



An introduction to the
HEAP

*The Isle of Wight
Historic Environment
Action Plan*



The historic environ

is all around us. It is what generations of people have made of the places in which they have lived.

We are the trustees of that inheritance. Its future is in our hands.

The Isle of Wight's historic environment is a unique and finite resource. It includes a variety of historic landscape types in town and countryside, locally distinctive buildings dating from the Middle Ages to the Millennium, and archaeological sites of all periods – the earliest being over 400,000 years old.

The Island's historic environment enriches everyday life. It helps us to understand the past and the present, and to plan for the future. It is important economically; generating jobs, attracting people and businesses to the Island and greatly benefiting the tourism industry

The Island's historic environment is an invaluable community, recreational and educational asset which contributes to local distinctiveness and local identity.



Pictured: A Selection of Historic Landscape Types on the Isle of Wight



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The Island's archaeological monuments include the Stone Age 'Longstone' (*above*), many Early Bronze Age Barrows such as those on Brook Down (*top*) and the medieval St Catherine's Lighthouse (*right*)



Introducing the HEAP



The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) is about the future of the Island's historic environment.

Without understanding what exists today we cannot take sound decisions for the future, so the HEAP starts by defining the character of the Island's historic landscape, built environment and archaeology

The HEAP is based on the Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) – part of a national programme sponsored by English Heritage.

It identifies pressure on the historic environment and will assist the management of change.

It promotes the conservation of historic environment

character by providing a practical programme of actions and will assist landowners, farmers, community groups and individuals in the sustainable management of our heritage.

The HEAP will sit alongside the Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as background evidence for the Island Plan and will help the Isle of Wight Council to plan for the future.

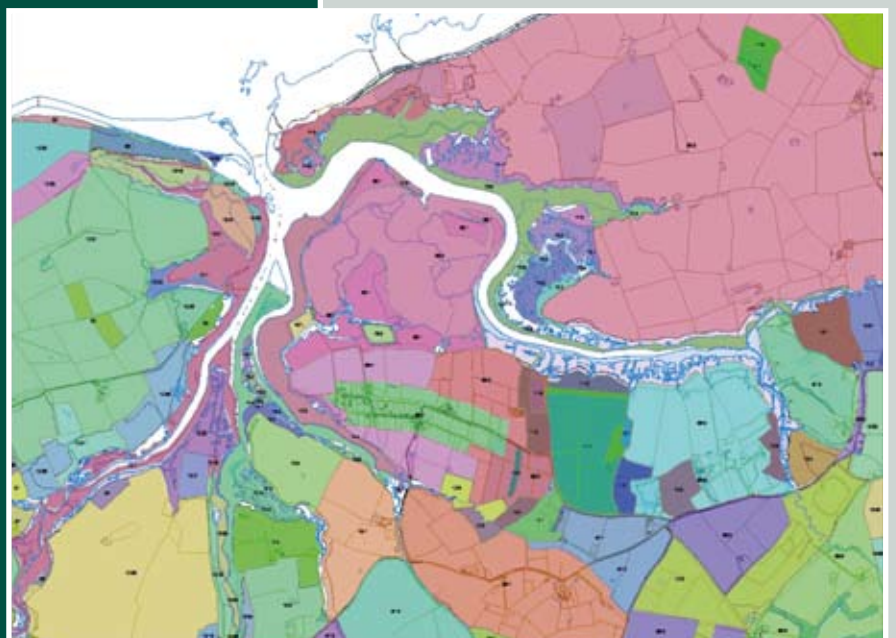
Our historic environment is under pressure from development, agricultural change, coastal erosion, climate change and many other forces. Like people, places have to evolve, react and grow but we must manage change to conserve the character of place. The HEAP has been prepared to help us look after the historic environment all around us.

Left: Newport, a medieval planned town with a historic street plan and fine 18th and 19th century buildings, is now undergoing rapid change.

Below: Aerial view of the failed medieval borough at Newtown.

Bottom: Extract from HLC map showing historic landscape types around Newtown.

For details of the Isle of Wight HLC visit the Isle of Wight Council website www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/Archaeology/Projects/Historic_Landscape_Characterisation/



The Isle of Wight HEAP has been prepared by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service in partnership with organisations involved in conserving, managing and studying the Island's historic and natural environment.

The HEAP recognises the longstanding and ongoing management of the local historic environment by farmers, property owners, community groups and individuals.

It sets out aims and objectives for the future management of the Island's historic environment and identifies actions to be delivered from 2008 to 2013. Many of the proposed HEAP actions can be delivered by the local community, including farmers, property owners, community groups and individuals. HEAP actions can also be implemented by local organisations through their own management plan.

Everybody can assist with the sustainable management of the historic environment for the benefit of future generations by consulting the HEAP documents when drawing up management plans, local plans and planning proposals, when carrying out practical management tasks or when studying the historic environment.

Acting in partnership





Main picture: Arable cultivation near Arreton

Opposite page: Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society members taking part in the Historic Lanes and Tracks Survey – a community project that fed into the HEAP

p to manage change

How to use the Is

The Historic Environment Action Plan includes the following documents:

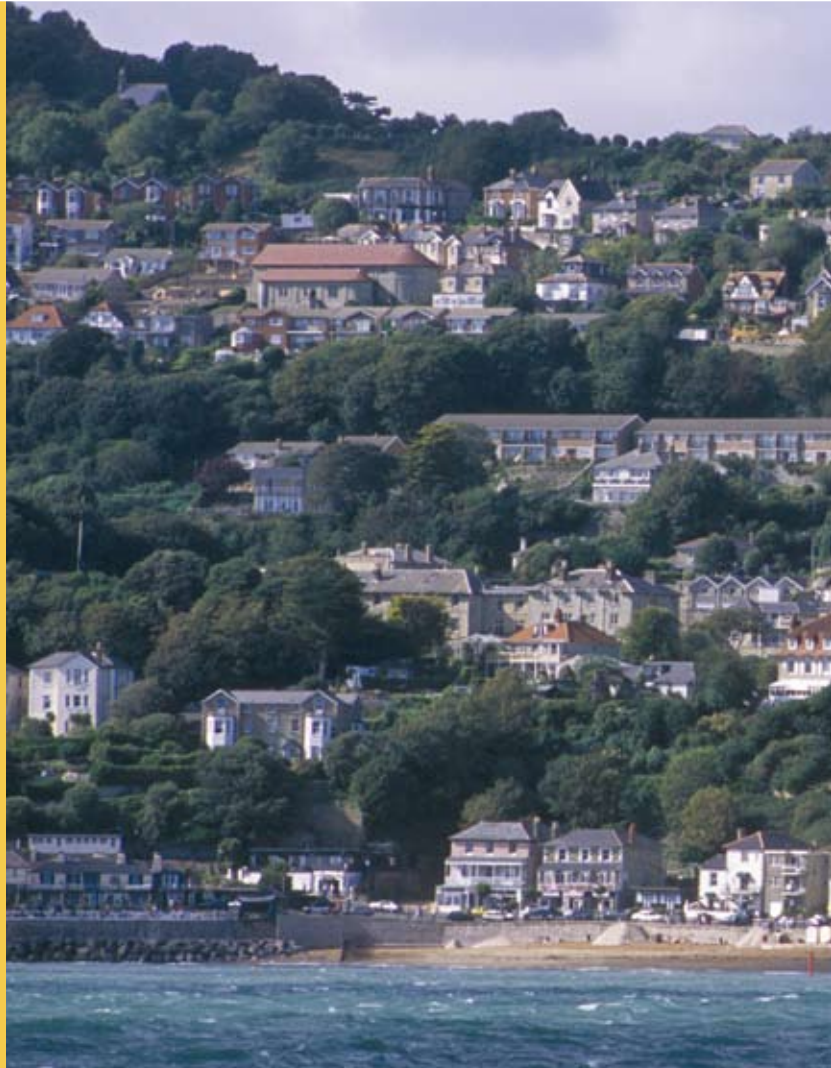
- **Isle of Wight Historic Environment Overview**
- **HEAP aims, objectives and actions**
- **15 HEAP area plans**

The Island is notable for its great diversity of historic landscapes within a small space.

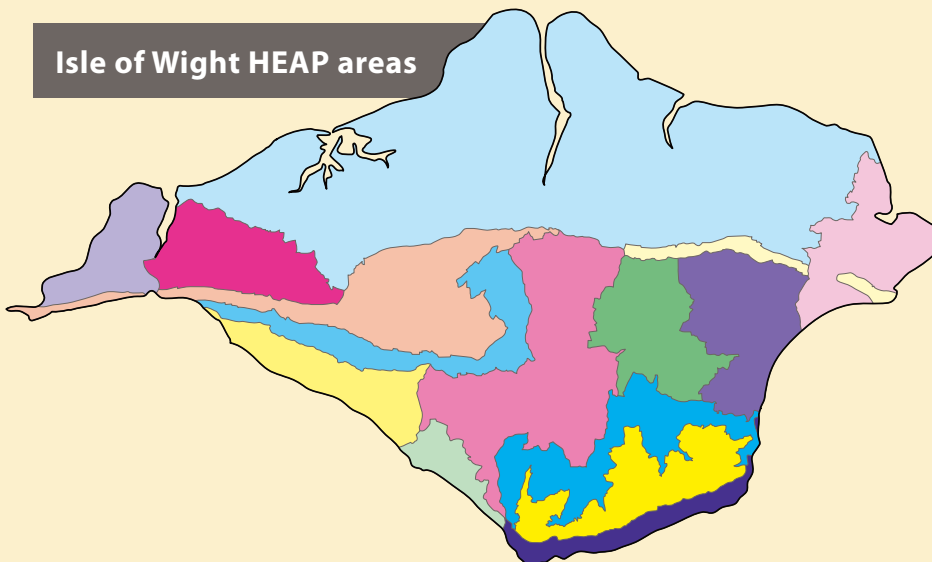
The HEAP recognises this by defining 15 different areas on the basis of historic settlement and land use patterns.

Each HEAP area is discussed in a separate document that identifies components, historic processes, condition, fragility, forces for change and management issues.

You can read all the HEAP documents at www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/Archaeology/historic.asp or telephone 01983 823810 for printed copies.



Isle of Wight HEAP areas



-  Arreton Valley
-  Atherfield coastal plain
-  Brading haven and Bembridge isle
-  East Wight chalk ridge
-  Freshwater isle
-  Newchurch environs and Sandown Bay
-  Northern lowlands
-  South-West Wight coastal zone
-  South Wight downland
-  South Wight downland edge
-  South Wight sandstone and gravel
-  Thorley/Wellow plain
-  West Wight chalk downland
-  West Wight downland edge and sandstone ridge
-  The Undercliff

le of Wight HEAP



Views taken within some of the Island's varied HEAP areas

Taking the HEAP forward

Over the next five years the HEAP Steering Group will oversee delivery of the HEAP actions.

If you or your organisation wishes to become involved in delivering the HEAP actions please call the Isle of Wight County Archaeologist on 01983 823810

The Historic Environment Action Plan will:

- be an inspiration for positive action by individual Islanders, thereby enhancing management and understanding of the historic environment;
- help the Isle of Wight Council to manage change and to ensure that planned development conserves and enhances the historic environment;
- provide information to countryside and environmental managers and assist in drawing up management plans;
- provide the archaeology and historic environment service with more information about the historic environment;
- enable the service to identify key management issues and give more detailed advice on conservation and management;
- guide new historic environment initiatives undertaken by the HEAP steering group or other bodies;
- help the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership to deliver the policies, objectives and actions of the AONB Management Plan;
- be an accessible resource for town and parish councils preparing parish plans and village design statements;
- be useful to local heritage and community groups preparing trails and leaflets;
- encourage and assist organisations and individuals who want to achieve HEAP aims and objectives through their own initiatives;
- be a resource for local people and visitors who want to find out about the Island's historic environment.

Pictured: Old and new are mixed together in the village of Carisbrooke





Looking after the Island's historic environment



The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record (HER) is a key tool for the management of the historic environment, consulted in connection with all planning applications and by many public and private bodies in connection with development or management proposals. This record contains over 11,000 entries and includes archaeology, historic buildings and maritime sites. It comprises a computerised database with links to a Geographic Information System (GIS), documentary archives, historic maps, an extensive collection of aerial photographs and an archaeological library. The HER is updated almost daily as new information is discovered. It may be consulted by developers, researchers, students and members of the public (by appointment).



Main picture: Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society members recording historic boat remains at Ryde in the inter-tidal zone.

Bottom left: County Archaeology and Historic Environment Centre – a Victorian school building on the local list.

Bottom Right: Newport conservation area – Carisbrooke Road



The county archaeology and historic environment service:

- identifies and records archaeological sites and finds, and historic buildings;
- maintains and develops the Historic Environment Record (HER);
- advises on strategic plans and management plans;
- advises on management of archaeological sites and historic landscapes;
- responds to enquiries from professional bodies, students and the public;
- delivers the Portable Antiquities Scheme locally;
- carries out projects with external funding e.g. HLC, HEAP.

You can read more about the work of the archaeology and historic environment service, including HLC and HEAP on the Isle of Wight Council website: www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/archaeology

The Isle of Wight Council conservation and design team advises on design and conservation matters and is responsible for:

- providing design and conservation input into the local development framework (Island Plan), supplementary planning guidance and development briefs;
- production of conservation and design guidance and information;
- assessing conservation areas and developing enhancement schemes;
- identifying and designating new conservation areas as appropriate;
- advising on works that affect listed buildings;
- participating in regeneration and enhancement schemes;
- liaising with the enforcement section of development control in respect of unauthorized works affecting the historic environment.

You can read more about the work of the conservation and design team on the Isle of Wight Council website: www.iwight.com/living_here/conservation_and_design



The Portable Antiquities

Scheme (PAS) is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales including objects found by metal-detector users. The Isle of Wight finds liaison officer is based at the Archaeological Centre and records local finds on the Portable Antiquities Database. More information about the Portable Antiquities Scheme is available at www.finds.org.uk





Enjoy and learn about the Island's historic environment

- Join an archaeological or historical society:
 - Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society <http://www.iwnhas.org/>
 - Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society <http://www.btinternet.com/~rob.martin1/iwias/home.htm>
 - Young Archaeologists Club Isle of Wight Branch. iwyac@aol.com
 - Local historical societies are listed on the Isle of Wight Council website. www.iwight.com/living_here/voluntary/voluntary_type.asp
- Visit historic properties: Carisbrooke Castle, Yarmouth Castle, Osborne House and Appuldurcombe House (English Heritage), Brading Roman Villa (Oglander Trust), Newport Roman Villa (Isle of Wight Council).
- Visit the Guildhall Museum in Newport, Carisbrooke Castle Museum and the Underwater Archaeology Centre (Fort Victoria).
- Join a Local Conservation Organisation e.g. Isle of Wight Society, Isle of Wight Buildings Preservation Trust, Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, Green Gym. Other conservation organisations are listed on the Council's website.

Read the Isle of Wight HEAP. By committing yourself or your organisation to one of the actions in the HEAP you will be involved in positive management of the historic environment and help to ensure that it remains a valued resource for future generations

Getting involved with the historic environment



Help With Sustainable Management

Some schemes can assist with the management of heritage assets.

- Landowners can receive grant-aid for the management of scheduled monuments
- The Environmental Stewardship Scheme (managed and funded through Natural England) covers farmed land and can include the conservation and management of historic environment features:
 - Higher Level Stewardship offers higher level payments for important natural and historic environment features.
- The Forestry Commission provides grants for woodland management.
- Several grant schemes exist to help restore, conserve or manage assets of value to the local community, for example the AONB Sustainable Development Fund, LEADER and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Above: Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society Members learning about Anglo-Saxon settlement and place-names in the Bowcombe Valley.

Below: Finds Identification Day in the grounds of the 17th century manor house at Northcourt.



Further information

The county archaeology and historic environment service is located at:

61 Clatterford Road, Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight PO31 7L

Tel: 01983 823810. Web: www.iwight.com/archaeology

Further information about the Isle of Wight HEAP can be found at www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/archaeology/historic.asp

HEAP Steering Group Members

Isle of Wight Council departments:

Archaeology and historic environment service

www.iwight.com/archaeology

Conservation and design team

www.iwight.com/living_here/conservation_and_design

Countryside section

www.iwight.com/countryside

Planning services development team

www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/development_control

Rights of way section

www.iwight.com/living_here/environment/rights_of_way

Isle of Wight record office

www.iwight.com/library/record_office

Dinosaur Isle

www.dinosaurisle.com

Eco Island www.eco-island.org.uk

Isle of Wight AONB Partnership www.wightaonb.org.uk

Country Land and Business Association www.cla.org.uk

Department of Food and Rural Affairs www.defra.gov.uk

English Heritage Characterisation Team
www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage Historic Environment Field Adviser
(Hampshire and IW) www.english-heritage.org.uk

Environment Agency www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Forestry Commission www.forestry.gov.uk

Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology
www.hwtma.org.uk

Island 2000 www.island2000.org.uk

Island History Forum [c/o sheilacaws@iow.gov.uk](mailto:c/o_sheilacaws@iow.gov.uk)

Isle of Wight Economic Partnership www.iwep.com

Isle of Wight Gardens Trust www.gardenstrusts.org.uk
Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society
www.iwnhas.org

Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society
www.btinternet.com/~rob.martin1/iwias/home.htm

National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk

Wight Conservation www.wightconservation.co.uk

Wight Wildlife www.hwt.org.uk

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