

# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



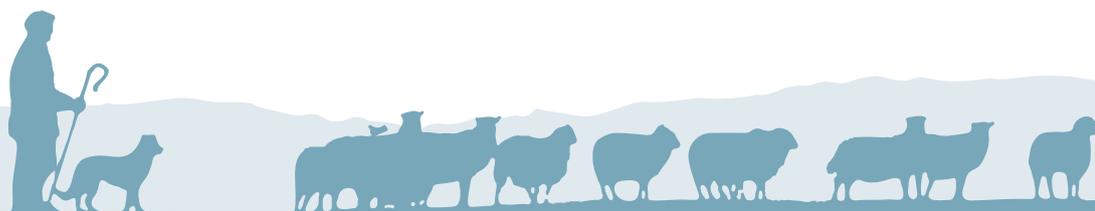
CHASE & CHALKE  
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



# Statement of Significance

## Key facts

- A remarkable landscape of undulating and plateau fields and enclosing woodlands, deeply incised chalk escarpments, rich archaeological heritage, high biodiversity and deep rooted cultural interests.
- The Medieval Hunting area of the Cranborne Chase existed until 1829 and this scale of both landscape continuity and antiquity is unrivalled anywhere else
- Ancient Woodland, Chalk Grassland, Wood Pasture, Chalk Stream habitats
- 10% of the area is a nationally designated area for Nature Conservation
- 59% of the area is within the South Wessex Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area.
- 21 SSSIs covering 20 square kilometres and 115 County Wildlife Sites
- 342 Listed Buildings, 4 Designated Historic Parks and Gardens, 259 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- A nationally important concentration of early Prehistoric ceremonial monuments focussed on the great Dorset Cursus
- Later Prehistoric and Roman Landscape of Martin Down
- Medieval Landscapes of the inner bounds of the Cranborne Chase  
Post Medieval Landscapes of the Ebble Valley including historic farmsteads and water meadows
- Dense historic pattern of Rights of Ways
- The legacy of General Pitt Rivers and Heywood Sumner
- An air of isolation which has attracted an exceptional array of artists and writers



## A Bold Distinctive Landscape

*“a bold landscape, an unexpected big landscape, with the satisfying amplitude that makes line more important than colour” ... “It is one of those remaining places where quietness gathers subtly like mist over autumn stubbles and it is still possible to be alone with nature and undisturbed”*

*Desmond Hawkins, Chase Historian*

### **There is no comparable area to the Cranborne Chase**

In natural, historic cultural natural terms, the landscape is extraordinarily rich.

Evidence of successive eras of human activity and settlements can often be lost, but not here. The landscapes of this area offer up evidence of the imprint of man, carved out over the centuries. Prehistoric monuments of national importance, historic borderlands, ancient field systems, droves and routeways all have stories to tell. This is, of course, one of the richest parts of Wessex, the haunt of the eminent archaeologist Pitt Rivers. In this area the interaction of people and the landscape is inextricably linked over time and perfectly embodies the principles set out in the European Landscape Convention.

The Medieval Hunting area of the Cranborne Chase existed until 1829 and this scale of both landscape continuity and antiquity is unrivalled anywhere else. It has had an unparalleled influence on the landscape character of the area. The area is associated with a whole host of significant historic and archaeological features both early (Prehistoric and Roman) sites protected by the Chase and its woodland and open downland; features associated with the Medieval hunting area itself ; and features associated with its later landscape history (designed landscapes and a unique estate style). The long duree of the Medieval Chase also led to the survival of an unparalleled set of nationally important natural habitats (including ancient woodland, chalk grassland, wood pasture), a staggering range of biodiversity interest and a unique cultural identity and community. The Chalke Valley is associated with a complementary pattern of Medieval and Post Medieval landscapes.

It is this interrelationship between the physical, cultural, and the natural features and assets that give the project area its special value. It was a remote area in the past and remains a remote area in modern times. Other locations have some of the individual special characteristics of the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley, but not the deep seated visible interrelationship between past landscape history and management, natural and cultural splendour and distinctive landscape character seen here.

### **This is an area which is significant to local people**

The key historic, natural and cultural features of the CCCV LP area are outlined below.



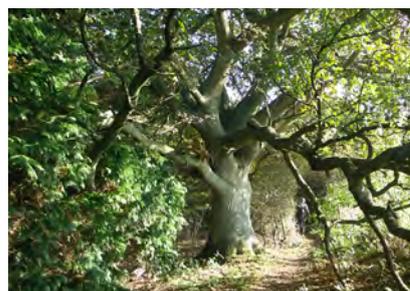
## Natural Landscapes...

*“Melbury Down is special to me because of its landscape value, and because of the orchids, and butterflies”*

### Key Natural Landscape Features

**Lowland Calcareous Grassland (or chalk grassland):** A Dorset Environmental Records Centre survey comparing current with historic extent of UKBAP priority grassland in Dorset has shown a 75% loss of lowland calcareous grassland since 1946. (Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan 2004 – 2009). However, in the CCCV LP area many of the chalk grasslands have survived, forming a rich mosaic with the ancient woodlands.

**Ancient Woodland:** The Area supports a nationally important aggregation of ancient woodlands. In 2009, the Forestry Commission made the Cranborne Chase area an Ancient Woodland Priority Area. Woodland owners could apply for a higher percentage grant to link and extend ancient woodlands, either through new native woodland planting or through the management or creation of other semi-natural habitats. The woodlands of the area are particularly special due to the association with historic coppice production and the underwood trade.



▲ Ancient Woodlands

**Ancient, Historic and Veteran Trees:** The area has an internationally significant resource of ancient, historic and veteran trees. In an inventory for important veteran tree sites for Dorset, the CCCV LP area was found to have nearly a quarter of the sites identified (Dorset Wildlife Trust).

**Cranborne Chase Downs and Woodlands Important Plant Area:** Important Plant Areas (IPAs) are globally significant sites for wild plants and threatened habitats. The IPA Programme is a means of identifying the best sites for wild plants (higher and lower), fungi and their habitats using three consistent criteria, threatened species, botanical richness and threatened habitats. The ground flora in the Cranborne Chase Downs and Woodlands IPA is exceptionally rich in plants closely associated with ancient woodland. The Chase is one of the richest sites for lichens in southern England.



▲ Fungi

**Lichens:** The mosaic of habitats produced by the historic management of Cranborne Chase has produced an exceptionally rich woodland lichen flora with a total of 217 epiphytic lichen species being recorded from the site between 1969 and 2003. As a result the site is considered to be the richest lichen site in central southern England after the New Forest. Thirteen species are rare in Britain, including *Pannaria conoplea*, a lichen associated with ancient woodland in the oceanic climate of western Britain, *Sticta sylvatica* which grows on mossy tree trunks largely in the north and west, and *Usnea articulata*, a formerly widespread species which is extremely susceptible to sulphur dioxide pollution and now virtually confined to the south-west.



▲ Lichens



**Chalk Streams, Chalk Aquifer and Ground Water:** The area sits on top of one of the largest outcroppings of Cretaceous Chalk geology in Europe. This provides the underground water supply that feeds into the River Ebble and the streams to the south of the area. The project area is vital for the winter recharge of these aquatic habitats and for the provision of clean water and other socially and economically important environmental services. The high biological quality of the River Ebble was recognised in 2006 when it was designated as a Wild Fishery Protection Zone by the Environment Agency.

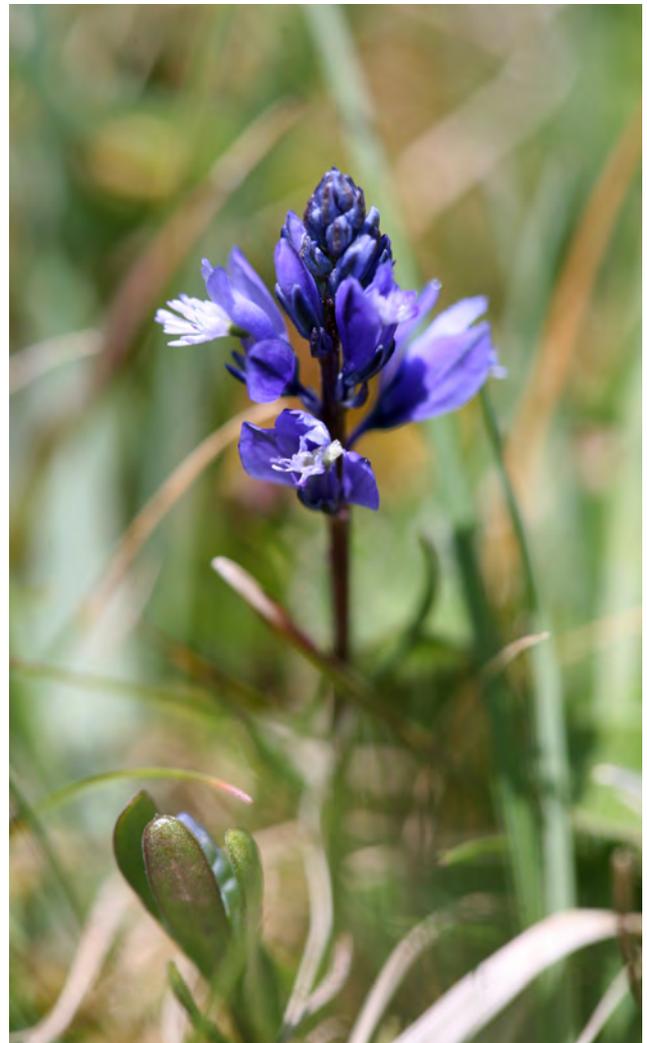


▲ River Ebble

Arable plant populations have fallen dramatically over the past 60 years and are now the UK's rarest group of plants. The CCCV LP area is one of the national hotspots for rare arable plants. The species below occur in Dorset and are either found, or might be expected, within the LP area. The LP area is known as one of the few places in the county where aggregations of more than 7 species on any one site might be expected.



▲ Pheasant's eye



▲ Chalk Milkwort



## Nature Conservation Designations

**10% is of the CCCV LP area is within a nationally designated area for Nature Conservation**

### Special Areas of Conservation

**Fontmell and Melbury Downs**, is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (263 hectares) for semi-natural dry grassland. The site includes large areas of species-rich chalk grassland. It supports consistently large populations of early gentians (*Gentianella anglica*), numbering many thousands of plants.

**Prescombe Down** (31 hectares) has also been designated a SAC for its grassland but also for its populations of European Protected Species. These are early gentian, a rare annual plant and marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*). The reserve is also home to rare butterflies like grizzled skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*) and birds such as the skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).

### Environmentally Sensitive Area

Over half of the CCCV LP area (59%) is within the South Wessex Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). The ESA is noted for its surviving areas of internationally important species-rich chalk grassland habitats which contain a number of rare plant species and support many populations of butterflies and birds, some of which are rare and declining. This landscape is also enriched by the presence of a diverse range of features of historical and archaeological importance.

### National Nature Reserves

There are two National Nature Reserves (NNR):

- **Martin Down NNR** - is located in the east of the CCCV LP area, between Woodyates and Martin. It represents the second largest area of uninterrupted chalk downland in Britain. This area of chalk downland, chalk heath and scrub is home to a number of nationally rare and scarce beetles, flies and bees.
- **Prescombe Down NNR** - is a publicly accessible chalk downland area located north of Ebbesbourne Wake, known for its resident population of the Adonis Blue (*Polyommatus bellargus*) butterfly.

### Regionally Important Geological Sites

There are two Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in the vicinity of Melbury Down. Both are publicly accessible and have been selected because they illustrate the topography and structural geology of the chalk and the influence of peri-glacial erosion on the chalk uplands.



## Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are 21 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering some 20 sq. km. The main habitat types represented are calcareous grassland, neutral grassland and broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland. Examples are given below:

- **Chickengrove Bottom SSSI** - a mixture of botanically rich chalk grassland, scrub and woodland, with invertebrates and reptiles well represented.
- **Cranborne Chase SSSI** - a large tract of semi-natural woodland, derived from an ancient hunting forest, and includes remnants of enclosed medieval coppice, common land wood pasture and 19th century hazel plantation. The ground flora includes many uncommon species and is exceptionally rich in plants closely associated with ancient woodland. The Chase is one of the richest sites for lichens in southern England. The invertebrate fauna includes uncommon butterflies and moths, and supports a diverse woodland bird fauna.
- **Fontmell and Melbury Downs SSSI** - a large site, comprising part of the edge of the chalk escarpment holds unimproved chalk grassland and scrub communities and has high botanical and entomological interest.
- **Martin and Tidpit Downs SSSI** - an extensive tract of chalk downland, chalk heath and scrub. It includes a gently undulating plain rising to a high east-west ridge, the crest of which is marked by the Bokerley Ditch, a massive linear prehistoric earthwork. The whole area is rich in archaeological features of Bronze Age and subsequent dates, and these, together with the varied topography, soils, and differences in past management, contribute to great habitat variation.
- **Winklebury Hill SSSI** - an extensive (over 50 ha.) and topographically varied area of herb rich chalk grassland supporting several plants and a butterfly of restricted British distribution.

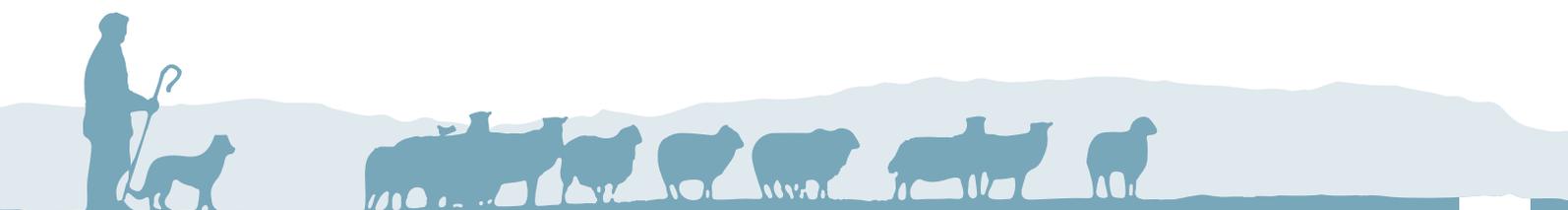
## County Wildlife Sites

There are 115 County Wildlife Sites including 4 Wildlife Trust Reserves. For example the Dorset Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserve at Fontmell Down includes calcareous grassland, scrub and deciduous woodland. Note worthy species include early and autumn gentian, bee, frog and fragrant orchid, autumn lady's tresses, white helleborine, chalk milkwort, harebell, kidney vetch, horseshoe vetch; silver-spotted skipper, Adonis blue and chalkhill blue; barred tooth-striped; skylark, stonechat, yellowhammer and dormouse.

## The National Trust

The National Trust is a significant landowner within the area including Fontmell Down, Melbury Down, Melbury Beacon and Win Green.

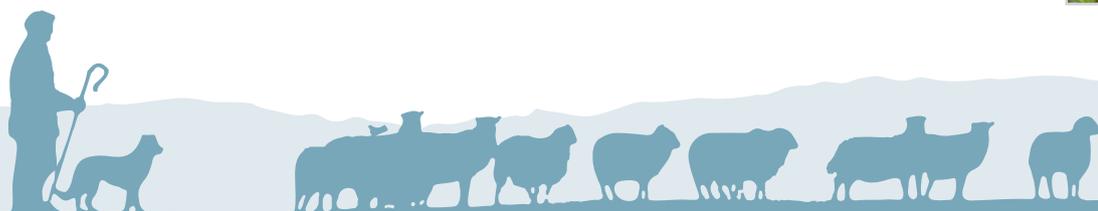
*"Garston Wood is special to me because it is an extensive coppiced area which is unusual. It has a very special feel and light and I saw my very first hare in the arable/woodland margin there... It is special to me because of the Bluebells, Wild Garlic and Chestnut Coppice"*



## Priority species

The Area is notable for the range and number of priority species present:

- **Farmland butterflies and moths** – 16 Farmland Priority Species occur in the area, including: *Small Heath*; *Wall butterfly*; *Dinghy Skipper*; *Duke of Burgundy*; *Grizzled Skipper* and *Common Forester*
- **Chalkland butterflies, moths and other invertebrate indicator species**, including:  
*Adonis Blue* (Dorset has 50% of the UK Population); *Chalkhill Blue*; *Marsh Fritillary*; *Silver Spotted Skipper*; *Wood Tiger*; *Cistus Forester*; *Stag Beetle*; and *Glow Worm*
- **Vascular Plants of Chalk Grassland**, including: *Field Fleawort*, *Early Gentian*, *Slender Bedstraw*, and *Fine-leaved Sandwort*
- **Farmland Birds**, including: *Grey Partridge*; *Corn Bunting*; *Lapwing*; *Tree Sparrow*; *Turtle Dove*; *Yellow Wagtail*; *Skylark*; *Yellow Hammer*; *Stone Curlew* and *Quail*
- **Woodland Birds**, including: *Red Kite*; *Wood Warbler*; *Spotted Flycatcher*; *Willow Tit*; *Stonechat*; *Hobby*; *Grasshopper Warbler*; *Nightingale*; *Cuckoo*; *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*; *Marsh Tit* and *Woodcock*
- **Mammals**, including: *Dormouse*; *Fieldmouse*; *Water Vole*, *Otter*, *Brown Hare*; and four species of *Deer*
- **Woodland Bats** – it is known that both Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats breed and roost within easy flying distance, as do the very rare Bechstein's Bat and the Barbastelle Bat.
- **Chalk Stream and River species, including:** *Water crowfoot*; *Atlantic salmon*; *Brown trout (non-migratory)*; *Sea trout*; *Brook lamprey*; *Sea lamprey*; *Bullhead*; *Desmoulin's whorl-snail*; and *blunt-fruited waterstarwort*
- **Red Data Book (threatened or endangered) species, including:** *Pheasants Eye*; *Corn chamomile*; *Stinking chamomile*; *Corn marigold*; *Dwarf spurge*; *Small flowered fumitory*; *Red hemp nettle*; *Prickly poppy*; *Shepherds needle*; *Field gromwell*; *Grass poly*; *Weasel's snout*; *Small-flowered catchfly*; *Night-flowering catchfly*; *Corn spurrey*; *Field woundwort*; *Narrow-fruited corn salad*; and *Wild pansy*
- **Non Red Data Book species but still rare and declining including:** *Lesser quaking grass* – nationally scarce; *Rough poppy*; *Long-headed poppy*; *Venus looking glass*; *Cut-leaved dead-nettle*; *Henbit dead-nettle*; *Sharpleaved fluellen*; *Round-leaved fluellen*; and *Dense-flowered fumitory*
- **Lichens:** A total of 39 ancient woodland indicators, 6 Priority species (*Bacidia incompta*, *Megalospora tuberculosa*, *Ramonia chrysophaea*, *Usnea articulate*, *Usnea florida* and *Wadeana dendrographa*), eight near threatened species and 21 nationally scarce species – including some for which the UK has international responsibility, in addition to a number of species which are known to be declining across Europe such as *Lobaria pulmonaria*.



## Historic Landscapes...

*“My Church is special to me because I like to think of the drovers walking down Elcombe Lane from Bigley on their way to church at St Marys on a Sunday morning. It’s a very atmospheric place and has such a wonderful view”*

### The Unique Historic Landscape Character

The key to the unique historic landscape character of the LP area is the history and legacy of the Cranborne Chase. The key attribute of this area in the Medieval period was its status as a hunting landscape. The Chase was a defined area with a delimited boundary belonging to the crown or important nobles (including at various times the Earls of Pembroke and Norfolk). The Inner Chase Bounds, though not systematically mapped on the ground, coincide with the Landscape Character Area of the Wooded Cranborne Chase. The crown or magnate in question did not own all the land within the Chase rather they owned certain ‘rights’ over it.

It is these ‘rights’ which have had such an impact on the landscape we see today. Chase law upheld the primacy of the beasts that were hunted (deer) – not only were the beasts themselves preserved but also their habitat. This gave the Lord of the Chase control over the activities of other landowners, including their rights to cut timber, enclose land, and graze domestic animals. However other activities were allowed as long as the deer and its habitat was protected, for example the rights of pannage, often these were ancient common rights which were maintained much longer than in other areas. This status quo remained until the Chase was finally disenfranchised in 1829, protecting the landscape from the worst rigours of the Enclosure Acts, for example. It is this unique landscape history which is responsible for the survival of the key habitats (chalk grassland, chalk river and ancient woodland) and unique historic character of the area.

### Listed Buildings

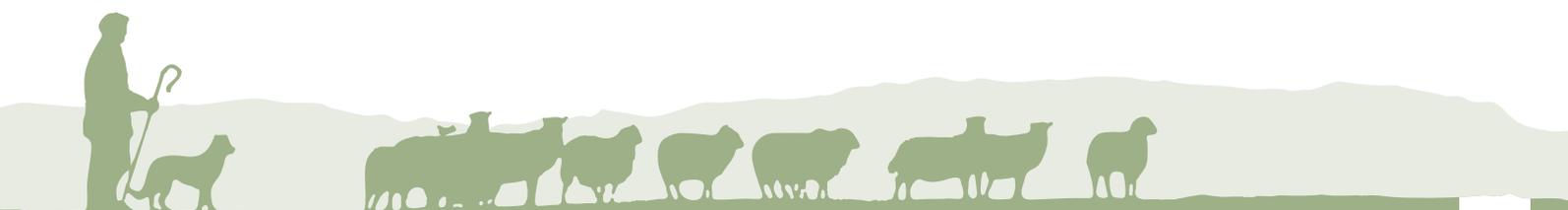
There are 342 Listed Buildings in the CCCV LP area. These cluster around the core of the Historic Settlements on the downlands and along the bottom of the Chalke river valley and also relate to the Designed Landscapes of the area and isolated Historic Farmsteads and Lodges. They include ten grade I listed buildings (including Norrington Manor, Stepleton House, the Tower of the former Church of St Mary and West Lodge, Eastbury House and Chettle House) and 13 Grade II\* (including King John’s House, Church of St Peter Ad Vincula, Church of St Thomas, Church of St Mary and The Chantry).



▲ St Martin's Church, Fifield Bavant

### Historic Parks and Gardens

There are 4 Historic Parks and Gardens on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Stepleton House (110 hectares) which is Grade II, Rushmore Park (535 hectares) is Grade II, the Victorian Pleasure Grounds of the Larmer Tree which are Grade II\* and sit within the wider confines of Rushmore Park and Eastbury Park (135 hectares) which is Grade II\*.



## Scheduled Ancient Monuments

259 sites in the area are nationally designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. These are dominated by prehistoric monuments. These includes:

- a nationally important concentration of ceremonial monuments focussed on the great Dorset Cursus including Long Barrows, Henges, Neolithic Round Barrows, mortuary enclosures, Neolithic settlements and Bronze Age Round Barrows
- Bronze Age Round Barrows especially along the escarpment edges and with a notable concentration on edge of Rushmore
- Later prehistoric and Romano British Settlement on former downland areas including the great earthwork of Grim's Ditch
- Harbins Park (Medieval deer park)
- Iron Age Hill Forts on escarpment edges
- Saxon Barrows and cemeteries
- Linear earthworks. Many of these are Saxon in date but probably have earlier roots and include Grim's Ditch, Carrion Tree Rack and numerous cross dykes (which strike perpendicular to the tops of the escarpments)
- The Fovant World War One Cap Badges

*"Hedgerow and Boundary Features are special to me because they create a wonderful landscape and illustrates the impact, change and history of human involvement with the area."*

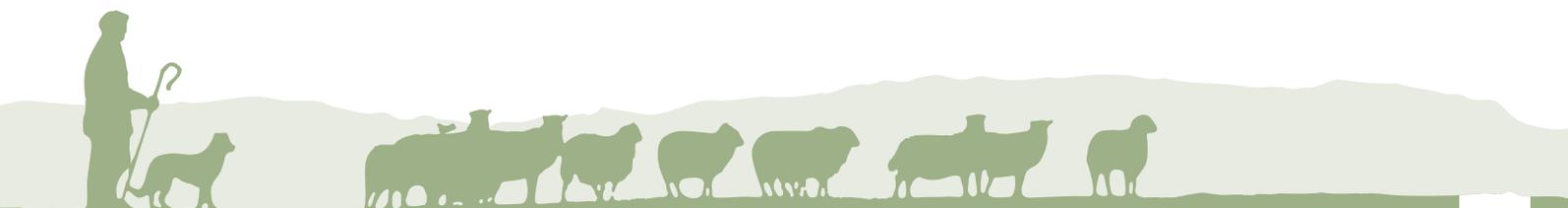
## Archaeology

The archaeology of the CCCV LP area has never been systematically studied. But where information is available the County Based Archaeological Record indicates a wealth of archaeological features including:

- Early Prehistoric landscapes centred on the Dorset Cursus,
- Later Prehistoric and Roman Landscape of Martin Down
- Medieval Landscapes of the inner bounds of the Cranborne Chase
- Post Medieval Landscapes of the Chalke Valley including historic farmsteads and water meadows
- Archaeological sites associated with the legacy of General Pitt Rivers and his followers such as Heywood Sumner such as Woodcutts
- Living archaeology associated with ancient woodlands and ancient boundaries including ancient pollards and historic hedgerows
- Historic borderlands including the Shire Rack between Dorset and Wiltshire ancient parish boundaries
- Rich buildings record of historic farm buildings and ecclesiastical sites recorded



▲ Archaeological dig at Down Farm



## Designed Landscapes

Designed Landscapes are a key feature these include nationally important parks (Stepleton, Rushmore), nationally important gardens (Larmer Tree), locally important gardens (Springhead, Fontmell Magna) and the wider influence of unique estate architecture and style linked to estates such as Rushmore, and Ashcombe. This estate influence imposes unique styles of houses, lodges, gates, railing and landscaping on top of the local vernacular architecture and wider landscape character.

One of the most important designed landscape features is the Larmer Tree Gardens (Grade II\* on the English Heritage Register) associated with General Pitt Rivers. Pitt Rivers created the Larmer Tree Gardens as pleasure grounds for 'public enlightenment and entertainment'. They were one of the first private gardens opened for public enjoyment in the United Kingdom, and were free to enter.

They are an extraordinary example of Victorian extravagance and vision. Pitt Rivers built several structures around the main lawn which were intended to educate and enlighten the garden visitors, including the Nepalese or Indian Room which was acquired after the closure of the British Empire Exhibition in 1898.



▲ The Talbot Inn, Berwick St John

## Settlements

The area has a special vernacular style of architecture associated with an historic settlement pattern. The main features of which are a pattern of historic settlement of dispersed villages and hamlets through the downland and a concentration of settlement along the spring lines of the scarp bottom and the bottom of the Chalke river valley.

The Wooded Chase Downlands is associated with a Medieval pattern of nucleated settlements, comparatively densely settled owing to the presence of Tollard Royal and Ashmore. Some new settlements were created in the 19th Century but there has been little 20th Century addition. Red brick and flint and white render typify the character of buildings, with thatch, clay and slate tiles common roofing materials. Manor houses and historic farm buildings also use traditional materials, such as Greensand, red brick and flint.

Settlement is also focused along the bottom edge of the escarpment and within the river valley and form a series of nucleated pre 1800 settlements. Iwerne Courtney, Iwerne Minster, Fontmell Magna, Alvediston, Ebbesbourne Wake, and Compton Abbas are typical of such villages, tucked tightly into the foot of the scarp, or running directly alongside the River Ebble. Overlying the influence of locally available materials (Greensand, Cob) is the individualism of 'estate style'.



## Cultural Landscapes...

*“The junction of the Ox Drove with the track up from Elcombe Farm, Alvediston is special to me because I can think of all the drovers who passed by taking flocks between Salisbury and Shaftesbury, stopping at the Old Inn just to the west of this point.”*

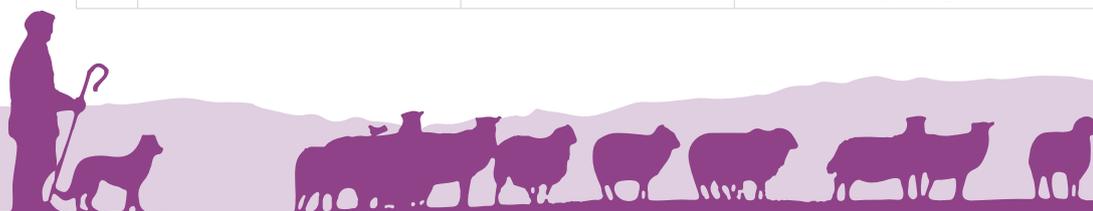


## Locally Important Heritage Assets

This A to Z of locally distinctive historic features presents the results of a survey which was conducted via the Cranborne Chase AONB Annual Forum, and a written request to local Woman’s Institutes and Parish Councils. The survey asked people to identify their favourite local historic feature and say why it was special to them. This list is, of course, in no way comprehensive either in content or in geographical coverage. It is idiosyncratic, personal and local. It goes some way to starting to capture the historic places and features of the AONB which are important to the people who live, work and visit it.

These assets range from buildings, designed landscapes, archaeology and elements of the natural environment. They have not been defined by a top down approach but rather offer a contrasting view of the heritage of the CCCV LP to comprehensive historic environment records or lists of heritage assets.

<b>A</b>	<b>Avenues</b>	Beech Avenue on road from Sixpenny Handley just prior to turning left to Ebbesbourne Wake	<i>It is special to me because it is a majestic beech avenue consisting of mature character specimens.</i>
<b>B</b>	<b>Bridges</b>	The clapper bridge at Bishopstone	<i>It is special to me because it is a reminder of how the land used to be managed. This stone bridge over the River Ebble would have had wooden hatches to help control the water in the water meadows as far back as 17th century.</i>
<b>C</b>	<b>Churches and Chapels</b>	St Mary’s Church, Alvediston	<i>It is special to me because I like to think of the drovers walking down Elcombe Lane from Bigley on their way to church at St Marys on a Sunday morning. It’s a very atmospheric place and has such a wonderful view</i>
	<b>Copse</b>	The beech copse and field barn on the Bowerchalke to Handley Road	<i>It is special to me because this split beech copse is a visible landscape feature of Bowerchalke Parish and has been “adopted” as the village logo</i>



<b>D</b>	<b>Downland</b>	Martin Down and Bokerley Dyke	<i>It is special to me because it is the only place where you can walk, totally surrounded by chalk grassland/downland evoking what the landscape may have been like in the past when flocks of sheep were the key source of wealth and the downland landscapes supporting those sheep were extensive. Bokerley Dyke and other archaeological features provide a link to an even more distant past.</i>
	<b>Drove Ways</b>	The Drovers in the Chalke Valley	<i>They are special to me because it provides real evidence of the history of life in south Wiltshire and relationship to Salisbury.</i>
<b>E</b>	<b>Estate style</b>	Pembroke Style Farm Buildings, Mill Lane, Bishopstone	<i>It is special to me because it is a very typical complex of early Victorian farm buildings.</i>
<b>F</b>	<b>Fingerposts</b>	Old wooden fingerposts and road signs, forming the local style of way markers	<i>They are special to me because they all have locally distinctive vernacular styles</i>
	<b>Fields</b>	Ancient Field system and sunken track on Southdown just west of Eastcoomb Wood	<i>It is special to me because I can sit there facing north painting the landscape and watching the birds flying over in great flocks and thinking how ancient the track must be as it is so deep. Some butterflies and wildflowers there too.</i>
<b>H</b>	<b>Hedgerows and boundaries</b>	Across the area	<i>It is special to me because it creates a wonderful landscape and illustrates the impact, change and history of human involvement with the area.</i>
<b>J</b>	<b>Junction</b>	The junction of the Ox Drove with the track up from Elcombe Farm, Alvediston	<i>It is special to me because I can think of all the drovers who passed by taking flocks between Salisbury &amp; Shaftesbury, stopping at the Old Inn just to the west of this point. Also the views are spectacular right over to the Isle of Wight where I was brought up, across Cranborne Chase, north over the Ebble Valley and a little further down the tract you can see the Spire of Salisbury Cathedral</i>



<b>M</b>	<b>Military Cap Badges</b>	Fovant Chalk Badges	<i>It is special to me because my father who was in the machine gun corps in 1914-18 war was stationed there and helped in the construction of the cap badge on the hillside (cross machine guns) unfortunately no longer there.</i>
<b>P</b>	<b>Plague Stone</b>	Homington Road, Coombe Bissett	<i>It is special to me because it represents old local folklore</i>
	<b>Pits</b>	Chalk Pits including those on the escarpment adjacent to the A30	<i>It is special to me because I grew up messing about in chalk pits – they are much less evident now – fresh chalk exposures illuminate what lies beneath the turf – what the hills are made of brilliance in the sun – bring back the chalk pit.</i>
	<b>Ponds</b>	Village Ponds	<i>It is special to me because they are a focal point to villages and a reminder of historical drovers' routes where animals were watered en route. They are a link with local history but within a wider landscape e.g. people/drovers moving</i>
<b>R</b>	<b>Roman Road</b>	Ackling Dyke Roman Road, east of Sixpenny Handley roundabout	<i>It is special to me because though it is surrounded by tumuli which are much older this represents civil engineering 2000 years old, purpose, direction and man management.</i>
<b>S</b>	<b>Sunken Lanes</b>	Melbury Abbas Area	<i>It is special to me because it creates an air of mystery as gateways open up fantastic views of the chalk downland.</i>
<b>T</b>	<b>Towers</b>	Faulstone Tower, Bishopstone – a Plantagenet watch tower	<i>It is special to me because it links Middle Ages history, the civil war, the history of the village, and the development of village. It acts as a symbol of our village.</i>
	<b>Trackways, Footpaths and Rights of Way</b>	Trackways	<i>They are special to me as routes from villages to churches, along rivers, and between settlements and pubs. Sharing habits and lifestyles from the past for people to enjoy today - they can also take you first hand through a wide range of wildlife habitats.</i>
	<b>Tree Clump</b>	Win Green	<i>It is special to me because it is a distinctive landmark.</i>
<b>U</b>	<b>Untouched Places</b>	The Cranborne Chase Woodlands	<i>It is special to me because the traditional coppices remain untouched</i>



<b>V</b>	<b>Views</b>	The Ebble Valley	<i>It is special to me because of the view from St Mary's church Alvediston follows the course of the River Ebble taking in tranquil rural views an unchanging way of life.</i>
<b>W</b>	<b>Woodlands</b>	Garston Wood	<i>It is special to me because it is an extensive coppiced area which is unusual. It has a very special feel and light and I saw my very first hare in the arable/woodland margin there.</i>
<b>X</b>	<b>Extraordinary Landscapes</b>		<i>It is special to me because it is a beautiful and extraordinary landscape.</i>
<b>Z</b>	<b>Zig Zag Hill</b>	Zig Zag Hill	<i>It is special to me because it was voted the bendiest road in the country</i>

It is mostly a Byway Open to All Traffic and is associated with historic boundaries. It is linked to the wider area by a series of ancient trackways (private track, byway, bridleway and footpath) which are sunken hollow ways and green lanes in many cases. These lead away to the Vale of Wardour to the north and into the heartland of the Cranborne Chase to the south. Many of the routeways running through the Chase woodland are again at least Saxon in origin providing key crossing points across the shire boundary and are associated with indicative place names such as Bloody Shard Gate. Some of the surviving routeways mark historical survival of lost Rights of Way which crisscrossed formerly open downland and common land. The Ackling Dyke Roman Road intersects the bottom of the LP area south of the A354. In addition the area is crossed by several former turnpike roads, associated with milestones, mileposts and toll houses.

A key aspect of the landscape of the CCCV LP area is the work and legacy of **General Augustus Lane Fox Pitt Rivers** (1827-1900) who after inheriting the estate at Rushmore undertook detailed and extensive excavations on sites within the estate and surrounding area. Pitt Rivers was interested in understanding the history of each site, carefully recording stratigraphy and the position of finds. Pitt Rivers also stressed the importance of publishing a complete record of his work, producing beautifully illustrated reports. Pitt Rivers is seen by many as a central figure in the development of modern archaeology, and even as the father of scientific archaeology. His position as the first Inspector of Ancient Monuments following the passing of the Ancient Monuments act of 1882 is also highly significant. Most of the sites which Pitt Rivers excavated are within the LP area and remain as a physical legacy of his importance. He was an early exponent of the role of archaeology in public education as demonstrated by his pleasure grounds at the Larmer Tree and museum at Farnham. The museum was finally closed in 1966 and the archaeological collections transferred to Salisbury Museum in 1975.

Pitt Rivers left a legacy of inspiration for later archaeologists including Heywood Sumner, a devoted follower of the general who also focused his activities on the Cranborne Chase, and produced beautiful illustrated books which are themselves works of arts and artistic records of the landscape of the area.

The CCCV LP area has a distinctive and fragile community cohesion based around the core estates or isolated farmsteads. There is a contrast between the outward looking villages on the western edge of the area, the small but cohesive communities of the Ebble Valley and the more isolated communities in the centre of the area.



Historically the area was associated with a history of religious non conformity associated with both Catholicism and various Protestant groups (e.g. Baptists, and Quakers). These results in a wider set of religious beliefs and practices in the area then might be expected.

There are surviving numbers of older people who still practice traditional crafts including hurdle making, wood turning, and potting.

*“The pond in Ashmore Village is special to me because it provides a focal point to the village and significant sense of place. Ponds are a focal point to villages and a reminder of historical drovers’ routes where animals were watered en route. They are a link with local history but within a wider landscape”*

