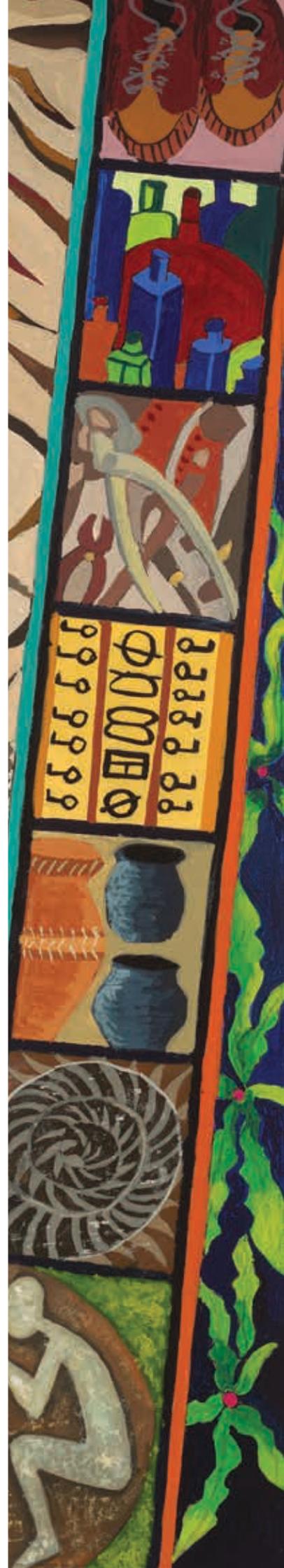


# Historic and Cultural Environment

*'Voices in the  
Landscape'*





Echoes of our ancestors



Mound and burial ground

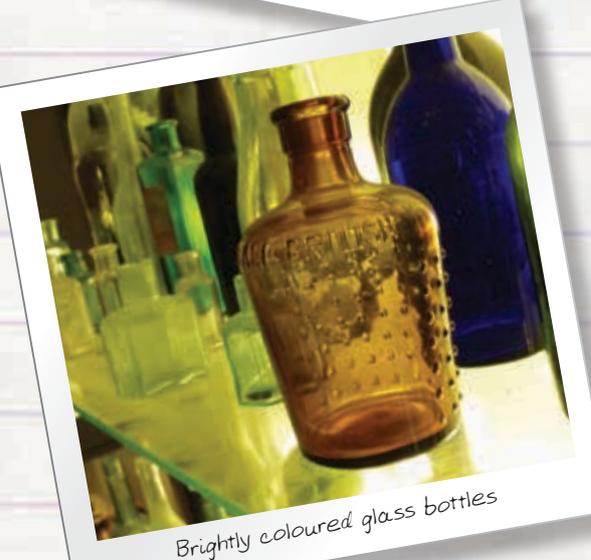


Scanning layers of chalk

# Voices in the Landscape

The Past

A foreign land  
Unknown and mysterious  
Staring down twenty-five metres,  
Eyes searching out  
The bottom of the ladder.



Brightly coloured glass bottles

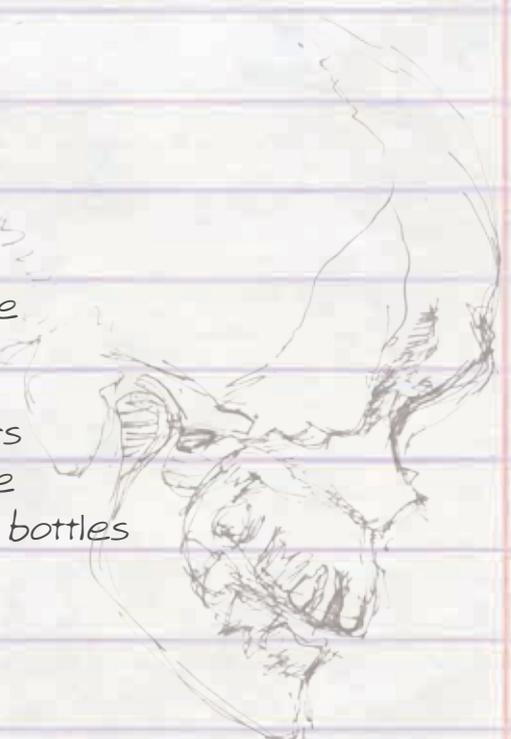
Scanning layers of chalk  
The sides of The Great Shaft  
Echoes of our ancestors  
In the distinctive stripes of flint,  
Mound and burial grounds  
Marks made by Man  
Circles of time

Henges  
Barrows  
Fairy rings  
Wheels, pots and urns  
Turn as seasons rotate  
Year after year,



Seeking a new cycle.

Wood covered warriors  
Hallucinogenic blue dye  
Brightly coloured glass bottles  
A pair of old boots  
Seeking a new cycle.



## 10. Historic and Cultural Environment

*The way the land has been used over the centuries has influenced the character of the landscape we see around us today. The remnants and artefacts of working life, together with the layout of settlements, routeways, and buildings contribute to the historic character of an area. This includes buried archaeology, buildings, designed landscapes and cultural features. Many acclaimed writers, artists, poets and photographers are associated with the AONB*

10.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to the historic and cultural environment:

- A landscape etched with the imprint of the past - visible archaeological features including prehistoric earthworks, settlements, field systems, water meadows and former settlements.
- The former Medieval hunting areas of Selwood, Grovely Forest and the Cranborne Chase.
- A rich legacy of landscape scale prehistoric archaeological features such as the Neolithic Dorset Cursus, as well as later historic features including the Saxon Bokerly Dyke.
- Historic borderlands, with important Saxon and even Roman roots, once marginal land and often subject to late enclosure.
- A rich land use history, with areas which have a concentration of ancient enclosure, ancient woodland, and former common land.
- An historic settlement pattern (pre 1750) which has seen minimal infilling associated with a dense concentration of historic listed buildings.
- A concentration of historic parklands, estates, and manor houses together with Historic Parks and Gardens of national and county importance.
- Literary, artistic and historic connections of national distinction.

### Aim

10.2. We want to conserve and enhance the historic and cultural environment of the AONB. We want everyone to understand, value and enjoy its cultural and heritage assets. The story of the area's evolution over time should be clear to everyone.

### Achievements to date

**Publications** - Our AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and subsequent Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs) are promoted by English Heritage as exemplar documents. These provide an evolving targeted framework for ongoing Historic Environment action.

**Historic Farmsteads** - The AONB funded a volunteer training day by the Wiltshire Buildings Record. Over thirty people were trained to identify and record historic farmsteads. The aim is to create a computer-based record of Wiltshire's farmsteads for future generations.

**Well attended conferences** - Between them, two conferences covering different aspects of the historic and archaeological treasures of the AONB attracted over a hundred attendees in November 2006 and July 2011. Both comprised well renowned speakers alongside the AONB's Historic Environment Officer.

**Input to planning** - Consultation responses have influenced the drafting of national and local planning policy. Advice given to planning authorities on proposals affecting heritage assets has been effective.



## Key issues

1. **Poor access to knowledge about the historic and cultural environment** - There is a need to circulate known information more effectively.
2. **Low appreciation of the historic environment** - The AONB has a vast and precious historic setting. Greater knowledge of this legacy will underpin practical action to conserve and enhance it.
3. **Inappropriate management of the historic environment** - Ploughing, planting or grazing can seriously damage historic sites and features.
4. **Heritage at Risk** - The AONB has heritage assets that are considered by English Heritage to be vulnerable or 'at Risk'. There is a need for partners to take practical action to conserve and enhance these assets.
5. **Funding for the historic environment** - Pressure on specific funds to safeguard and enhance the historic environment is acute. Much of the funding for this area of work is discretionary

## The Issues Explained

- 10.3. The landscapes of the AONB are an expression of the interaction between people and the land over thousands of years. Every part of these landscapes has a history that contributes to the special qualities of the AONB. The landscapes of the AONB bear the mark of successive periods of human activity. This is one of the richest and most closely studied parts of prehistoric Wessex. It is the haunt of General Pitt-Rivers, Heywood Sumner, Richard Bradley and Martin Green. However, there is still much to be discovered.
- 10.4. Important literary figures associated with the area include poet and barrister Sir John Davies, naturalist and writer W H Hudson and author and broadcaster Desmond Hawkins, amongst many. Other artistic and cultural connections include the architect Sir Christopher Wren and photographer Sir Cecil Beaton.
- 10.5. The work of Augustus John, Henry Lamb, Ben Nicholson, John Craxton, Lucian Freud, Stanley Spencer, Elisabeth Frink, William Nicholson and over 25 other artists connected with Cranborne Chase, provided the focus of an exhibition at Salisbury and West Wiltshire Museum during 2012. The Museum suggests that artists 'have found in Cranborne Chase and its hinterland a landscape of inspiration, seclusion and 'bare-boned' beauty' and that the AONB *'has always had an air of isolation which has attracted an exceptional array of artists and writers'*. (Appendix 30)
- 10.6. Awareness of sources of information on historic resources is limited. There is a need to promote better awareness of HEAPS as a key source (while acknowledging that these often record some types of heritage better than others, so other sources should also be used). The 'Buildings at Risk' register of English Heritage is not widely known nor its local relevance appreciated. There is not a record of all the historic sites. Those without records are almost certainly being damaged or lost. There is a need for greater knowledge of the location and importance of the heritage assets of the AONB. The promotion of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and HEAPS can help deal with this. This will require new funding.
- 10.7. The four county Historic Environment Records (HERs) in Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire are an essential source of information for managing, caring for and understanding the historic environment. They curate information on all known heritage landscapes, buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and archaeological finds as well as information on previous archaeological and heritage work in each county.
- 10.8. No such record, however, is ever complete and the AONB Historic Environment Action Plan has identified ways in which the AONB can work with the HERs to enhance knowledge and understanding, for example for the Medieval and Post Medieval period and in woodland. It has also identified areas where the significance of particular heritage could be better understood.



- 10.9. Information and interpretation of the historic environment of the AONB as a whole could also be vastly improved. There is a wealth of historic riches throughout the area that is a visible legacy of human involvement with the landscape through time. In addition, artists, writers and other cultural connections, past and present, are not widely known about or fully appreciated. Resources need to be found to develop educational and interpretative media to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the AONB's historic and cultural environment.

### Nationally designated heritage in the AONB

- 10.10. Designation is a way of marking that a building, monument or landscape is of 'special architectural or historic interest' in a national context and is made on the recommendation of English Heritage (*Appendix 17*). It is a stage that identifies a site as being architecturally or historically important before any planning stage that may decide its future. In the AONB there are:
- 556 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
  - 2015 Listed Buildings, 77 of which are Grade I and 106 Grade II\*.
  - 16 Registered Parks and Gardens.
- 10.11. When English Heritage says that a Listed Grade I or II\* Building is 'at risk', they mean it is vulnerable through neglect or decay rather than alteration or demolition. This is what leads us to the 'At Risk' Register.
- 10.12. English Heritage prepares and publishes an annual Register of Heritage at Risk of those nationally designated heritage assets which are at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or inappropriate development. In 2012 in the AONB there were:
- Buildings at Risk - 5
  - Monuments at Risk - 111
  - Parks and Gardens at Risk - 1
- 10.13. Some local authorities produce their own registers that record all buildings and structures 'at risk', irrespective of grade. As English Heritage only lists Grades I, II\* and II in the Register of Heritage at Risk, the total number of buildings or structures 'at risk' is much greater than the register might at first suggest.

### Local heritage designations and records

- 63 designated Conservation Areas
  - Historic Parks and Gardens of county importance
  - Historic designed landscapes of local importance
  - The four county archaeological services record and protect the archaeology within the AONB, and each maintain an Historic Environment Record/Sites and Monuments Record
- 10.14. The Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPS)<sup>24</sup> identify the key issues affecting the heritage assets of the AONB. They summarise the key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB at a landscape scale. They set out the significance, condition and pressures affecting the heritage assets, including those 'at risk'. They identify the actions needed to conserve and enhance these special characteristics. These provide the central actions to enable the AONB to effectively conserve and enhance its historic environment assets.
- 10.15. Digging the land can destroy buried and extant archaeological features. Lack of grazing leads to the development of scrub. Historic sites are harder to recognise when overgrown and are prone to severe damage if trees or shrubs establish themselves. Overgrazing can cause erosion and destroy sites. Burrowing animals, such as badgers and rabbits, can damage underground remains. Planting and harvesting trees and energy crops may also cause

24 [http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk/conserving\\_heap.html](http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk/conserving_heap.html)



*Nigel Ball - Knowlton Church at night*

damage to sites. Badly designed buildings and structures may spoil the setting of many sites and monuments. The historic cohesion of the landscape may be lost.

10.16. **Funding** - English Heritage commissioned a research report in 2011<sup>25</sup> to review the issues facing local authorities as they manage their heritage assets at a time of acute financial stress. The funding available through English Heritage itself and Local Authorities has greatly diminished over recent years. The research found a wide variation in the ways that local authorities manage their heritage properties and describes the issues that are affecting them, including the economic downturn, declining budgets, changing patterns of use and fewer conservation officers.

10.17. There are some external funding programmes however, that could be aimed at the historic environment, eg Heritage Lottery Fund. When bidding for funds, the competition has greatly intensified over recent years. This has led to a situation where there is insufficient funding available to protect and conserve the historic wealth of the AONB.

<sup>25</sup> English Heritage: Local authority heritage assets: Current issues and opportunities by Green Balance with Grover Lewis Associates Ltd March 2012.

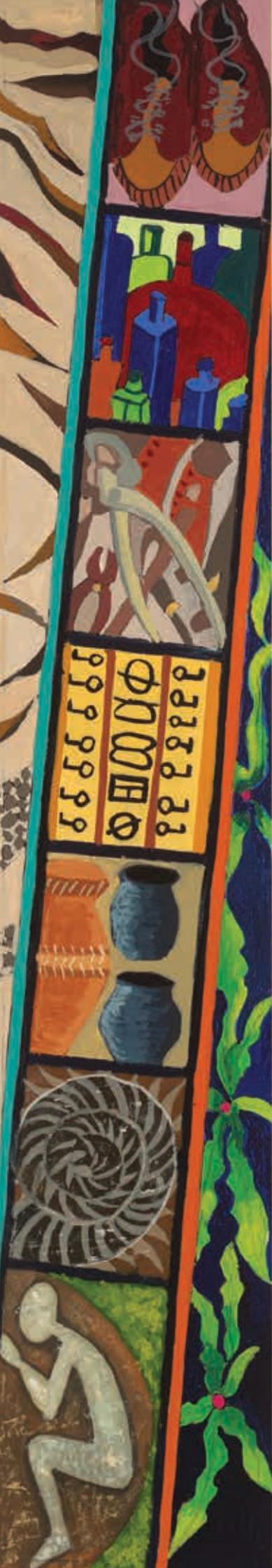


## Objectives and Policies

OBJECTIVE		POLICIES	
<b>HE A</b>	<i>The historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB is conserved and enhanced</i>	<b>HE1</b>	Promote the Historic Landscape Characterisation and related Historic Landscape Character Areas and Themes descriptions as a tool for managing the historic and cultural environment of the AONB, providing a framework for policy-making, planning decisions, research agendas and positive action.
		<b>HE2</b>	Encourage appropriate and improved identification, recording and management of the distinctive historic landscapes of the AONB through working with appropriate partners including the County HERs, farmers and others to undertake action identified in the AONB Historic Environment Action Plans.
		<b>HE3</b>	Enhance the management of historic sites and features through agri-environment scheme options.
		<b>HE4</b>	Work with relevant partners to protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets 'at risk' within the AONB
		<b>HE5</b>	The AONB will normally only support 'enabling development' that seeks to secure the conservation or restoration of an historic feature if it is not at the expense of another historic feature or the setting of that historic feature or another <sup>25</sup> .
		<b>HE6</b>	Encourage the appropriate reuse of redundant historic farm buildings in harmony with landscape character and local distinctiveness
<b>HE B</b>	<i>The historic environment, cultural heritage and traditions of the AONB are understood, valued and celebrated</i>	<b>HE7</b>	In relation to additions/alterations to the built heritage or nearby structures, support Local Planning Authority Conservation Officers in seeking the highest standards of design and materials.
		<b>HE8</b>	Promote the historic landscapes of the AONB, the Historic Landscape Characterisation, HEAP documents together with past and present cultural associations, as educational resources to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the AONB's historic and cultural environment.

(Additional Information: Historic and Cultural Environment Appendix 30)

26 Also, refer to English Heritage 2008-Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places.



“  
Everyday,  
I'd ask for a day return to  
the Endless Pit”

*Martin Green, Down Farm*