

## **Glossary of Terms used in the Isle of Wight HEAP**

### ***Access Land***

Uncultivated areas where there is a public 'right to roam' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2001.

### ***Acheulian***

Lower *Palaeolithic* flint 'industry' typified by production of flint or stone handaxes.

### ***Ancient Woodland***

Woodland in existence by AD 1600, identified in inventories produced by Natural England.

### ***Assarts***

Fields created from newly cleared woodland, typically of medieval date

### ***Beaker ware***

Distinctive type of pottery drinking cup of *Early Bronze Age* date.

### ***Burgage plots***

A piece of land in a medieval borough held from the lord of the borough subject to customary rents and services. These plots of land were typically long and narrow in order to give many properties access to the street frontage.

### ***Burghs***

Fortified towns established in Wessex in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### ***Character Appraisals***

Recent Government guidance directs Conservation Area appraisal documents to identify local distinctiveness and the qualities that make an area unique.

### ***Chines***

Steep-sided river valleys where a river or stream flows through coastal cliffs to the sea. The word 'chine' originates from the Saxon 'cinan' meaning a gap or yawn. The term is used only in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

### ***Co-axial field system***

Field pattern organised around parallel or sub-parallel axes over relatively long distances, frequently aligned with a similar pattern of roads. Often utilised in the Middle Ages and sometimes surviving to modern times but possibly based on prehistoric or Romano-British field patterns.

### ***Commons, Common grazing***

Open grazing land owned by the lord of the manor on which manorial tenants had certain grazing rights.

### ***Common Meadow***

Land cropped for hay by manorial tenants, often low-lying alluvial land. As in the arable open fields, individual strips were held in the common meadow but were not separately enclosed.

### ***Coppice***

Woodland that is cut to near ground level every few years, producing a crop of poles. Characterised by multi-stemmed trees

### ***Core arable***

Land most likely to have been in cultivation during the Anglo-Saxon period, probably equating roughly with the land that was farmed as *open-field* in medieval times.

**Cottage Orné**

Decorative building, usually of gothic design, designed by architects for wealthy clients in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Associated with the *Picturesque movement*.

**Cropmarks**

Patterns produced by archaeological sites buried within a cultivated field which affect the growth of the crops above them.

**Currency Bars**

A form of iron ingot widespread in southern Britain during the later *Iron Age*, during the second and first centuries BC.

**Deer park**

Essentially a creation of the Normans as a means of conserving deer for food but became a status symbol in the later Middle Ages and continued to be created in post-medieval times, for instance at Appuldurcombe in the 1780s.

**Demesne**

Land belonging to a medieval manor held in the lord's own hands.

**Definitive Map**

The Definitive Map and Statement is the record of public rights of way which local authorities have a duty to maintain for public reference.

**Depopulation.**

See medieval depopulation.

**Deserted Settlements**

There is both documentary and archaeological evidence for settlement desertion in England, mainly in the Late Middle Ages. On the Isle of Wight there is quite a lot of documentary evidence for *medieval depopulation* but the archaeological evidence is limited.

**Designed landscape**

Area of land modified by the owner for aesthetic reasons or to demonstrate social status, typically by tree-planting or introduction of decorative buildings.

**Dispersed Settlement**

Rural settlements, generally predating the 19<sup>th</sup> century and containing between two and five dwellings. Dispersed settlement is common in certain parts of England and occurs on the Isle of Wight alongside small villages and hamlets.

**Double-Row Settlement**

Rural settlement having a row of houses on either side of one main street.

**Duver**

A dialect word for a spit of sand deriving from the French word *douvre*. The term is most commonly used for St Helens Duver.

**Enclosure**

In the Middle Ages much arable land was cultivated as unenclosed *open-field*. *common grazing land* and *common meadow* land was also unenclosed. From the late Middle Ages this open land started to be enclosed. In the English Midlands much of the *open-field* was subject to *parliamentary enclosure* in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In other areas *common grazing* was the type of land most affected by parliamentary enclosure.

**Feld**

This term derives from an Old English word for 'open country'. By about the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD it came to mean arable land.

**Field system**

This term is used for discrete areas of cultivation and is applied most frequently to prehistoric and medieval sites. Archaeological evidence of field systems can be in the form of *lynchets* or *soil marks*.

**Folly**

Building or structure usually associated with a park, garden or *designed landscape*. Primarily decorative rather than functional, a folly could be whimsical, ruinous or simply curious.

**Funnel entrance**

The edge of an area of common grazing, often at a road crossing and with an irregular profile caused by piecemeal enclosure of the common.

**Furlong**

Sub-division within a medieval *open field* containing a number of *strips*. The same crop was grown by the farmers of all the individual strips within the furlong.

**Grange**

Medieval monastic farm holding, often associated with the Cistercian order, with accommodation for monks or lay-brothers.

**Grazing marsh**

Wet valley-floor grassland that is liable to periodic flooding.

**Green-edge settlement**

Rural settlement around the edge of a *green* which usually developed over a period of time as small farms and cottages were attracted by the grazing on uncultivated areas of land, often on the margins of medieval estates.

**Green**

A small *common*, often associated with *green-edge settlement*.

**Green Village**

A rural settlement where the *green* constitutes a large element in the village plan. In such villages the green may be rectangular and the settlement *regular* in form.

**Ground-truthing**

Exploring archaeological theories or evidence (such as *crop marks* or *soil marks*) by means of excavation or detailed field survey.

**Historic Environment**

All the material remains of the human past including buried and upstanding archaeological sites and monuments on land or sea, the built environment, the historic landscape and historic parks and gardens.

**Historic Landscape**

This term covers all landscapes affected by human activity from prehistory to the present day. It includes various *historic landscape types* such as settlements, field patterns, open land, woodland, industry and communications.

**Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)**

A GIS based technique developed by English Heritage for studying and understanding the historic dimensions of the landscape. See also *landscape character assessment*.

**Historic Settlement Core**

Used in the Isle of Wight *HLC* and *HEAP* to denote a discrete area of settlement shown on the Ordnance Survey unpublished six inch drawings of the Isle of Wight in the British Library, based on a survey of 1791-1793.

**Hollow Way**

A road, track or path that has been worn lower than the surrounding land, partly as a result of continual use but also by water erosion acting on relatively soft bedrock. Hollow ways can date from the medieval period or earlier.

**Informal Enclosure**

Term relating to informal enclosure of land without legal agreement or parliamentary act. It could involve the enclosure of previously uncultivated common land or woodland but is also used in relation to the enclosure of former *open-field* arable land. The majority of enclosure on the Isle of Wight was *informal* in the sense that it did not involve legal agreements or parliamentary acts. However, some of this informal enclosure involved quite large areas of land and resulted in *regular field patterns* (see also 'Definitions of HLC Terms' and *piecemeal enclosure*).

**Ingas**

Old English place-name element meaning 'the people of', usually occurring in combination with a personal name.

**Interrupted-row settlements**

Rural settlement where farmsteads and cottages are strung out along a road with wide spaces in between many of the dwellings.

**Irregular-row settlements**

Rural settlement consisting of dwellings either on one side or on both sides of a road but not exhibiting any regularity of plan.

**Landscape Character Assessment**

Technique developed by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) to identify the distinctive features of a locality or region and to inform change and development. The technique is distinct from but complementary to *Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)*, a technique developed by English Heritage.

**Landscape Character Type**

Term used by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) in *landscape character assessment*. It denotes a distinct type of landscape that is generic in nature in that it may occur in different parts of the country e.g. chalk river valleys, rocky moorlands.

**Landscape parks**

Ornamental parks developed by wealthy landowners from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, characterised by an informal layout of trees and other landscape features.

**Lazy Beds****Longshorem**

Coastal dwellers (on the Isle of Wight and elsewhere) that made a living from fishing, smuggling and beachcombing. In more recent times longshorem have been involved in the tourist trade, hiring out boats and deck chairs etc.

**Lynchets**

Cultivation bank and terrace formed as a result of ploughing on a hill slope. A series of lynchets indicates the presence of a former *field system*. Lynchets can be of prehistoric date. Long, thin *strip lynchets* are of medieval date.

**Long Barrow**

Earthen long barrows are burial mounds of *Neolithic* date.

**Marine Villa**

The marine villa was a hybrid, like the *cottage orné* born out of the *Picturesque Movement*, but crossed with the newly discovered attractions of the sea for the Upper Class in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Marl**

Decayed chalky soil or chalky clay used as a fertiliser from the *Iron Age* to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. *Marl pits* often occur at the edge of the chalk downs.

**Medieval Depopulation**

A decline in the population of England occurred in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. This has often been blamed on the Black Death but climatic deterioration and exhaustion of available agricultural resources may have been more important factors. On the Isle of Wight, French raids had an impact on prosperity at this time which may have led indirectly to depopulation. There is often archaeological evidence of *medieval depopulation* in the form of *deserted settlements*.

**Midden**

Rubbish heap consisting of human food debris with other waste products such as broken pottery. Shellfish remains are common in middens.

**Minster Church**

A church which in Anglo-Saxon times had pastoral responsibilities for an area wider than a single village.

**Moor**

Although in modern times particularly associated with uncultivated hill-land the term was also used, historically, to mean low-lying wet places. On the Isle of Wight it is always used in this latter sense.

**Morphology**

The study of form, used in historic landscape studies in connection with the shapes and patterns of landscape features such as fields and settlements.

**Mortuary Enclosure**

Earthwork of *Neolithic* date in which bodies were exposed prior to burial in a *long barrow*.

**Mother parish**

The earliest parish unit within an area, usually of Anglo-Saxon date, out of which other parishes were taken in later medieval period. Various small Isle of Wight parishes post-dating 1066 were taken out of mother parishes e.g. Shanklin, Yaverland and St Helens were originally part of Brading Parish.

**Nucleated Settlements/Nucleated Villages**

Rural settlements of more than five dwellings – but often of much larger village size – where the dwellings are clustered together rather than being dispersed over a wider area of countryside.

**Open-field**

Type of medieval and post-medieval cultivation in which the arable land was divided into *strips*, *furlongs*, and fields farmed in common, usually with no physical boundaries separating individual strips. Medieval manors generally possessed either two or three arable open fields but there was much variation on this common pattern.

**Open-field strips**

Individual units of cultivation within a common open field, held by tenants of the manorial lord.

**Overner**

Person living in, or visiting the Isle of Wight but not of Island birth.

**Palaeo-environmental**

Relating to ancient environmental remains and their study e.g. study of pollen, seeds, wood, charcoal and insects.

**Palmerston Forts**

Fortifications built on the recommendation of a Royal Commission which reported in 1860. Its findings were supported whole-heartedly by the Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, whose name quickly became associated with the forts which were built around the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Pembroke, Portland, Dover, Chatham, and the Medway.

**Parliamentary Enclosure**

Physical division and enclosure of former *open fields* and *commons* by Act of Parliament in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This process was widespread in some parts of England but elsewhere the arable fields and *common grazing* land had had been enclosed at an earlier date.

**Parochia**

Term relating to the territory of an Anglo-Saxon *minster church*, over which the church had pastoral care. After the Norman Conquest parochia were usually split into smaller units with daughter parishes breaking away from the original *mother parish*.

**Picturesque Movement**

An 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century artistic movement based on the pictorial appreciation of nature. This movement expanded to take in landscape design and architecture and is often associated with the *cottage orné*.

**Piecemeal enclosure**

Term relating to informal enclosure of small areas of land without legal agreement or parliamentary act, usually in medieval and early post-medieval times. It could involve the enclosure of previously uncultivated common land or woodland but is also used in relation to the enclosure of former *open-field* arable land. The resulting *field pattern* was usually *irregular*, often having sinuous boundaries. (see 'Definitions of HLC Terms' and *piecemeal enclosure*).

**Pill Box**

Term used for one of the squat concrete forts that were sited at road junctions, canals and other strategic points in anticipation of a German invasion during World War 2.

**Pillow Mound**

A pillow-shaped rectangular earthwork, usually of medieval date, constructed as an artificial warren for farming rabbits.

**Planned settlement**

A settlement that was deliberately planned, laid out and regulated. This term is often used in landscape history to refer specifically to rural settlements of medieval date. There are regional variations in medieval rural settlement patterns in England with some areas dominated by planned *nucleated settlements* and others by *dispersed* settlements that appear to have developed organically. The Isle of Wight has a mixture of nucleated and dispersed settlements but not many rural settlements appear to have been deliberately planned. However all four of the Island's medieval towns appear

to have been deliberate plantations by local lords (although the evidence for Brading is not so strong as for Newport, Yarmouth and Newtown).

**Planned village**

See *planned settlement*.

**Plantation woodland**

Woodland that has been deliberately planted rather than having grown up naturally, often but not always, containing non-native coniferous trees.

**Pollarding**

The practice of lopping trees at 8-12 feet above the ground to prevent damage from browsing animals e.g. within *wood pasture*. The trees were then allowed to grow again to provide successive crops of wood.

**Polyfocal settlement**

A settlement pattern, probably of medieval origin, in which there are several clusters of houses and cottages, separate from one another but functioning as one village – for instance they may have formerly shared one *open-field* system

**Prairie fields**

Term used in *HLC* to indicate very large fields, usually created in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century by the removal of hedgerow boundaries.

**Regular row plan/settlement**

Settlement form in which houses are arranged in a regular row along one or both sides of a single road. The house plots are often of similar shape and size, suggesting that the settlement may have been deliberately planned.

**Replanted Ancient Woodland**

A site that has previously contained *ancient woodland* but which has been clear-felled and replanted in the recent past, often (but not always) with conifers. The Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan uses the term *ancient woodland plantation* and the Forestry Commission term is *Plantation Ancient Woodland (PAWS)*.

**Rew**

In the dialects of the Isle of Wight, Hampshire and Sussex *rew* has the meaning of a thick hedgerow or a narrow strip of woodland.

**Ridge and furrow**

Long parallel ridges of soil separated by linear depressions and providing visible evidence of medieval agriculture, although ridge and furrow was also created in post-medieval times. Ridge and furrow was formed by the use of a heavy plough, probably to aid drainage on heavy soils, but also seems to have been the product of customary medieval ploughing techniques.

**Ring Ditches**

Circular or near-circular ditches, often seen as *crop marks* from the air and usually representing the remains of ploughed-out *Bronze Age round barrows*.

**Romano-British**

Term referring to British culture during the period of Roman rule from AD 43 to AD 410 when the way of life of the native population was influenced by Roman customs and technology.

**Romano-Celtic**

Term relating to artefacts of the Roman period strongly influenced by Celtic cultural or decorative tradition.

**Round barrow**

Burial mound of *Earlier Bronze Age* date. The most common type is the *bowl barrow*, a simple round mound often with a ditch. A *bell barrow* has a *berm* (platform) between the mound and the surrounding ditch. A *disc barrow* has a small central mound and a wide platform surrounded by a ditch and an outer bank.

**Saltern**

An area of coastal land set aside for the extraction of salt from sea water by means of artificial ponds, evaporation pans and salt-boiling houses. Domesday Book mentions a saltern on the Isle of Wight and early maps mark a number of salterns along the northern coastline around Yarmouth, Hamstead, Shalfleet, Newtown, Thorness, Cowes and Seaview. Salterns were also a feature of the adjoining Hampshire coast around Lymington. The mainland and Isle of Wight salterns fell into disuse in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Secondary woodland**

Woodland that has regenerated naturally on a previously unwooded site.

**Settlement Desertion**

See *deserted settlements*.

**Soil marks**

These are produced by ploughed archaeological sites and are visible as different soil colours.

**Strip lynchets**

Long, thin *lynchets* (cultivation banks) following the contours of the hillside are of medieval date

**Tide mill**

A type of water mill using the power of sea tides to fill a mill-pond formed by embanking a natural tidal inlet. Tide mills were built on the Island's northern coastal inlets in medieval and post-medieval times.

**Warren**

In medieval times this term was used to denote land over which the lord of the manor had exclusive rights for the preservation and hunting of small game – rabbits etc. There are medieval documents relating to rights of warren granted to local lords on the Isle of Wight.

**Withy Beds**

Small pockets of low-lying land planted with willows that were *coppiced* at regular intervals to provide supple willow stems for baskets or (in coastal areas such as the Isle of Wight) lobster pots.

**Wood pasture**

Type of woodland in which farm animals or deer grazed. In order to prevent browsing animals damaging the trees these were *pollarded*. Actively-managed wood pasture no longer exists on the Isle of Wight.



## **Abbreviations used in the Isle of Wight HEAP**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| ADAS.         | Agricultural Development and Advisory Service |
| AONB.         | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty            |
| AP.           | Aerial Photograph                             |
| BAP.          | Biodiversity Action Plan                      |
| BL.           | British Library                               |
| CROW Act 2001 | Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2001        |
| EH.           | English Heritage                              |
| HER.          | Historic Environment Record                   |
| HLC.          | Historic Landscape Characterisation           |
| IWC.          | Isle of Wight Council                         |
| IWCRO.        | Isle of Wight County Record Office            |
| IWGT.         | Isle of Wight Gardens Trust                   |
| OE.           | Old English                                   |
| SEEDA.        | South East England Development Agency         |
| UDP           | Unitary Development Plan                      |

## **Archaeological Periods**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Palaeolithic:</i>  | 'Old Stone Age' - c.500,000 BC (in Britain) to c.8000 BC.                                       |
| <i>Mesolithic:</i>    | Middle Stone Age' - c.8000 BC to c.4000 BC.   |
| <i>Neolithic:</i>     | 'New Stone Age' - c.4000 to c.2500 BC.  |
| <i>Bronze Age:</i>    | Sub-divisions - <i>Earlier Bronze Age</i> (2500-1400 BC), <i>Later Bronze Age</i> (1400-700 BC) |
| <i>Iron Age:</i>      | c.700 BC to AD 43   |
| <i>Roman:</i>         | AD 43 to AD 410   |
| <i>Anglo-Saxon</i>    | (often now known as <i>Early Medieval</i> ) AD 410 to AD 1066                                   |
| <i>Medieval:</i>      | AD 1066 to AD 1500  |
| <i>Post-Medieval:</i> | AD 1500 to AD 1799  |
| <i>Modern:</i>        | AD 1800 to present day.   |

## **Conservation Designations**

AONB  
Conservation Area  
English Heritage Register  
Heritage Coast  
Listed Building  
Local List  
National Nature Reserve  
Local Nature Reserve  
Parks and gardens of local interest  
Ramsar  
SAC  
SINC  
SPA  
SSSI  
Scheduled Monument

## **Geological and Geomorphological Terms**

### ***Palaeogene***

Geological period dating from 65 million to 24 million years ago and including the Paleocene, Eocene and Oligocene epochs.

### ***Quaternary***

Geological period from 2 million years ago to the present time, including Pleistocene and Holocene epochs.

### ***Rotational Landslip***

Earth movement involving slipped, back-tilted blocks of land underlain by circular failure surfaces that merge to form a common basal shear surface.

## **Land Management and Grant Schemes**

### ***Higher Level Stewardship***

### ***Local Management Agreements***

## **Terms relating to Understanding, Conservation and Management of Historic Environment**

### ***Character Appraisal***

### ***Countryside Stewardship***

### ***Environmental Stewardship***

### ***HLC***

### ***Island Plan***

### ***Time-Depth***

## **Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Character Areas defined in the HLC and used in the HEAP**

*Arreton Valley*

*Atherfield Coastal Plain*

*Brading Haven and Bembridge Isle*

*East Wight Chalk Ridge*

*Freshwater Isle*

*Newchurch Environs and Sandown Bay*

*Northern Lowlands*

*South Wight Downland*

*South Wight Downland Edge*

*South Wight Sandstone and Gravel*

*South-West Wight Coastal Zone*

*The Undercliff.*

*Thorley/Wellow Plain*

*West Wight Chalk Downland*

*West Wight Downland Edge and Sandstone Ridge*

## **Definitions of Historic Landscape Types and Sub-Types used in the Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Classification (HLC) and the Isle of Wight HEAP (see Basford 2008, 2.9)**

The Historic Environment Action Plan uses data from the Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record (HER). Terms used in these documents are defined below.

### ***Field Patterns***

A group of fields of broadly similar size and shape, created by a particular process, e.g. enclosure from downland, enclosure from *open-field*, amalgamation of existing fields.

#### *Field Pattern Sub-Types*

- *Amalgamated fields*: Field pattern sub-type where boundaries between fields have been removed to create larger fields without completely destroying the pre-existing field pattern.
- *Reorganised Fields*  
Field pattern sub-type where boundaries between fields have been substantially altered within a discrete area

#### *Field Sizes*

- *Small* Up to 3 hectares
- *Small-Medium* 3 to 6 hectares
- *Medium* 6 to 12 hectares
- *Large* Over 12 hectares

### ***Open Land***

Uncultivated, unenclosed land. Sub-types are *heathland*, *downland*, *rough ground*, *scrub* and *unimproved land*

### ***Coastal Land***

This includes the sub-types of *salt marsh*, *intertidal mud*, *intertidal sand and shingle*, *sand dunes*, *coastal slope*, *landslip* and man-made sub-types of *salterns*, *harbours*, *marinas* and *reclaimed land*

### ***Woodland***

This includes descriptive sub-types of *broadleaved*, *coniferous* and *mixed* and interpretative sub-types of *ancient woodland*, *replanted ancient woodland*, *secondary woodland*, *plantation* and *ornamental woodland*.

### ***Valley Floor Land***

The extent of the valley floor, mapped according to the limit of the flat ground on either side of rivers, streams or ditches and generally defined by contours running parallel to the watercourse. Sub-types defined in the HLC are *enclosed pastures and meadows*, *valley floor woodland*, *grazing marsh* and *osier bed/withy bed*.

### **Settlement**

The main descriptive sub-types defined in the HLC are *urban, suburban, nucleation, dispersed settlement, farmstead, residential scatter, residential cluster, residential infill, ribbon development and housing estate*. The interpretative sub-type *historic settlement core* was also used.

### **Parks, Gardens and Designed Landscapes**

The sub types include *ornamental parkland/large designed garden* (7 hectares and over), *smaller designed garden* (under 7 hectares), *public park* and *deer park*.

### **Industry**

The sub-types are *industrial estate, general industry, marine industry, reservoirs & water pumping, sewage & water treatment, waste disposal, factory, energy supplies, quayside development, rural business park, brickworks, cement works and milling*.

### **Military and Defence**

The sub-types are *castle, fort, battery, barracks and rifle ranges*.

### **Recreation and Tourism**

The sub-types are *recreation ground, public open space, allotments, golf course, sports ground, holiday park and equestrian centre*.

### **Communications**

The sub-types are *road, track, railway line, airfield, railway station, depot and ferry terminus*.

### **Mineral Extraction**

The sub-types are *chalk quarries, gravel working, greensand quarries, limestone quarries and sandpits*.

### **Boundaries**

These were not defined in the HLC as a separate type but they are an important landscape component and will be the subject of a HEAP Study.