

Historic and Cultural Environment

*'Voices in the
Landscape'*





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

Martin Green, Down Farm



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.

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,

Wood covered warriors

Hallucinogenic blue dye

Brightly coloured glass bottles

A pair of old boots

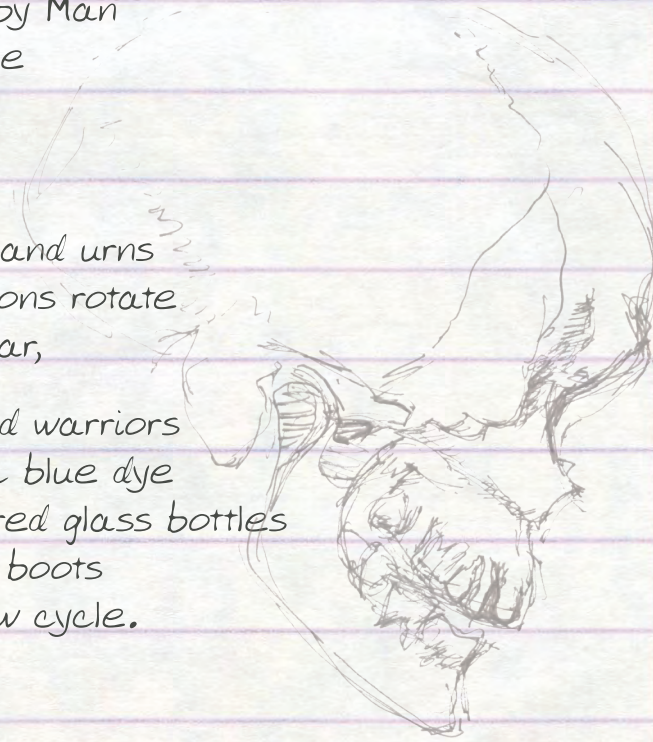
Seeking a new cycle.



Brightly coloured glass bottles



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 landscapes 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 this 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 Forest, 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 Bokerley 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 that have a concentration of ancient enclosure, ancient woodland, and former common land.



Old Waldour Castle - R Burden

- 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 and international distinction.

Ambition

10.2. The historic and cultural environment of the AONB is conserved and enhanced. Everyone understands, values and enjoys its cultural and heritage assets. The story of the area's evolution over time is clear to all.





Key Achievements

Publications – Historic England promotes our AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation 2008, and the subsequent Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs) 2012, as exemplar documents. These provide an evolving targeted framework for ongoing historic environment action and a dedicated web site³⁷.

Volunteer engagement – over thirty people have been trained to identify and record historic farmsteads.

Foundations of Archaeology – This two year HLF funded project explored the legacy of the pioneers of archaeology who lived and worked in the AONB locality, training up over 200 volunteers, familiarising them with some of the basic skills of archaeological field survey. The project targeted sites known to have been excavated by antiquarians in three Focus Areas and work included condition surveys, management work and increased awareness of the historic wealth of the AONB. It also trained volunteers to contribute to the Historic Environment Record in Dorset and Wiltshire into the future.

Well attended conferences – Conferences covering different aspects of the historic and archaeological treasures of the AONB, as well as the Foundation of Archaeology project, offered opportunities to hear well renowned speakers. Attendance was high.

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

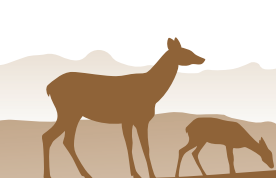
- 1. Knowledge and subsequent appreciation of the historic environment remains low** – The AONB has a vast and precious historic heritage. Greater knowledge and promotion of this heritage legacy will underpin practical action to conserve and enhance it.
- 2. Inappropriate management of the historic environment** – Ploughing, planting or unsuitable grazing can seriously damage historic sites and features.
- 3. Heritage at Risk** – The AONB has heritage assets that Historic England considers to be vulnerable or ‘at Risk’. There is a need for partners to take practical action to conserve and enhance these assets. There is a sparse record of historic farmsteads, especially those not recognised by the Listed Building processes.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Limited awareness of contribution of art, literature and folklore to local identity** – Heywood Sumner, Thomas Hardy, Desmond Hawkins, Cecil Beaton, Lucien Freud and Elisabeth Frink all took inspiration from Cranborne Chase and its hinterland. There is a profusion of authors, broadcasters, musicians, sculptors, photographers and artists closely connected to the AONB, both in the past and today. For many, their work is either little known or not widely enough appreciated by resident and visitor communities.

³⁷ <http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk/>



The Issues Explained

- 10.3.** 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 Historic England 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 ongoing promotion of the Historic Landscape Characterisation and HEAPS can help deal with this.
- 10.4.** The 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 select and present information on all known heritage assets. These include landscapes, buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and archaeological finds. There is also information on previous archaeological and heritage work in each county.
- 10.5.** No such record is ever complete. The AONB Historic Environment Action Plan identifies 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 also identifies areas where the significance of particular heritage is not well known.
- 10.6.** The quality of information about and interpretation of the historic environment of the AONB can be improved. There is a wealth of historic riches throughout the area; a visible legacy of human involvement with the landscape through time. In addition, there is poor knowledge and low appreciation of artists, writers and other cultural connections, both past and present. The aim of the HLF funded Cranborne Chase and the Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme is to support wide-ranging, innovative and inspiring interpretation. This will invite involvement, enjoyment and learning from the widest range of audiences throughout 2019-24, and on into the future. It will also provide a range of opportunities for these people to get involved in practical tasks; and to celebrate the historic and cultural heritage of the area.
- 10.7.** Nevertheless, the AONB needs to access more resources to develop educational and interpretative media across the whole AONB to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of this AONB's historic and cultural environment.
- 10.8.** 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.
- 10.9.** 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. Thomas Hardy based some scenes of Tess of the d'Urbervilles in Cranborne Chase AONB. Other artistic and cultural connections include the architect Sir Christopher Wren and renowned photographer, designer, socialite, writer, Sir Cecil Beaton.



- 10.10.** 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 were celebrated as part of an exhibition at Salisbury Museum. The Museum states 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).

Nationally designated heritage in the AONB

- 10.11.** Designation is a way of marking that a building, monument or landscape is of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ in a national context. Historic England makes the recommendation for designation (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:
- 550 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
 - 2038 Listed Buildings, 78 of which are Grade I and 106 Grade II*.
 - 17 Registered Parks and Gardens.
- 10.12.** When Historic England 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 leads to the ‘At Risk’ Register. Historic England prepares and publishes an annual Register of Heritage at Risk of those nationally designated heritage assets that are at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or inappropriate development. In 2018 in the AONB there were:
- 5 Buildings at Risk.
 - 81 Monuments at Risk.
 - 0 Parks and Gardens at Risk.
- 10.13.** Some local authorities produce their own registers that record all buildings and structures ‘at risk’, irrespective of grade. As Historic England (formerly English Heritage) 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.
 - 16 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)³⁸ 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.

³⁸ http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk/conserving_heap.html



- 10.15.** Ploughing 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 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.



Wor Barrow excavations ©Anthony Pitt-Rivers

Funding

- 10.16.** Historic England commissioned a research report in 2011³⁹ to review the issues facing local authorities as they manage their heritage assets at a time of acute financial stress. The funding available through both Historic England 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. It describes the issues that are affecting them, including the economic downturn, declining budgets, changing patterns of use and fewer conservation officers.
- 10.17.** Some external funding programmes target the historic environment. The Heritage Lottery fund is, however, currently (2018) reviewing its funding programmes. There is now intensive competition to all funding programmes which may lead to insufficient funding to fully protect and conserve the historic wealth of the AONB.

³⁹ 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	
HE A	The historic environment, cultural heritage and traditions of the AONB are understood, valued and celebrated.	HE1	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.
		HE2	Utilise resources available through the 5 year LPS to undertake volunteering activities, public events and provide creative educational and interpretative media based on the historic heritage of the AONB area.
HE B	The historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB is conserved and enhanced.	HE3	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.
		HE4	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 partners within the Landscape Partnership Scheme to undertake action identified in the AONB Historic Environment Action Plans.
		HE5	Facilitate future 'agri-environment' schemes that effectively enhance the management of historic sites and features.



OBJECTIVE		POLICIES	
HE B	The historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB is conserved and enhanced.	HE6	Work with relevant partners to protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets 'at risk' within the AONB.
		HE7	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 ⁴⁰ .
		HE8	Encourage the appropriate reuse of redundant historic farm buildings in harmony with landscape character and local distinctiveness.
		HE9	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.

(Additional Information: Historic and Cultural Environment Appendix 30)⁴¹



Oak Apple Day - Tracy Rich

⁴⁰ Green Balance with Grover Lewis Associates Ltd March 2012: Local authority heritage assets: Current issues and opportunities for English Heritage; also Historic England (2016): Managing Heritage Assets - A Guide for Local Government.

⁴¹ Also, refer to English Heritage 2008-Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places.

