



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Background Area **T8** Theme Supplementary Method

Historic Environment Action Plans

Theme 8: Landscapes of Prehistory



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
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	B8	Designated Heritage Assets
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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
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Theme	T1	Ancient Boundaries and Land Ownership
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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
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Introducing the Theme Statements

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

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



The process through which the Historic Landscape Character themes were identified, and mapped, and the sources of information used to create these descriptions is documented in the methodological statement 'Creating and Describing Historic Character Themes'.

Introduction to Theme 8: Landscapes of Prehistory

“Curiously marked with barrows, lynchets, and other mysterious mounds and depressions, where sheep have been pastured for a thousand years without obscuring these chance hieroglyphs scored by men on the surface of the hills”

Hudson 1910

The aims are to provide an overview of the key archaeological and historic characteristics of the evidence for Prehistoric activity in the landscape and to focus on evidence of physical surviving remains in today's landscape.

The AONB has a host of nationally important Prehistoric sites including the great Dorset Cursus and Knowlton Henge, with its ruined Medieval church nestled in its centre.



Knowlton Henge

Summary of Key Characteristics

- Increasing evidence for Mesolithic activity in the landscape uncovered through field walking especially on the clay with flints on the wooded chalk downland, the greensand terrace, and through the Nadder Valley.
- Large numbers of Neolithic Long Barrows, the earliest built monuments in Britain. These cluster in notable concentrations though the Southern Downland Belt and on the edge of the Wylve Valley and have local variations in their construction.
- Complexes of Neolithic monuments. These include the Dorset Cursus, Damerham, Knowlton and the Causewayed Enclosure on Whitesheet Hill.
- Monument complexes provide a key focus for later Prehistoric activity
- Large numbers of Bronze Age Round Barrows but notably absent from the Vale of Wardour.
- Later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements in the centre of extensive field systems. For example across the West Wiltshire Downs.
- Fourteen Iron Age Hillforts with discrete concentrations. These are small in scale often consisting of only one bank and ditch. Several of the hillforts are visually prominent in the landscape e.g. Winkelbury Hill.
- Many prehistoric sites are covered or partly covered by woodland and would benefit from improved management.
- Key caches of palaeoenvironmental information buried in the chalk valleys and sealed under Long Barrows. The excavation of the Fir Tree Shaft at Down Farm underlines the wealth of information which can be drawn from such information.
- A legacy of Antiquarian, 19th century and modern inquiry and research providing the 'Cranborne Chase' with a distinct identity in terms of Prehistoric monuments and their study.

Linkages to other Historic Landscape Character Statements

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

Other Themes of particular relevance to this theme are:

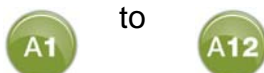


Theme 1: Ancient Boundaries and Land Ownership

Theme 3: Fields in the Landscape

Theme 11: Settlement in the Landscape

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



History and Context

The earliest evidence of human activity in the landscape of the AONB dates from the Palaeolithic period 700,000 to 8,000 BC. The Palaeolithic period traditionally begins with the first use of stone tools by hominins (the ancestors of modern humans).

Mesolithic means 'Middle Stone Age 8,000 – 4,000 BC. The Mesolithic period is a period of transition from the way people were living during the Palaeolithic period as hunter-gatherers to the development of farming in the Neolithic period.

The Neolithic period in the AONB, 4,000 BC – 2,500 BC is marked by the first origins of farming and the introduction of domesticated animals and plants. The most striking features from this period are the great ceremonial monuments which were constructed throughout the AONB.

The Bronze Age of the AONB is marked by the beginnings of metal working in copper, gold and bronze 2500 – 700 BC. The early Bronze Age also sees the introduction of new burial practices with single inhumations placed beneath mounds of earth called Round Barrows often associated with grave goods including metal objects. The Bronze Age in the AONB is also characterised by a shift to sedentism (permanent living in one location) marked by large scale cultivation and clearly defined settlements.

The start of the Iron Age is traditionally marked by the first use of Iron for tools, weapons and ornaments. Initially there is a continuation of Late Bronze Age settlement forms, but gradually Iron Age hillforts appear in the landscape 700 BC – AD 43. These hillforts appear alongside a range of rural settlements set within large field systems. The Iron Age is the first time that we also get an idea of ethnicity or identity of people within the AONB with the coinage of the Durotrigies, representing a grouping that was present in this area.



Badbury Rings Iron Age Hillfort

Key Secondary Sources

The main archaeological record for the area is the county based Historic Environment Record in Dorset and the Sites and Monuments Record in Wiltshire.

Phil Harding has produced a reanalysis of Palaeolithic Hand Axes in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (2007 Vol 100: 65-73) entitled Palaeolithic Hand Axes from Warminster, Pewsey and Dinton: their place in the early re-colonisation of the upper Salisbury Avon Valley.

An overview of prehistoric archaeology of the Cranborne Chase is available from Martin Greens description of the Down Farm landscape in *A Landscape Revealed 10'000 years on a Chalkland Farm* (2000) published by Tempus.

Landscape Monuments and Society - The prehistory of Cranborne Chase (1991) describing research undertaken on the Prehistoric landscape by Martin Green, John Barrett and Richard Bradley and published by the Cambridge University Press.

The study of the environmental sequences of the Allen Valley are available in *Prehistoric Landscape development and human impact in the Upper Allen Valley, Cranborne Chase, Dorset* by Charley French and colleagues (2007) published by McDonald Institute Monographs: Cambridge.

Details of survey and excavation of the Knowlton Prehistoric Complex has been published in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History Society* 117: 131-2, and details of the newly initiated research project on the prehistoric complex at Damerham is available from www.damerhamarchaeology.org.

The Long Barrows of the Wylve Valley and the Corton Long Barrow, in particular, are discussed in a paper in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 97: 63-67 from 2004.

The Causewayed Enclosure on Whitesheet Hill was originally excavated by Stuart Piggott in 1952 and is written up in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 54: 404-10. The subsequent investigations following the laying of a water pipeline across the monument are recorded in the same publication in 2004, volume 97: 144-96.

Field's discussion of mobility during the Neolithic period is available from an unpublished PhD thesis (2004) held at the University of Reading entitled *Use of Land in Central Southern England during the Neolithic and Bronze Age*.

Several excavations of Round Barrows in the AONB have been published including by Piggott in 1944 of the barrows at Crichel and Launceston Downs in *Archaeologia* 90: 47-80; by Proudfoot in 1959 of a barrow at Edmonsham *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 29: 395-425; and by Johnson in 1980 of a barrow at Sutton Veny in *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 72/73: 29-50. The excavations of Round Barrows at Hinton Martell is discussed by John Gale in *The Chase, the Hart and the Park. An exploration of the historic landscapes of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB* (2009) available from the AONB Office, and in volumes 126: 160-166 and 128: 100-106 of the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History Society*

There have been several excavation reports of Iron Age settlements including those by Clay of Fifield and Swallowcliffe Down in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 1924 vol 42: 457-96 and 1925 vol 43 59-23 respectively; Wainwright's excavations of Berwick Down (1968) in *The Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* vol 34: 102-47 and his report (1979) *Gussage All Saints An Iron Age Settlement* as a stand alone report by the Department of the Environment; and Hawkes' excavation at Longbridge Cow Down is published in the *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 13: 49-69. Harding's excavation at Pimperne was published by the University of Edinburgh 1993 as *An Iron Age Settlement in Dorset – Excavation and Reconstruction* D W Harding, I M Blake, and P J Reynolds.

The Late Iron Age sites of the AONB and the evidence for Durotrigian coinage and ceramic styles is discussed by Mark Corney in a paper on 'The Romano-British nucleated Settlements of Wiltshire in *Roman Wiltshire and After* (2001) published by the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Museum. The same volume also contains a paper by Paul Robinson on *Religion in Roman Wiltshire* which discusses the Iron Age evidence from the shrine on Cold Kitchen Hills. Nan Kivell's brief report on the original excavations of the site are published in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 1925 vol 43: 180-191, 1926 vol 43: 327-32, 389-94 and 1928 vol 44: 138-42.



Ackling Dyke Bronze Age Round Barrow Cemetery

Landscape Scale Characteristics and Components

1. Palaeolithic Finds in the AONB

Background

In general the Palaeolithic archaeology of the south west is poorly known. However river deposits from the most recent period of repeated glaciations (known as the Pleistocene) in the upper reaches of the extinct Solent River, and its western tributaries in Dorset and Wiltshire provide a key context for Lower and Middle Palaeolithic

archaeology. The Solent River basin gradually widened and deepened to become the Solent channel between the Isle of Wight and the mainland. Collection of artefacts in these areas has been extensive. More recent Upper Palaeolithic evidence is much scarcer.

Landscape scale impact

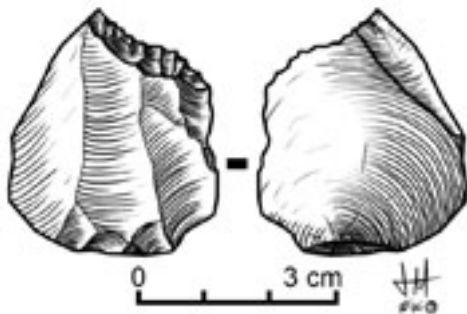
The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic (500,000 to 38,000 BC) archaeology of the AONB is dominated by open-landscape findspots within the Wiltshire Avon and its tributaries. The pattern of the Nadder and Wylye Valleys is of a general scarcity of find spots associated with the gravels, with sparse discoveries of hand axes associated with terrace deposits and a small number of surface sites fringing the valley (on the chalk and clay with flints). It is possible to use these finds to study phases of occupation and abandonment of the landscape (Harding: 2007).

The evidence for activity in the Upper Palaeolithic in the AONB (38,000 BC to 8000 BC) is much scarcer and there is a minor archaeological presence for this period.

2. Mesolithic Finds in the AONB

Background

In the Mesolithic populations appear to have been nomadic in this area meaning that evidence for people living in the landscape is restricted to flint scatters, shallow pits and hearths. The majority of the evidence for Mesolithic people in the AONB has been recovered through fieldwalking.



Typical Mesolithic stone tool
(Attribution Jose-Manuel Benito Alvarez
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license.)

Landscape scale impact

The Mesolithic records of Wiltshire and Dorset are relatively rich with a mixture of minor artefact find spots and a small number of significant assemblages. Cranborne Chase has long seen intensive investigation, most recently by Martin Green. His finds demonstrate that there was a substantial presence in the landscape throughout the Mesolithic. There is a strikingly consistent distribution concentrated on patches of clay-with-flints in the north of the Chase with other sites in the Reading Beds and round the headwaters of the River Allen further south. Finds of Mesolithic Microliths in the Fir Tree Shaft, Down Farm suggest that the Mesolithic traditions within this area continued into the end of the fifth millennium BC and the transition to Neolithic practices was fairly rapid.

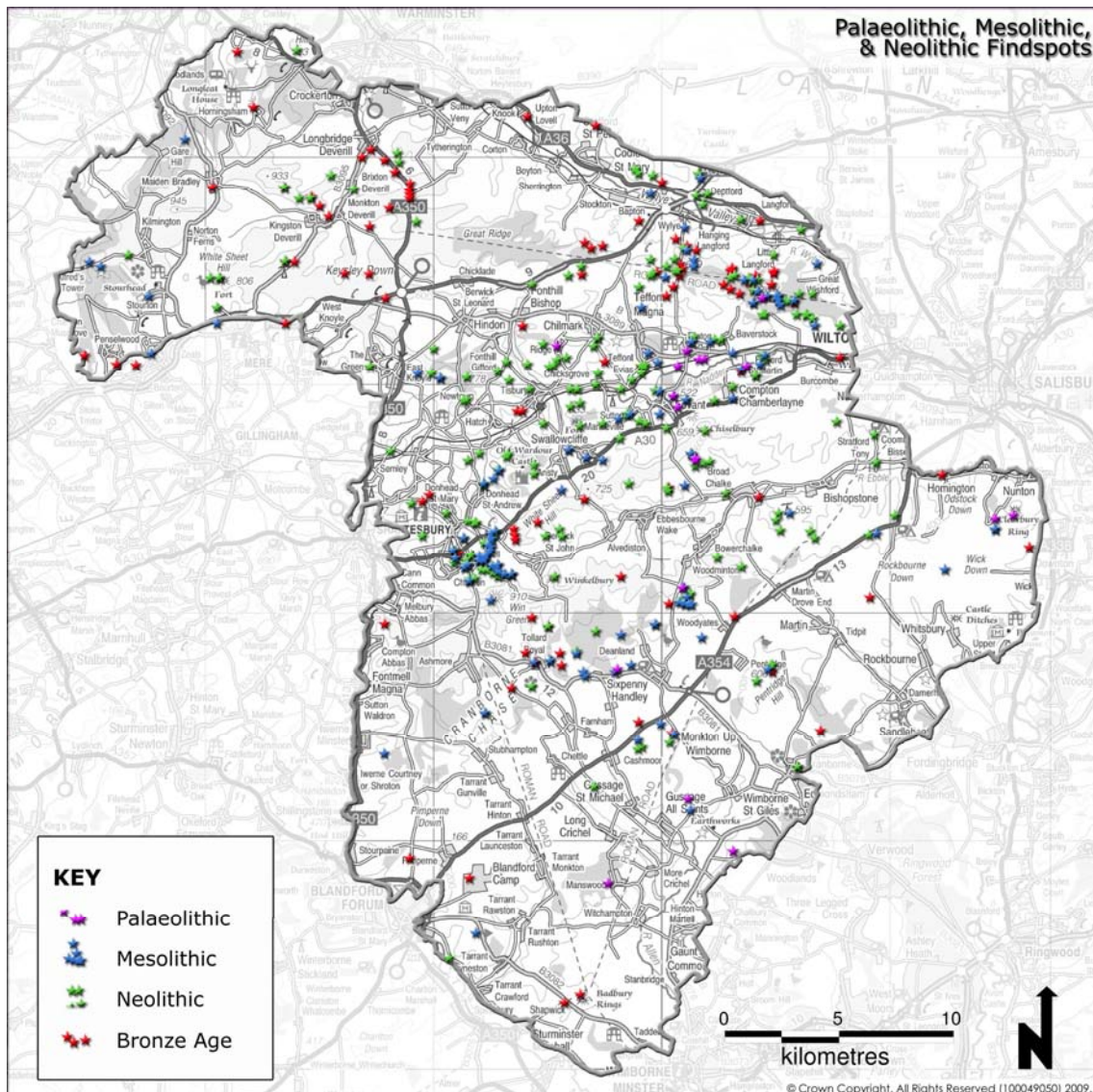


Figure One: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic findspots in the AONB

3. Neolithic Finds in the AONB

Background

The Neolithic period sees the introduction of pottery, domesticated livestock and cereal cultivation. However agrarian landscapes were later to develop and there is no evidence for Neolithic field systems within the AONB. For much of the Neolithic, and indeed the Early Bronze Age, evidence for settlement and sedentism (living permanently in one place) is lacking. Evidence for settlement on the chalk lands of Wessex is insubstantial, consisting of flint scatters, pits, hearths and stake holes suggesting varying degrees of mobility and longevity.

Landscape scale impact

There are dense concentrations of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flint scatters on the open chalk downland, and on the Greensand terraces in the AONB. On the Cranborne

Chase Middle and Late Neolithic lithics are concentrated on the clay with flints to the north of the Dorset Cursus and nearby later monuments.

4. Neolithic Monuments in the AONB

Background

The AONB, and especially the Cranborne Chase, is well known for the concentration of Neolithic 'monuments'. These consist of areas in the landscape which were the foci of burial or symbolic activity that cannot be simply identified as domestic. Though of course a straight forward division between the domestic and the religious or ritualistic may simply not have existed at this point in time.

In simplistic terms the Early Neolithic is associated with long barrows and early 4th millennium BC linear constructions such as the Dorset Cursus. These have a relationship with the early Neolithic enclosures on Hambledon Hill to the west of the AONB boundary.

The 3rd millennium BC is in contrast notable for henges, avenues, large mounds as at Knowlton, and localised regional traditions which includes the pit circle henges of the Chase.

In more specific terms the construction of major monuments in the AONB occurred between 3800 and 2000 BC with possible horizons of more intensive activity c3650-3400 BC and 2900-2500 BC.

Landscape scale impact

Long Barrows are some of the earliest monumental features forming communal burial places for often disarticulated bone from multiple individuals. There are 39 long barrows known within the AONB. These have a distinctive distribution southwest northeast across the Southern Downland Belt, on the edge of the Wyllye Valley and on the top of the chalk escarpment. Few of the long barrows in the AONB have been excavated. The mounds are carefully sited and those in the Wyllye Valley, for example, are consistently sited with views into the valley (Allen and Gardiner 2004).

Another key monument type is Causewayed Enclosures. These are often located on hilltop sites, encircled by one to four segmented concentric ditches, with an internal bank that is also segmented. There is one causewayed enclosure on the AONB on the spur of Whitesheet Hill.

Henges and other later Neolithic monuments have a more restricted distribution. Notable sites excavated on the Cranborne Chase include 16 pits associated with Grooved Ware on Down Farm, henge monuments on Wyke Down, the unique "Pit Henge" complex excavated at Monkton Up Wimborne, massive henge complex at Knowlton, and a complex of newly discovered monuments at Damerham.

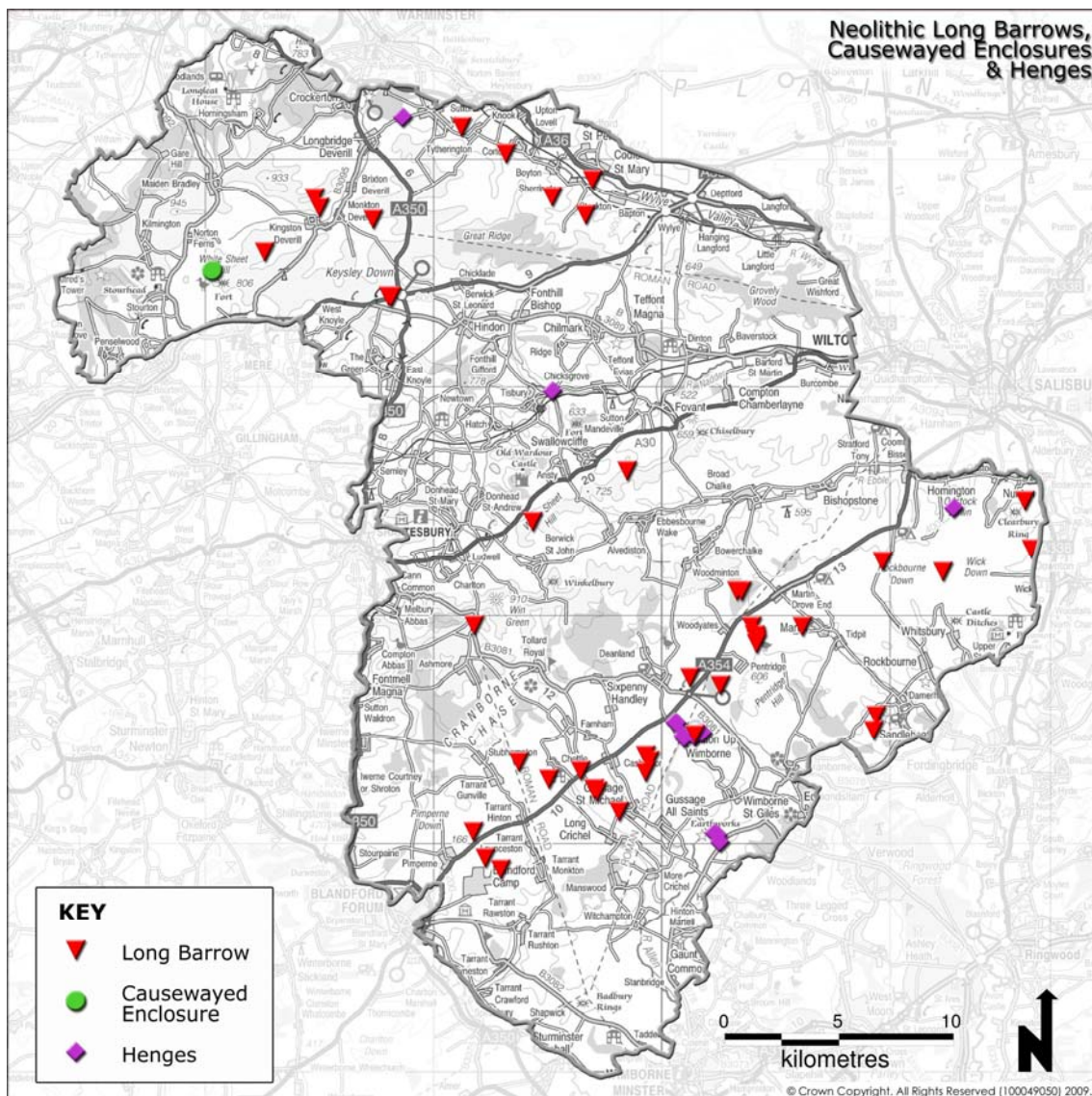


Figure Two: Neolithic Long Barrows, Causewayed Enclosures & Henges in the AONB

6. Bronze Age finds and settlement in the AONB

Background

In the early Bronze Age populations appear to have been nomadic in this area meaning that evidence for people living in the landscape is restricted to flint scatters, shallow pits and hearths. The evidence for later Bronze Age settlement consists of small groups of farmsteads, featuring round houses.

Landscape scale impact

There are dense concentrations of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flint scatters on the open chalk downland, and on the Greensand terraces in the AONB. Archaeological evidence for Middle and Late Bronze Age settlements is primarily found on the Wooded Chalk Downlands of the AONB and across the Southern Downland Belt.

7. Bronze Age Monuments in the AONB

Background

The dominant monument type from the Bronze Age of the AONB is the round barrow. These first appear in the early Bronze Age and coincide with the introduction of new burial practices with single inhumations placed beneath the mound of earth, often associated with grave goods, including metal objects.

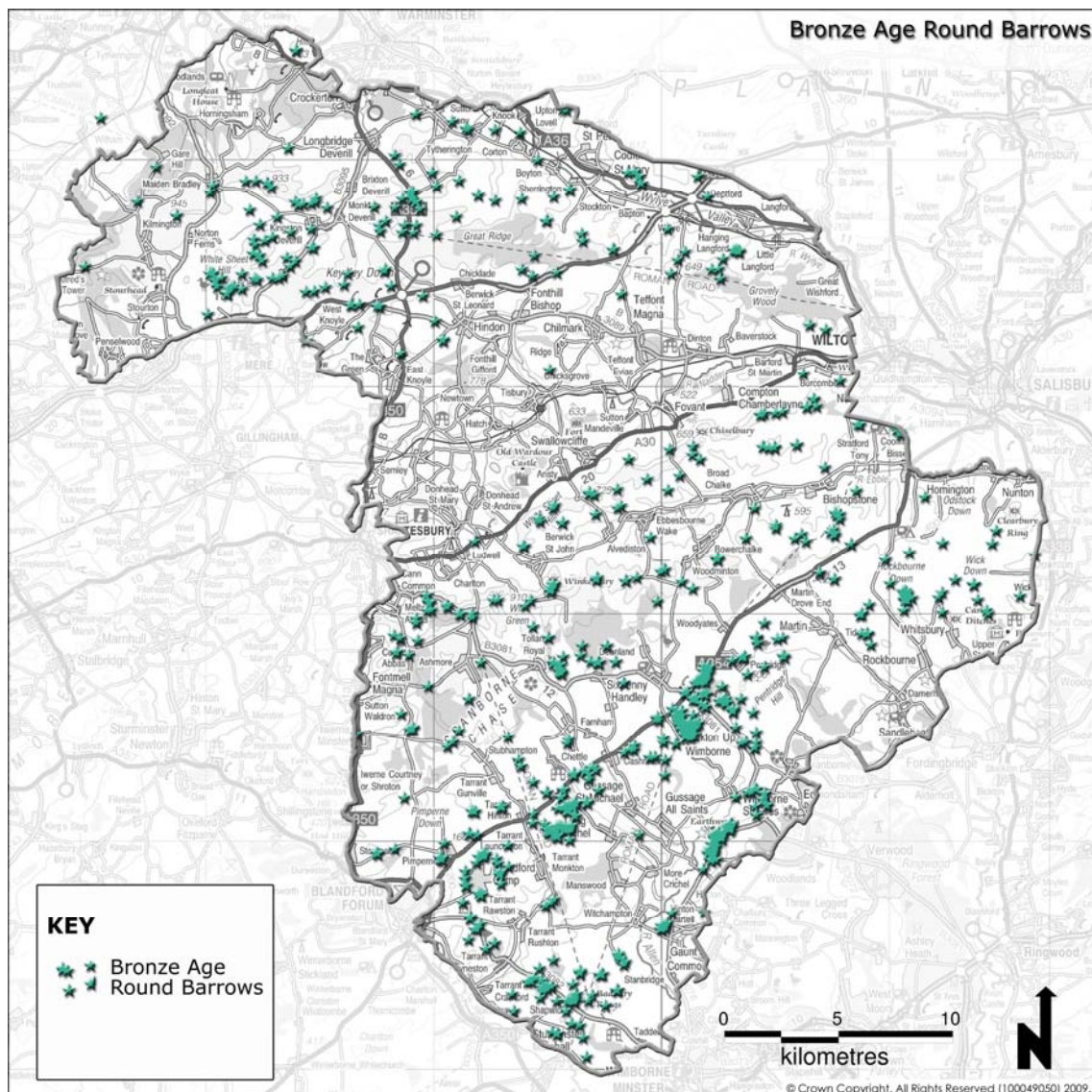


Figure Three: Bronze Age Round Barrows in the AONB

Landscape scale impact

Bronze Age round barrows are distributed in large numbers across the AONB landscape, apart from through the Vale of Wardour and in the far north west of the AONB. There are particularly dense concentrations across the Southern Downland Belt

and at the head of the Wyllye Valley. They also occupy prominent positions at the top of chalk escarpment and chalk ridges.

The round barrows of the AONB demonstrate a complex history. Round barrows at Crichel Down and Launceston Down were excavated by Piggott (1944) and more recently a ploughed out cemetery at Hinton Martell has been the focus of a research excavation by Bournemouth University (2009). The earliest beaker barrows are quite small. Evidence from a barrow at Sutton Veny suggests the inhumation was placed in a coffin.

8. Prehistoric Landscapes in the AONB

Background

The AONB is notable not just for well preserved examples of individual types of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments but also for large groups of prehistoric monuments forming ceremonial complexes or monumental landscapes.

Landscape scale impact

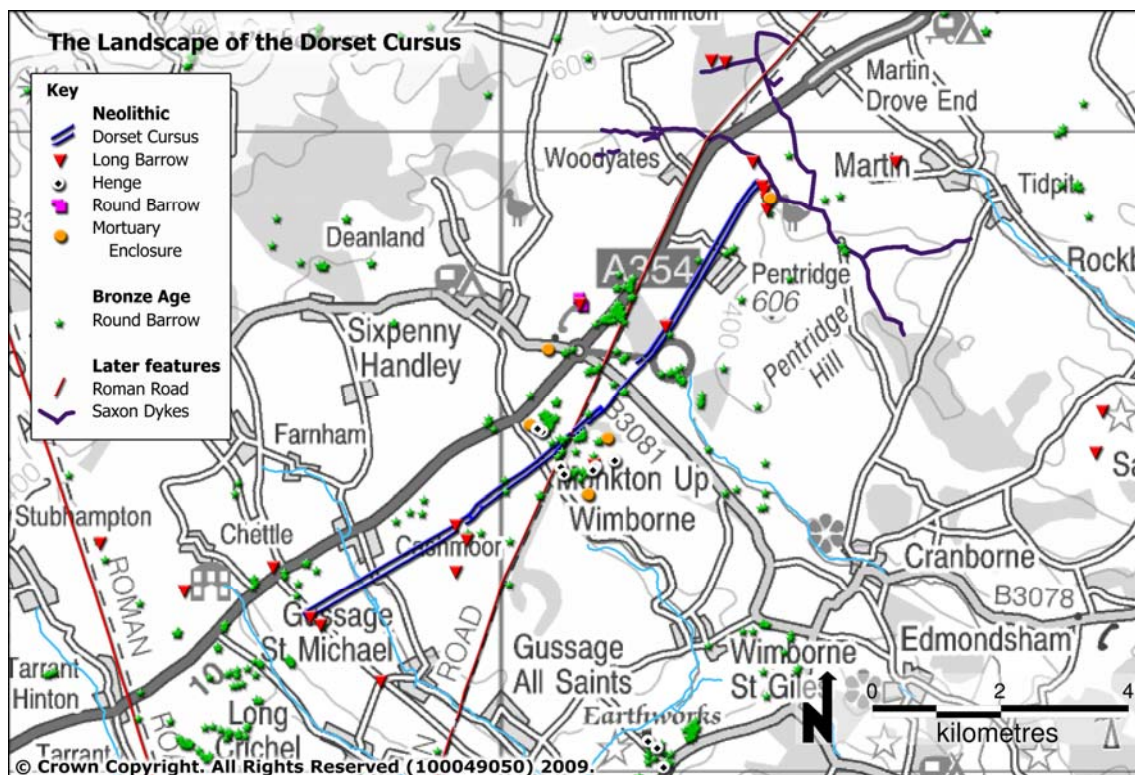


Figure Four: The Landscape of the Dorset Cursus, the complex of monuments at Knowlton Henge is visible in the far south of the map below Gussage All Saints, and the new Long Barrows at Damerham are located on the far eastern side of the map.

Nationally important examples of these complexes of monuments occur centred on the Dorset Cursus, Knowlton Henge, and in the vicinity of Damerham.

The Dorset Cursus with a date of around 3,300 BC incorporated several long barrows into its length and several long barrows were subsequently constructed with respect to

it. It is a nationally important Neolithic monument located near Sixpenny Handley. It consists of a pair of parallel banks (1.5 m tall) running about 82 m apart, with external ditches. It runs for approximately 10 km. It remains enigmatic but the first phase Gussage terminal is aligned on the Midwinter sunset. It is associated with other Neolithic monuments including henges, mortuary enclosures and Neolithic round barrows. It also formed the focus for later Prehistoric activity including large concentrations of Bronze Age round barrows.

The Late Neolithic monument complex at Knowlton has recently been the focus of a research project by Bournemouth University. This consists primarily of massive earthwork enclosures (henges) up to 220m across and often associated with other Late Neolithic monuments such as timber circles and monumental mounds. The importance of these complexes is demonstrated by their continued role in the Early Bronze Age when they became the focus for round barrow cemeteries.

Another complex of monuments, including two long barrows, has been recently discovered at Damerham including other new cropmarks. The cropmarks focus on a circular enclosure (57m dia.) defined by a substantial ditch 5m across. Surrounding and to the south east of the enclosure are at least 26 ring ditches and barrows. Among these are two sets of conjoined ring ditches - one set containing circular post settings. An oval ditch nearby suggests the remains of a Neolithic oval barrow or mortuary enclosure. See <http://www.damerhamarchaeology.org/> for more information.

8. Iron Age Settlement and Hillforts in the AONB

Background

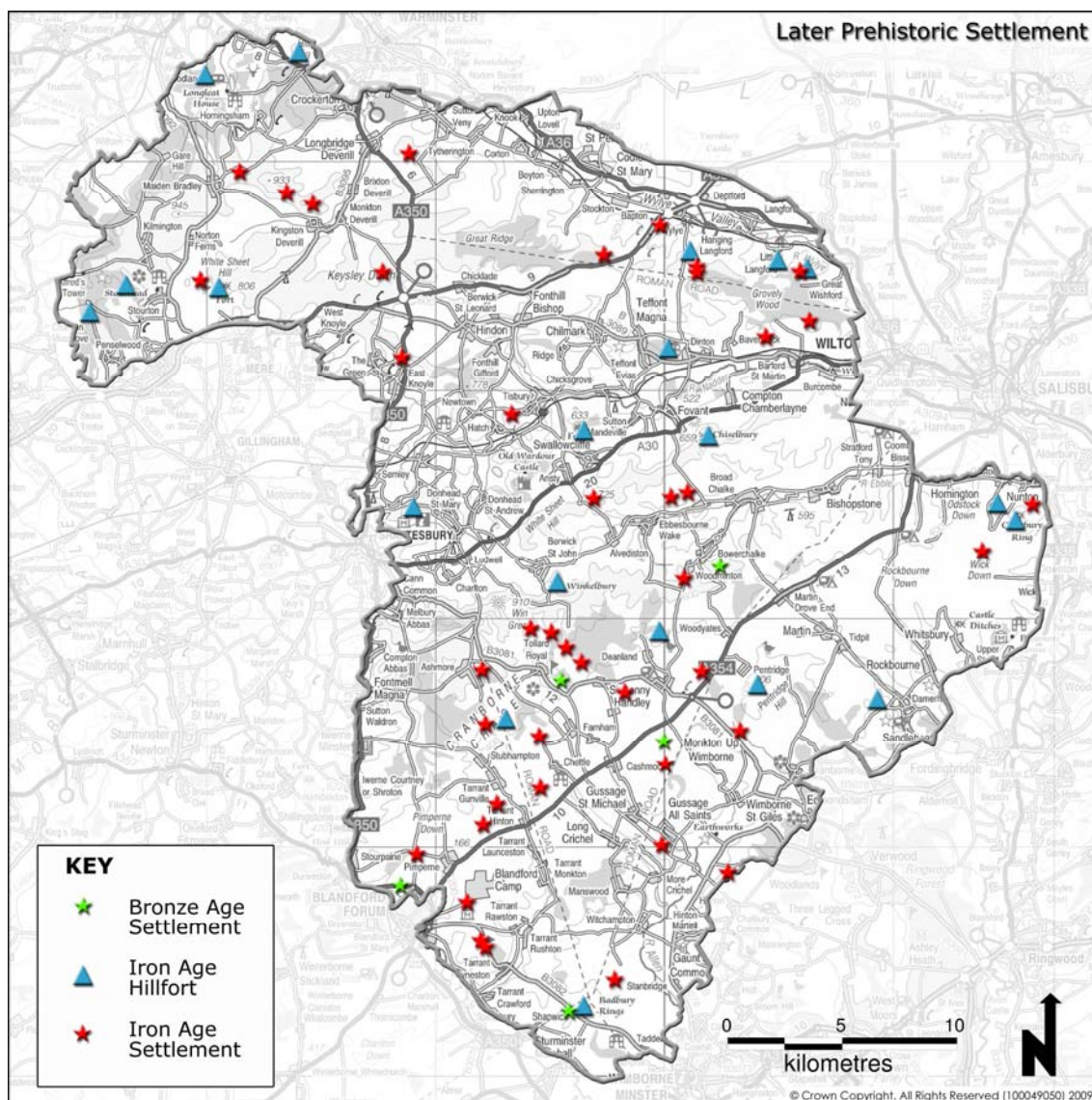
The evidence for Iron Age settlement consists of small groups of farmsteads, featuring round houses and other buildings, set within extensive patterns of field settlements located on the West Wiltshire Downs and across the Southern Downland Belt. Isolated examples of Iron Age settlement are also found in the north-western corner of the AONB, for example on higher ground in the vicinity of Bidcombe Hill and on lower slopes on the northern side of the Ebble Valley.

Landscape scale impact

The most visually recognisable and iconic features from this period are the hillforts which date from the Early Iron Age 700 BC to 400 BC. There are twenty-one Iron Age hillforts in the AONB often positioned in prominent positions, for example Winkelbury Camp is located on the edge of the chalk escarpment. At least one of the hillforts within the AONB on Whitesheet Hill follows a common pattern, as it is associated with an earlier Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure. None of the hillforts in the AONB has seen systematic archaeological investigation, although both the hillforts of Hod Hill and Hambledon Hill located just outside the western boundary of the AONB have been the subject of more detailed survey.

In contrast Iron Age settlements within the AONB have seen a long history of research and excavation. Iron Age settlement is concentrated on the open chalk downland of the West Wiltshire Downs and Southern Downland Belt, and the Wooded Chalk Downland of the Cranborne Chase, with a few isolated examples in the Vale of Wardour.

Notable patterns of Iron Age settlements are associated with the higher ground along the spine of the West Wiltshire Downs, which was a focus for settlement during the Iron Age and Romano-British period. This legacy is still visible in a series of impressive earthwork including banjo enclosures and field systems. The southern downland valley is also associated with Iron Age settlement, including the site at Gussage All Saints.



9. Later Prehistoric Landscapes in the AONB

Background

Surviving Prehistoric landscapes in the AONB are agrarian in nature consisting of extensive relic field systems and trackways surrounding enclosed and unenclosed settlements. These survive as earthworks under surviving areas of chalk grassland and more commonly as crop marks and tend to be located on the West Wiltshire Downs and across the Southern Downland Belt.

Landscape scale impact

The Middle Bronze Age 1,500 -1,000 BC sees the creation of a domesticated landscape. Substantial round houses appear and the wider landscape was defined and bounded by field systems. In the Late Bronze Age there is some evidence for the reorganisation of the landscape with “Wessex linear ditches” cutting across Middle Bronze Age fields.

In the Iron Age the pattern of agrarian settlement set within large scale field systems continues, within which are set the classic Iron Age settlements of round houses associated with ancillary dwelling. However, although many of the well preserved field systems on the chalkland are Iron Age in date it cannot be assumed all are. The Iron Age field systems and settlement patterns on the West Wiltshire Downs continue in use into the Roman period.

Historic Environment Actions



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

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.

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.

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.



Version 1 December 2010. Written by Emma Rouse, HEAP Officer
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Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Historic Environment Action Plans

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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.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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