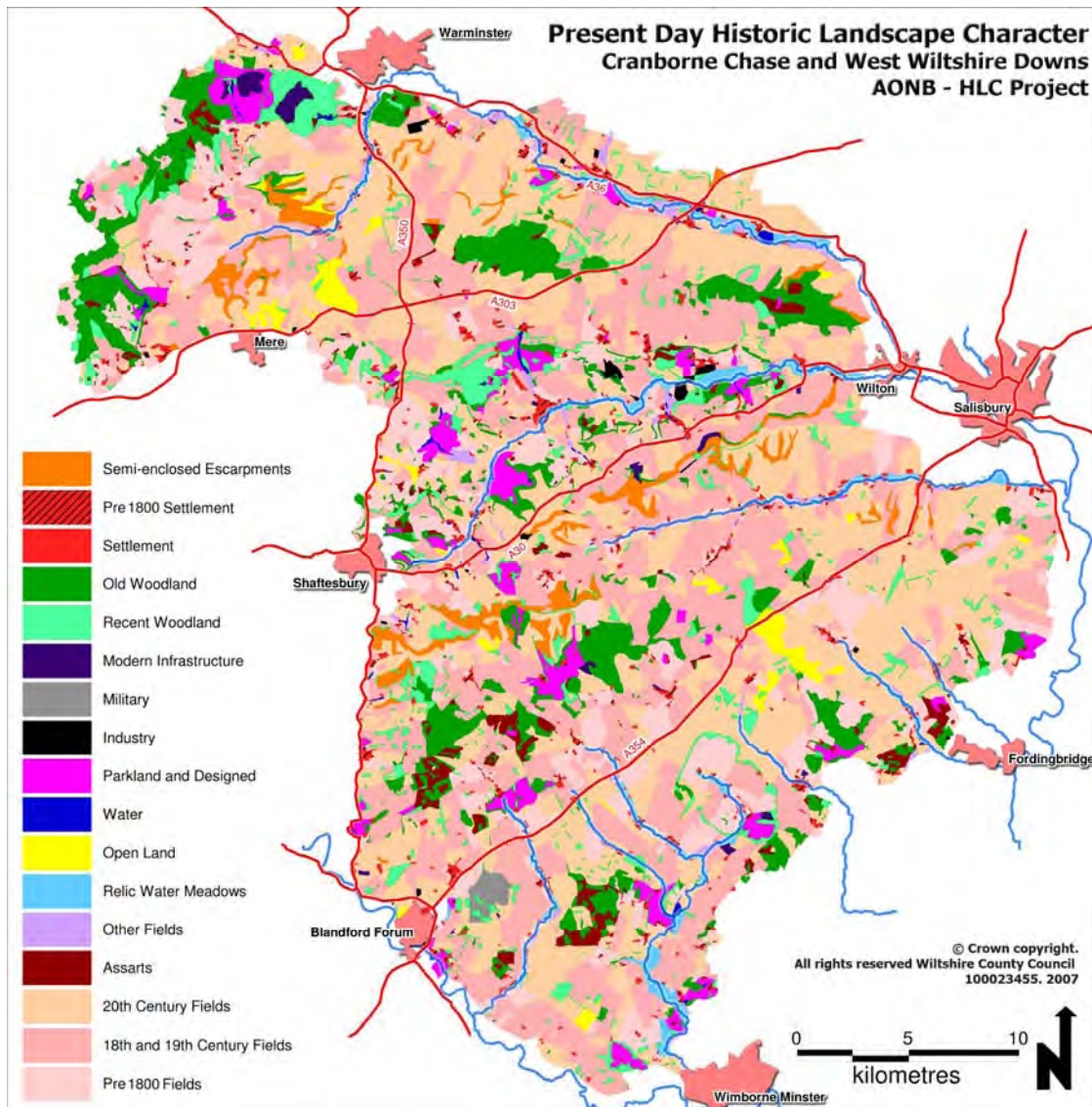


Figure Two: Map of present day Historic Landscape Character in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB

Between January 2008 and August 2009 the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) undertook its own Historic Landscape Characterisation funded by English Heritage.

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation exists as a dataset used within a Geographical Information System and a written report.

The HLC is an evidence base on the historic character of the present day landscape which can be used to make better informed decisions which affect the landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. It can be applied at a variety of spatial scales from strategic planning to individual development management decisions. It can also be combined with other types of evidence such as landscape character assessments.

HLC as a tool is not concerned with preserving the landscape unchanged or with recreating a particular point in the landscapes past. Rather it seeks to understand the contribution that past human activity and land use has made to present day landscape character so that any future change can respect local character and distinctiveness. It helps in creating an understanding of the sensitivity of a place and its ability to accommodate change.

More information on the Historic Landscape Characterisation can be found by visiting the Historic Landscape Website www.historiclandscape.co.uk where the project report⁶ is also available to download. The Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset can be queried and explored in a separate interactive mapping section www.historiclandscape.co.uk/maps

Historic Environment Action Plans and their relationship to Historic Landscape Characterisation

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation provides a detailed evidence base which captures maps and analyses the present day historic landscape character of the AONB. The AONB decided that due to the complexity of this dataset, it needed to create a more accessible synthesis of the information contained within the HLC combined with other data available on the archaeological and historic aspects of the AONB landscape including information held in the county Historic Environment Records. This synthesis could then be used to identify the most significance features within the AONB landscape, look at their condition and the forces of changes enacting upon them.

Introducing the AONB wide Historic Environment Action Plans

The AONB has developed Historic Environment Action Plans for the whole of the AONB landscape. These are being funded by English Heritage and are designed as a best practice exemplar of this new tool⁷ for other protected areas.

The AONB Historic Environment Action Plans, or HEAPs for short, provide a summary of the key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB at a landscape scale.

The HEAPs are based on a robust evidence base including Historic Environment Records, the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation, and other studies and documents such as Conservation Area Appraisals.

They exist as a suite of cross connecting documents, and the summaries of key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB landscape are split into two interrelated parts:

- 12 Geographically discrete Historic Landscape Character Areas
- 14 AONB wide Historic Landscape Themes

⁶ Rouse, E. 2008 *Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation*. CCWWD AONB, Cranborne.

⁷ Historic Environment Action Plans were first proposed in 2002 and to date have been developed sporadically in Cornwall, West Berkshire and the Isle of Wight.

They are also supported by a series of overarching background statements and supporting documents. This is described in more detail in the inside front and back cover of this document.

These documents are used to identify a series of actions which will help to conserve and enhance the historic aspects of the landscape of the AONB. However the documents themselves also form an evidence base which can be used to inform spatial planning.

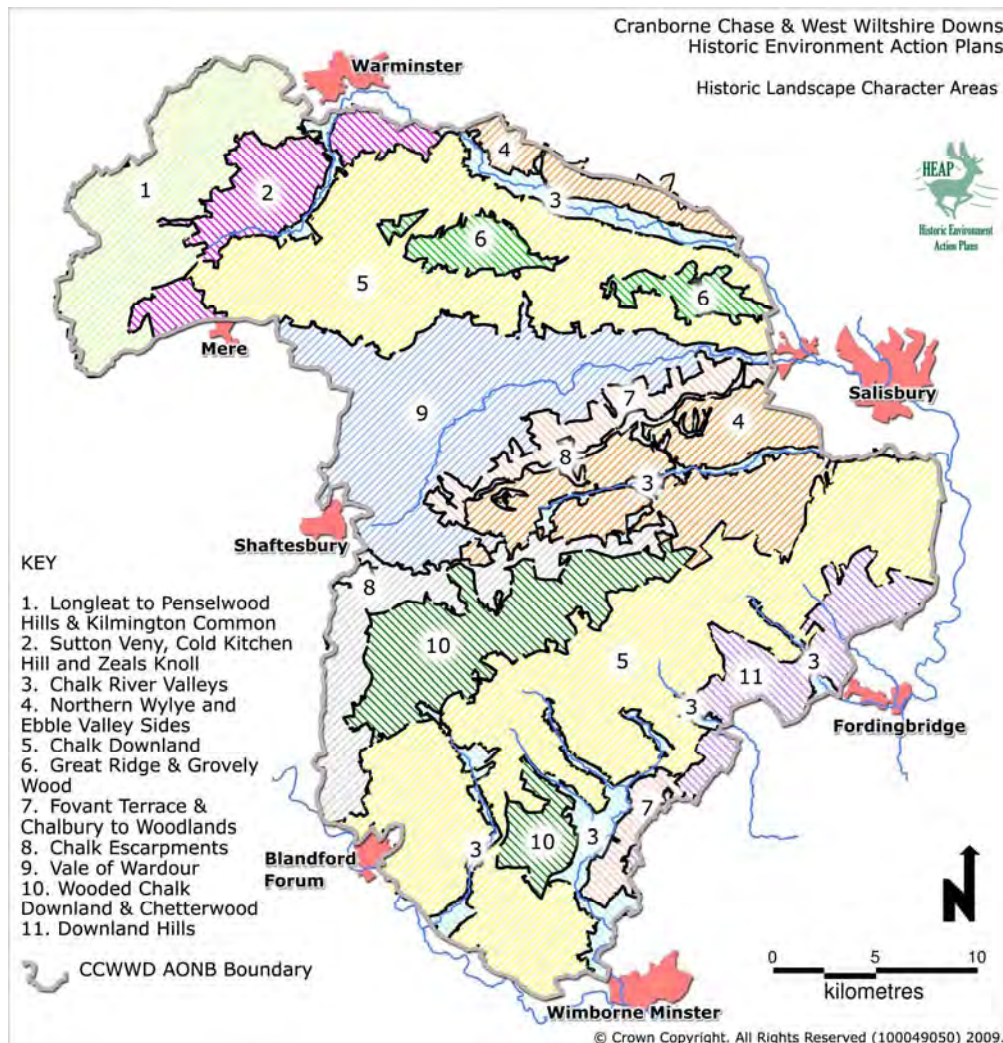


Figure Three: Historic Landscape Character Areas in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB

For example each Historic Landscape Character Area Statement starts from a collation of present understanding of the asset, an outline history and a consideration of principal components. This includes sections on:

- Location, Geology, Land Use and Topography
- Linkages to Other Historic Landscape Descriptions
- History and Context

- Key Sources
- Landscape Scale Characteristics and Components including:
 - Ancient 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

A statement of significance is provided for each area. This includes an assessment of value following the framework laid out in English Heritage's (2008) Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance⁸. This includes sections on

- Coherence, Local Distinctiveness, Rarity, and Time Depth
- Typical Surviving Components of the Area
- Evidential Value
- Historical Value
- Aesthetic Value
- Communal Value

There is a short section on the state of the Historic Environment encompassing:

- Current Knowledge
- Existing Levels of Protection
- Loss and Condition
- Coherence
- Forces for Change
- Summary of Key Threats

Finally there are proposed Historic Environment Actions for the area.

⁸ English Heritage 2008 *Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance* English Heritage: London.

Case Study 1: Planning Policy

By identifying what makes a place distinctive the information within the Historic Landscape Characterisation and Historic Environment Action Plans can '*inform and underpin the emerging plan in terms of its spatial portrait, vision, strategy, objectives, policy, allocation, monitoring and implementation. Having understood the character of the place, policies and proposals can be developed for character types and areas based on their contribution to its quality, and their capacity and sensitivity to accommodate change.* (English Heritage draft guidance on 'Historic Landscape Characterisation for planning and development' 2009).

The AONB has started to promote the evidence base provided by the Historic Landscape Characterisation and the new Historic Environment Action Plans as tools to allow the creation of specific planning policies which address the historic aspects of landscape.

The first step was the creation of AONB Position Statement 4 Historic Landscape Characterisation included in Appendix A. This stated that:

The Partnership for this AONB recommends, and encourages, all its Partners to:

- a) *Encourage and promote the use of the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation as an evidence base to inform planning and policy decisions, as well as management activities.*

A similar position statement will also be developed for the Historic Environment Action Plans.

Example 1A: Draft Core Strategy North Dorset District Council

'The New Plan for North Dorset' (March 2010) the draft core strategy and development management policies development plan document produced by North Dorset District Council as part of the development of their Local Development Framework identifies the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation as a project that '*may be a material consideration in the determination of planning decisions*' (Paragraph 2.7.13 of the New Plan for North Dorset'.

This supports Draft Core Policy 14: Conserving and Enhancing the Environment of the core strategy which states:

The biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape, historic built and archaeological heritage assets of the District will be conserved and enhanced by ensuring that:

- c) *any proposal for development is in keeping with, and does not cause detriment to, the distinctive natural and historic landscape qualities of an area;*
- d) *the landscape and settings of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB and the Dorset AONB are protected in accordance with national and regional policy. Any proposal for development affecting an AONB should also have regard to, and be consistent with, the objectives and actions of the relevant AONB Management Plan.*

The AONB response to this draft core strategy has also asked for the Historic Environment Action Plan documents to be identified as a similar material consideration.

Case Study Two: Developing a strategic based understanding of historic landscape character

Characterisation produces an area-based understanding of how places and their landscapes have evolved. It moves beyond individual buildings, archaeological sites and designated heritage assets to provide a more integrated and holistic view of management by considering the historic environment as a whole. (English Heritage draft guidance on 'Historic Landscape Characterisation for planning and development' 2009).

Such an approach can operate at many different scales. Example 2A outlines the range of information which needs to be captured and synthesised at a landscape scale to adequately characterise the nature of a particular historic landscape, in this case a rural road within the AONB.

Example 2A: The Historic Landscape Character of the B3081

A new study undertaken by the AONB in March 2010 provided an appraisal of the historic and archaeological characteristics of the B3081⁹. This included the historic characteristics of the routeway itself and the characteristics of the wider historic landscape in which it sits. It adapts the existing approach adopted for considering the effect of large scale road schemes on historic landscape character¹⁰ to a consideration of the contribution of the historic landscape to the character of a rural road within the AONB.

The purpose of this study was to demonstrate the information which can be derived from Historic Landscape Characterisations and Historic Environment Action Plans of relevance to the characterisation and enhancement of rural roads. This document provides the evidence base for development along the routeway, works to the road itself and development along the corridor. It also moves away from relying solely on HER point based data.

The new study has been desk based and has used the photographic and video footage prepared for the original B3081 Landscape Appraisal. The study should not be regarded as a fully comprehensive survey of all the archaeological and historical features of the B3081 rather it provides an overview of the key archaeological and historical characteristics of the routeway at a landscape scale. It is available to download from the AONB Historic Landscape Character website www.historiclandscape.co.uk

The document included a consideration of:

⁹ CCWWD AONB 2010 *Capturing the archaeological and historic characteristics of a rural road on the Dorset Wiltshire border. The example of the B3081 Historic Landscape Appraisal.* CCWWD AONB Cranborne.

¹⁰ Highways Agency & English Heritage, 2007 *Assessing the Effect of Road Schemes on Historic Landscape Character.* Highways Agency.

- Historic character of the road and its development from an historic turnpike
- Wider historic landscape context
- Wider present day historic landscape context
- Historic landscape time depth surrounding the road
- Historic character of the surrounding network
- Built environment context
- Archaeological context

This report draws on evidence available from the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation and the AONB Historic Environment Action Plans as well as information held by external partners, including the county Historic Environment Records, and English Heritage's National Monument Record. The Historic Landscape Characterisation was used to give detailed information on the historic landscape context of the road corridor, See Figure Four. This was complemented by the Historic Environment Action Plan which provided a more general view of the development of the road and its most significant historic features. Finally the Historic Environment Record data provided information on the archaeological and built environment context but this was much more variable in coverage and detail available.

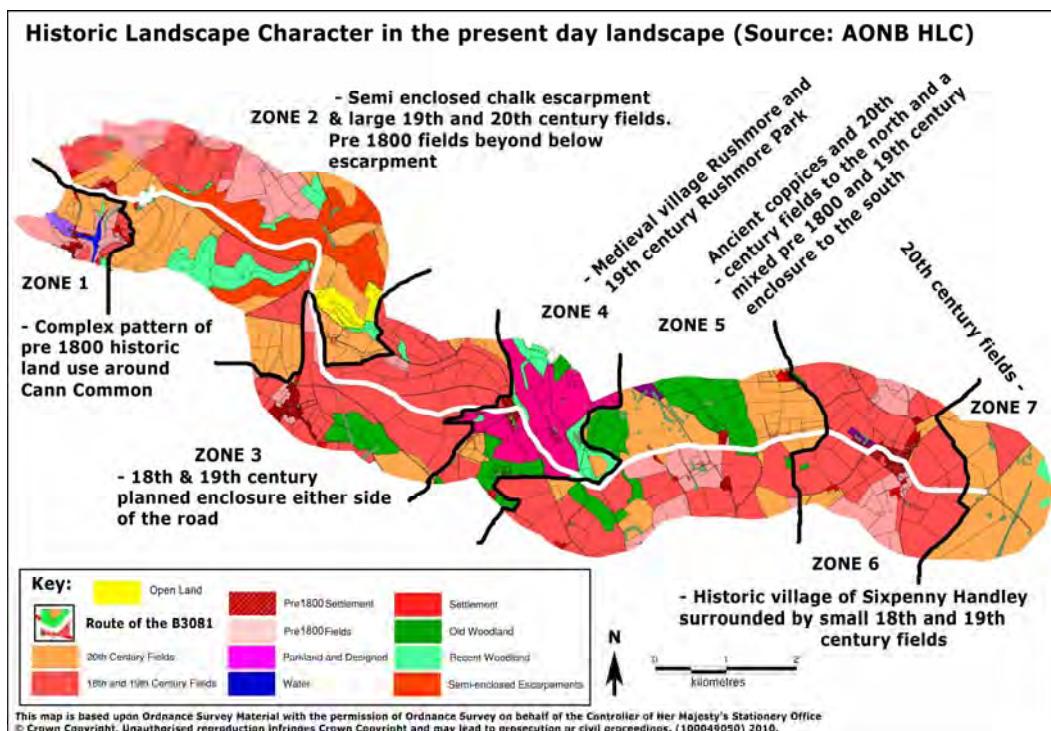


Figure Four: Extract map from the B3081 Historic Landscape Appraisal.

Case Study Three: Area based characterisation

Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment Regional and Local Planning Authorities, Policy HE 3.1 states *the level of detail contained within an RSS or LDF should reflect the scale of the area covered by the plan and the significance of the heritage assets within it.* this is supported by policy H.E. 3.4 which states *'At a local level, plans should consider the qualities and local distinctiveness of*

the historic environment and how these can contribute to the development of the spatial vision in the local development framework core strategy.

The supporting English Heritage guidance elaborates that for particularly sensitive landscapes *'local planning authorities may find it advantageous to have policies that identify and seek to conserve the historic landscapes within their plan boundaries. Landscape characterisation can help with this by providing an objective framework for defining areas that share common natural and man-made features, which are thus likely to benefit from a unified planning approach.'*

Example 3A: Targeting landscapes for proposed development

An area based approach to characterisation can be taken by targeting and comparing discrete areas which are proposed development sites for new housing. A local example on the AONB border was an assessment undertaken for the Regional Spatial Strategy area of search to the north of Wimborne Minster. Historic Landscape Characterisation, combined with the more general overview provided by the Historic Environment Action Plans was used in this study to add an extra historic dimension to the understanding of the key elements of local landscape character.

Two sites to the north of Wimborne Minster were examined. The descriptions of the historic landscape character in the two areas described:

- The components of the historic landscape present
- Timedepth in the landscape
- Place name evidence
- Local distinctiveness
- Rarity
- Suggested additional information required

The identified historic pattern of landscape would then be added to other evidence on the archaeology and built heritage of the two landscapes i.e HER data and information on designated heritage assets..

The descriptions created for each site were as follows:

Potential Development Area One – is comprised of fairly regular fields (especially when compared to the fields further to the east). Place name evidence, the 'close', and the 1820s OS surveyors map suggest that these may represent early examples of piecemeal planned enclosure. This type is common in the adjacent Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC and forms a locally distinctive feature of the district. The bank of trees called 'The Row' first appears on the OS First County Series 6" maps suggesting a 19th century origin to this woodland. However a certain amount of caution should be exercised here as this feature may be too small to be depicted on the 1820s map and these trees may represent the former extent of the veteran Catley Copse to the north. This could be investigated further with reference to more detailed historic mapping.

Potential Development Area Two - is comprised of Pre 1800 irregular fields with sinuous boundaries and mature hedgerows with trees suggesting an early origin to these fields. This is a rare Historic Landscape Type within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. These fields have undergone some 20th century

modification. The OS First County Series 6" map depicts a possible orchard, or new plantation, on the western side of the area which exists today as a small rectangle of trees. The area is bounded by curving historic lanes with historic names.

Case Study Four: Historic Character and Development Management

'Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Position Statement Number 4: Historic Landscape Characterisation' endorsed by the AONB partnership in 2009 encourages Local Planning Authorities when determining applications for consent to undertake development to *"take into account the likely impacts of development upon the local and landscape scale historic character, distinctiveness and key characteristics of the locality where development is proposed"*. See Appendix B.

All proposed developments can potentially impact on the distinctive historic landscape character of the AONB. The AONB Historic landscape characterisation, supported by the more generalist statements of key characteristics and significance provided by the Historic Environment Action Plans provide an evidence base through which this historic landscape character can be identified and the impact of a proposed development assessed.

This impact can be as small as proposed changes to a boundary, a new planting scheme or the creation of a new building.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation and Historic Environment Action Plans can be used to provide a landscape context from which to appreciate site-specific information.

It must be emphasised that Historic Landscape Characterisation is not a stand alone tool but is designed to be used alongside other Historic Environment Tools including County HERS and listed building entries and conservation area appraisals. Each of these datasets is able to yield different but complimentary information on the historic environment.

Example 4A: Red House Farm, near Hindon, Wiltshire, proposal for the creation of new vehicular access.

Background: The application proposed the creation of a new vehicular access from the road into a field and construction of a new hardcore access track for agricultural vehicles travelling to the farm and other buildings bypassing the farm. The proposal will impact on the road, the bank and the field.

Historic Landscape Characteristics of proposed development site: Consulting the HLC interactive map shows that the hedgerows under discussion are part of a fieldscape of planned 18th and 19th century fields which have been modified in the 20th century with the addition of several paddocks. These stretch southwards from the village of Hindon. Some of this sub-division of fields will lie outside planning control unless covered by hedgerow regulations. However proposals which lie within planning control often have a further impact on the character of field patterns. The fields bound the road which is pre 1800 in character and characteristic of the area forming a narrow country lane with high hedgerows above banks on either side of the road. The boundary here is at least pre 1800 in date.

Significance of the Historic Landscape components: The 'Historic Landscape Characterisation report' indicates that examples of this type of field occur frequently in the landscape. However, half of the fields in this type have been subject to some form of boundary alteration since their creation, with 262 boundaries being created since the 1880s and 85 boundaries being lost. This means that the coherency of this type is being diluted by the subdivision of the existing fields, although the original boundaries are maintained. This wider pattern of subdivision can be seen at this locality.

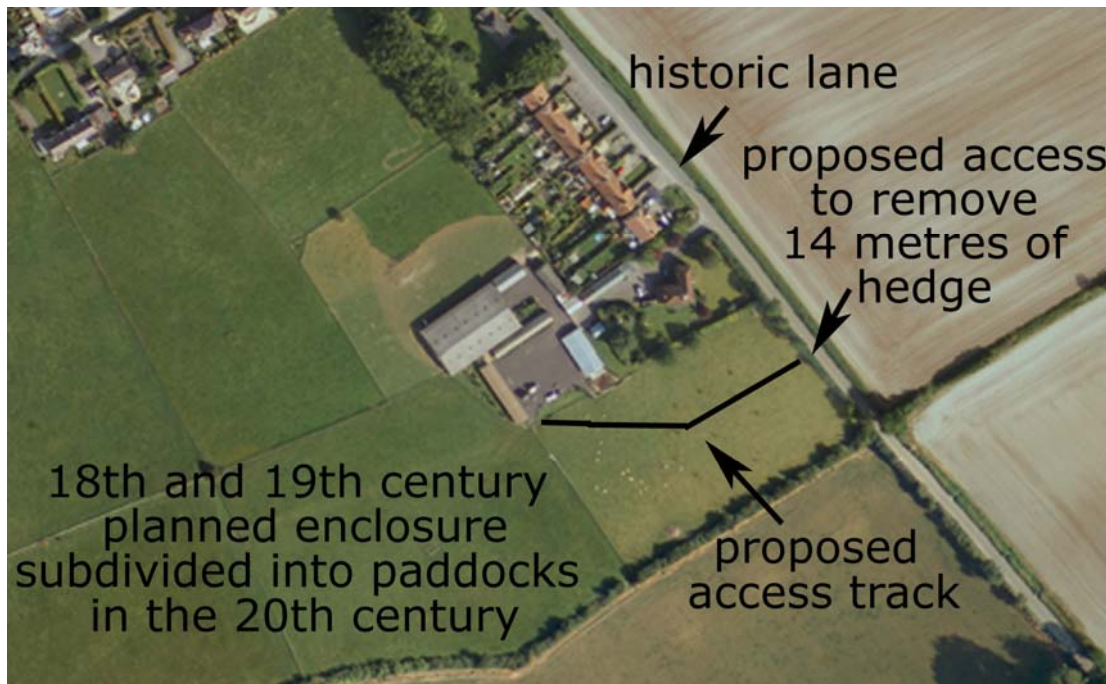


Figure Five: Aerial view of the proposed development site (Get Mapping SST0089)

The Historic Environment Action Plans can give further information on the significance of the historic landscape characteristics. 'Historic Landscape Character Area 9: Vale of Wardour' describes the key characteristics of the wider area as including the juxtaposition between pre 1800 fields, small blocks of more regular 18th and 19th century fields and less regular 20th century fields. The 'dense network of widening lanes' are identified as another distinctive attribute of the area.

In addition Historic Landscape Character Theme 10: Historic Routeways, part of the AONB HEAP, describes the locally distinctive character of roads across the AONB as a whole – the majority of roads are minor, often twisted and narrow, with the exception of downland areas they are often hedged, again the site in question reflects this wider pattern.

Impact on the Historic Landscape Character: The proposed new access would result in the loss of a significant length of characteristic historic bank and hedgerow.

Example 4B: Application for a proposed change of use to Stud Farm at Chapel Farm, East Woodyates.

Background: The application proposed the change of use of agricultural land from mixed use to a stud farm, involving the conversion of barns, the formation of new vehicular access and the potential for the subdivision of land with fencing to form smaller paddocks.

Historic Landscape Characteristics of proposed development site: Consulting the HLC interactive map shows that the fields within the area of proposed development are characterised as being pre 1800 regular fields. The western side of these fields were enlarged at some point during the first half of the twentieth century, however despite these later modifications many of the original hedged field boundaries remain. The surrounding area is characterised as being parliamentary enclosure.

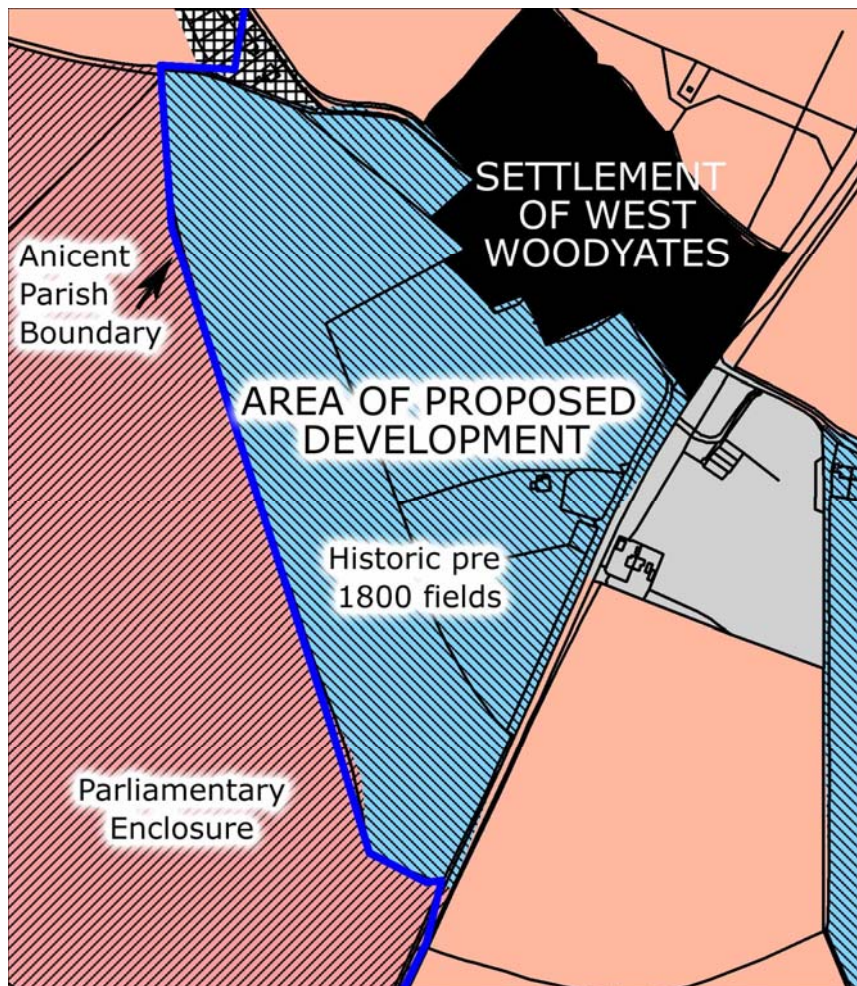


Figure Six:
Area of proposed
development
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Wiltshire Council
100049050 2010)

These types of fields (shaded blue) are characterised in the Historic Landscape Characterisation Report as being small regular fields that date to before 1800, documented both on the modern day Ordnance Survey, historic Ordnance Survey maps and 18th century county maps. This type of field consists of small sized fields

with regular or semi-irregular boundaries. They can occur in blocks as rectangular strips or as square enclosures. They often have mature wooded hedgerows. The area of fields within the area of proposed development represents, therefore, a historical survival of much older enclosure associated with the ancient settlement of Woodyates. The Historic Environment Action Plan document Area 12: Southern Downland Belt, indicates the rarity and fragility of this type of enclosure in this locality. The western boundary of the site marks the ancient boundary between East and West Woodaytes both of which were subsumed into the modern parish of Pentridge in the 1930s.

Significance of the Historic Landscape components: The Historic Landscape Characterisation report indicates that this type of field, pre 1800 regular, is uncommon in the AONB. The historic significance of this type cannot be determined without further work, but it may be that some of the fields are of considerable antiquity.

This is potentially a very fragile type. There are nearly 6,000 hectares of land with some trace of the key components that define this type within the AONB, of which, only 4,458 hectares are sufficiently intact to be identified as this type. The rest of the evidence for this type only survives as traces in later 19th and 20th century fields. This means that over 1,500 hectares has been eroded since the 1800's, mostly in the late 20th century with the amalgamation and reorganisation of fields. This suggests that this type could be subject to further erosion in the future.

This type of field contributes to the sense of antiquity of the current day landscape character immensely, representing the fossilisation of Medieval strips and the very early enclosure of land in the post Medieval period.

This is supported by 'Historic Landscape Character Theme 3: Fields in the Landscape', part of the AONB HEAP, which identifies small pre 1800 regular and irregular fields as a key component of the wider historic landscape character of the AONB. In addition Historic Landscape Character Area 5: Open Downland, part of the AONB HEAP, identifies a distinctive characteristic of this area as the punctuation of the open downland with blocks of Pre 1800 fields.

Impact on the Historic Landscape Character. The proposed enterprise could require additional fencing and other field boundaries which could be conspicuous in the present open downland landscape and could erode the character of the existing pre 1800 fields.

Appendix A: Fact Sheet 4 Historic Landscape Characterisation

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**FACT SHEETS & GOOD PRACTICE NOTES**

Number 4

FACT SHEET**Historic Landscape Characterisation****What is Historic Landscape Characterisation?**

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) forms part of a national programme led by English Heritage.

HLC is a desk based method used to define and map the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape.

The underlying philosophy behind HLC is that particular areas of present day landscape which display similar characteristics and attributes and have similar land use history can be allocated to a particular Historic Landscape Type. This Type can be mapped, described and compared to other Types in the landscape, allowing a deeper understanding of the contribution of historic land use patterns to present day landscape character.

HLC is concerned with “time depth” in the landscape. Time depth can be defined as the landscape changes associated with different eras which effect and change the landscape.. The HLC seeks to record previous episodes of land use which contribute to the character of landscape but which are not the dominant Historic Landscape Type. This helps to build up a picture of the complex interaction between people and place.

HLC is concerned with the totality of the present day landscape, not merely the special or the unique. As with any characterisation, it is relatively broad brush and is designed to be used at a landscape scale and to provide a greater understanding of the setting and context of individual places and sites.

Every part of the landscape has some form of historic character which may be affected by any given change differently. The HLC dataset is designed to be a “value neutral” dataset which analysis and records the historic and archaeological dimension of the whole landscape, rather than focusing on the special and the unique.

Does the AONB have its own Historic Landscape Characterisation?

Yes, between January 2008 and August 2009 the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) undertook its own Historic Landscape Characterisation funded by English Heritage.

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation exists as a dataset used within a Geographical Information System and a written report which is accessible from the HLC website. This dataset consists of 4337 parcels of land covering the whole AONB recorded in one GIS layer. Each of these parcels has an entry in an associated data table which contains a range of data. The most important elements are:

1. **Present day Historic Landscape Type** - this represents the most readily perceived historic landscape character present in the modern day landscape.
2. **Previous Historic Landscape Types** – evidence for older previous land uses which remain as fragments in today's landscape.
3. **Other information** recorded for each parcel of land e.g. unique ID, place name evidence, boundary loss and gain, field size, time period, and source information.

Each Historic Landscape Type is supported by a detailed written description. These also contain distribution maps and pictorial examples.

Why should I use the Historic Landscape Characterisation?

The HLC is an evidence base on the historic character of the present day landscape which can be used to make better informed decisions which affect the landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The HLC has a wide range of applications because it provides a comprehensive overview of the historic landscape of the AONB. It can be used to inform positive landscape management, to supplement information found in Landscape Character Assessments, to inform spatial planning decisions, and to aid partnership working learning and outreach.

How should the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation be used?

HLC as a tool is not concerned with preserving the landscape unchanged or with recreating a particular point in the landscapes past. Rather it seeks to understand the contribution that past human activity and land use has made to present day landscape character so that any future change can respect local character and distinctiveness

The Historic Landscape Characterisation is not intended to be used in isolation and should be used alongside other datasets where appropriate. HLC focuses on one aspect of landscape, and should be consulted alongside other datasets to gain a holistic view of any given landscape. These other datasets include the county based Historic Environment Records. and the relevant Landscape Character Assessment. The AONB Landscape Character Assessment can be downloaded from www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk .

**How do I find out more?**

General guidance on Historic Landscape Characterisation can be found on the English Heritage website www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation. The English Heritage booklet on “Using Historic Landscape Characterisation” can also be downloaded from this webpage. Further details of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation and a downloadable version of the full project report can be found at www.historiclandscape.co.uk. More information on the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB can be found at www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk

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Appendix B: Position Statement 4 Historic Landscape Characterisation

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**POSITION STATEMENT**

Number 4

Historic Landscape Characterisation**Background**

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are nationally designated areas of especially fine landscape. The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been established under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of this area. Natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage, and it is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital.

The European Landscape Convention, which came into force in the UK on the 1st March 2007, defines landscape as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. Historic and archaeological aspects of the landscape are clearly, therefore, very significant elements which need to be considered in any holistic view of landscape.

Historic Landscapes and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB

The historic and archaeological aspects of landscape are key components of this AONB's natural beauty. This is recognised and supported by the AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 which has as Objective G: “The historic, archaeological and cultural elements of the landscape of the AONB are conserved and enhanced”.

Policy G1 adds to this and seeks to “Promote and develop the Historic Landscape Characterisation study as a tool for managing the historic and cultural environment of the AONB, providing a framework for policy making, planning decisions and research agendas”.

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation is an evidence base of the historic character of the present day landscape which can be used to make better informed management, planning, and policy decisions.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is comprised of a dataset, and accompanying report, which maps and defines the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape. **The main features of the HLC are outlined in Fact Sheet No.4.**

The HLC can be used to provide an enhanced understanding of the landscape context of individual sites. This can be used to gauge whether any management activities or developments are in keeping with the historic character of an area, location or neighbourhood. It can also be used to inform the contents of other documents such as Conservation Area Appraisals, Design Guides, Management Plans and Development Plans. The Historic Landscape Characterisation is an authoritative aid for development control decisions.

Uses of the Historic Landscape Characterisation

The AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation provides a context for existing site based data such as local, regional and national records and registers of designated ancient monuments, parks and gardens, conservation areas and buildings, as well as the county based Historic Environment Records. HLC demonstrates the importance of the whole historic landscape and not just the individual 'special' sites and locations within it.

It is within this framework that the AONB is concerned about:

1. Conservation, enhancement and management of the archaeological/historic aspects of the whole landscape
2. The effects of development on the historic character of the whole landscape including the special, the unique, the commonplace and the locally distinctive.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset and report provide an important new evidence base which focuses on a different dimension of the landscape of the AONB. It can be used separately, but is most effective when used in combination with other landscape scale studies such as the AONB Landscape Character Assessment.

The Partnership for this AONB recommends, and encourages, all its Partners to:

- b) Work with the AONB Team, English Heritage and others to establish consistent policies for the historic landscape across the whole of the AONB.
- c) Encourage and promote the use of the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation as an evidence base to inform planning and policy decisions, as well as management activities.
- d) Promote understanding and appreciation of the information available within the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset.
- e) Develop the use of Historic Landscape Characterisation alongside other evidence bases such as Landscape Character Assessment.

- f) Recognise the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Dataset and report as an evidence base within the Local Development Framework.
- g) Adopt policies to recognise, conserve, and enhance the historic landscape of this AONB such as:

“The identification, conservation, and enhancement of the whole of the historic landscape will be sought and facilitated using datasets such as Historic Landscape Characterisation, where available, as a key evidence base to inform decisions”

In connection with development proposals the Partnership **recommends** the following policy to its Local Planning Authorities, and encourages them to adopt it:

When preparing Local Development Documents and when determining applications for consent to undertake development the Local Planning Authority will take into account the likely impacts of development upon the local and landscape scale historic character, distinctiveness, and key characteristics of the locality where development is proposed. In doing so the CC&WWD AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation will be used as a core reference document to inform and guide the scoping and definition of the context, character and local distinctiveness of development setting. Any development proposals should then, after reference to the Historic Landscape Characterisation, include full and detailed proposals of appropriate protection, conservation measures, landscape management, design and construction techniques and materials to be used in order that the development achieves harmony with, and enhancement of, the local context in which it is set.

At its meeting on the 22nd October 2009 the AONB Partnership Panel endorsed the Position Statement and said:

The Partnership Panel recommends, and encourages, all its Partners, Local Planning Authorities, and relevant organisations to work together with the AONB Team to recognise, conserve, and enhance the historic aspects of the AONB landscape using the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation as a key evidence base as set out in Position Statement Number 4.

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.



**AONB Office,
4 Castle Street,
Cranborne,
BH21 5PZ
Tel: 01725 517417
email: info@cranbornechase.org.uk**

www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk