



Historic Environment Action Plan South Wight Sandstone and Gravel

**Isle of Wight County Archaeology
and Historic Environment Service**

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HEAP for South Wight Sandstone and Gravel

INTRODUCTION

This HEAP Area has been defined on the basis of geology, topography, land use and settlement patterns which differentiate it from other HEAP areas.

This document identifies essential characteristics of the *South Wight Sandstone and Gravel* HEAP Area as the low density and *dispersed* medieval settlement pattern with associated roads and tracks; the post-medieval field patterns; and the valley-floor land use. Although this Area was well utilised in prehistoric times it does not have any substantial settlements of medieval origin and the predominant medieval land use may have been extensive grazing.

The most significant historic landscape features, important forces for change and key management issues for the Area are considered in this document. Actions particularly relevant to this Area are identified from those listed in the Isle of Wight HEAP Aims, Objectives and Actions.

ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

Location, Geology and Topography

- Geology is mainly Ferruginous Sands of the Lower Greensand Series but with ridges of Plateau Gravel at Bleak Down, Rookley and St George's Down.
 - There are also Gravel Terraces, Peat deposits and Alluvium deposits within river valleys.
 - Area includes a narrow band of chalk to the south of Burnt House Lane. The chalk does not form a prominent ridge within this Area but is subsidiary to the gravel ridge of St George's Down.
- Slopes are generally moderate, but with pronounced ridges on the Plateau Gravels as at Bleak Down and St George's Down.
 - Highest points are 105m OD to the north of Bucks Farm and 106m OD south-east of Great East Standen Manor.
 - A narrow sandstone ridge in the southern part of this Area runs southward from Corve Farm to Southdown and has a maximum height of 80m OD.
- This Area has a similar geology to the *Atherfield Coastal Plain* and *Arreton Valley* HEAP Areas but is on higher ground, except within the river valleys, and has a more varied topography.
 - Higher inter-fluvial ground is dissected by the upper reaches of the River Medina and Eastern Yar and by smaller streams.
- The River Medina flow through this Area in a north-easterly direction from The Wilderness to Shide
 - The Eastern Yar flows through this Area in a northerly direction from Southford to Kennerley Farm.
 - Tributary streams of the Medina flows north-west from Pagham to Blackwater.
 - At south-west edge of Area some streams flow towards south-west coast.
- Light, easily worked soils on Greensand.
 - Acid unproductive soils on gravel ridges.
- This Area is entirely inland and does not include any of the Island's coastline.

Defining Attributes and Principal HEAP Types

- Fairly sparsely populated Area with dispersed farmsteads and hamlets.
- Only *nucleated* settlements entirely within this Area are at Blackwater and Rookley.
 - Modern residential development on the outskirts of Godshill lies within this Area. (*Historic settlement core* of Godshill lies within the *South Wight Downland Edge* Area.)

- Settlement at Chale, Chale Street and Chale Green lies on the boundary with the *South Wight Downland Edge Area* and has been described in the HEAP document for that Area (although late 20th century housing estate at Chale Green actually falls within this Area.)
- Since there are only two nucleated settlements entirely within this Area the roads that pass through are mainly longer distance routes heading for settlements outside the Area e.g. the A3056 Blackwater to Arreton road, the A3020 Newport-Godshill road, the Rookley-Niton road over Bleak Down.
 - There are minor roads within the Area linking Kingston to Shorwell and Chale Green, Pyle Manor to Chale Green, and Rookley to Chillerton, as well as roads around Bleak Down e.g. Beacon Alley, Bagwich Lane.
- The Rights of Way network is less dense than is some other HEAP Areas (particularly downland and downland edge Areas)
 - However, the long distance 'Shepherds Trail' 'Bembridge Trail', 'Worsley Trail' and 'Stenbury Trail' routes pass through the Area, as well as the Yar River Trail and the Newport-Sandown Cycle Track.
- Some roads and Rights of Way within this Area lie within *hollow ways* that have cut down through the soft sandstone rocks as a result of traffic and weather erosion over many centuries.
- Generally open and exposed landscape with fairly large fields and few trees except in river valleys.
- *Medium* and *large* fields account for over 56% of all fields (by area) within this HEAP Area, compared with less than 47% within the Isle of Wight as a whole.
 - *Small* and *small-medium* fields account for less than 44% of all fields (by area) within this HEAP Area, compared with over 53% of all fields within the Isle of Wight as a whole.
 - Fields are mainly in arable cultivation.
- Extensive views from high points such as St George's Down.
- River valleys provide a contrast with the higher ground, having areas of grazing marsh and enclosed pasture, also woodland in Medina Valley east of Gatcombe and in Yar Valley west of Godshill.
- Away from river valleys there is relatively little woodland and only a few *ancient woodland* sites.
 - Some new planting has been carried out under the English Woodland Grant Scheme administered by the Forestry Commission e.g. at Kingston and New Wolverton.
- Large-scale gravel working and some rough open land on St George's Down.
- Golf club at St George's Down and Country Park at Rookley.
- This Area is completely rural, with a focus on arable agriculture rather than tourism.

Principal Historical Processes

- Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint assemblages, *crop marks* and *soil marks* of probable prehistoric date provide substantial evidence of early human activity, particularly around river valleys.
 - Pollen analysis of peat from Gatcombe Withy Bed has produced evidence of Neolithic tree clearance and agriculture in the Medina Valley, followed by woodland regeneration in the late Neolithic period (Tomalin and Scaife 1980).
- Limited evidence for Roman activity in the Area as a whole although a kiln or hypocaust has been recorded to the south of Newport.
- This HEAP Area does not appear to have been a primary settlement area in Anglo-Saxon times and no early Anglo-Saxon estate centres existed within the Area.
 - Few early Anglo-Saxon place-names except Billingham and Dungewood.

- Manors are recorded in Domesday Book within this Area at Appleford, Bagwich, Dungewood, Kingston, Huncheford (Blackwater), Roud and Standen (Great East Standen and West Standen).
- Other medieval manors, first recorded after the time of Domesday Book, included North Walpan (comprising farms of Pyle and Westside), Billingham, Rookley, Bridge Court, Kennerley and Bleakdown.
 - These manors do not appear to have been major holdings.
- Parts of the medieval parishes of Shorwell, Chale, Carisbrooke, Gatcombe, Arreton and Godshill fell within this Area (also a small area of Whitwell).
 - Kingston was the only medieval parish that lay entirely within this Area.
 - The church at Kingston originated as a manorial chapel, attaining parochial independence from Shorwell during the later Middle Ages.
 - Medieval chapels were also built to serve the manor houses at Great East Standen and East Appleford (Holden Farm). The former chapel at Holden Farm was being used as a barn in the early 20th century (Kökeritz 1940, 152. No remains of the chapel at Great East Standen survive.
- Birchmore, in Arreton Parish, was a hunting ground of the lords of the Island in the 13th century (Page 1912, 140), suggesting that there was uncultivated land around this holding.
- In 1441 Lewis and Alice Meux of Kingston Manor were granted free warren for deer and coneys (rabbits) in Kingston and Shorwell and licence to enclose 300 acres of wood and pasture there (Page 1912, 250), presumably for a deer park.
 - The place-name of Warren Hill lies within the medieval Kingston Parish to the south-west of the manor house. .
 - The '300 acres of wood and pasture' mentioned in the licence of 1441 suggests a larger area of woodland around Kingston than the present Kingston Copse.
 - However, the existing copse may be of post-medieval origin, as fish ponds of possible medieval date suggest that the site was not wooded at that time.
- Relatively little evidence for *nucleated* settlement of medieval origin.
 - In 1793 Kingston consisted simply of the manor house, associated farm buildings and the church, although it is possible that it may have had more buildings in medieval times.
 - Rookley appears to have developed as a *green-edge settlement* close to the medieval manor farm. Eight buildings are shown on the OS 1793 map beside the road from Bleak Down, close to the junction with the highway to Godshill. Further scatters of cottages are shown to the south of the main settlement. A Methodist chapel was built at Rookley in the 19th century.
 - Blackwater is shown as a very small settlement on the 1793 map, comprising only four buildings on the road to Rookley with one or two outlying farmsteads and other buildings. A Methodist chapel was built in the 19th century.
 - Roud is a tiny hamlet of scattered farmsteads with a 19th century Baptist chapel and a few other buildings. It appears to have been more significant in medieval times, suffering *depopulation* in or after the 14th century (Hockey 1982, 147).
- A *dispersed settlement pattern* of widely scattered farmsteads and a few minor hamlets may have characterised this Area in the Middle Ages and certainly did so by 1793.
- The *dispersed settlements* in this Area may have exploited the landscape mainly as an extensive grazing resource in the Middle Ages.
 - For instance, near Rookley there was Lake Common, Kennerley Heath and Bleakdown Common. The Chequers Inn stood at the northern edge of Bleakdown Common.
 - The OS 1793 map shows fairly large areas of rough grazing still occupying the gravel ridges of Bleak Down and St George's Down.
 - Straight field boundaries shown on the 1793 map in some parts of this Area suggest the enclosure of land from rough grazing or heathland at a fairly recent date, possibly during the 18th century.

- A limited amount of *morphological*, documentary or map evidence for medieval *open-field* farming has been identified.
 - HLC suggests the former presence of *open-field* to the south of Newport.
 - A study of documentary sources for the Rookley area has indicated the former existence of some *open-field* in that locality (IWCAHES 2006).
 - Another area of medieval *open-field* appears to have lain to the east of Roud and had been enclosed into small strip-shaped fields by 1793.
 - Field patterns to the west of Chale Street may be derived from enclosed *open-field*.
- A Parliamentary Award of 1860 provides evidence for large-scale re-organisation of holdings and rationalisation of field boundaries among large landowners in the Appleford area (Adams 1960, 221).
 - Many fields were *amalgamated* or *reorganised* on a more piecemeal basis throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.
 - There was widespread loss of field boundaries due to enlargement of fields in 20th century.
- The valleys of the Medina and the Eastern Yar may have been largely cleared of woodland in prehistoric times.
 - In medieval times the valley-floor land may have been used mainly as pasture or hay meadow, although the historic land use of this HEAP Type has not yet been researched.
 - The OS 1793 map shows only isolated pockets of woodland in the Eastern Yar Valley and much of the Medina Valley, with a slightly greater concentration of woodland around Gatcombe.
 - On the 1793 map rough grazing or grazing marsh is indicated by stippling in the area of 'The Wilderness' (upper Medina Valley) but lateral watercourses suggest that some attempt had been made to drain the land.
 - The Yar Valley and the Medina Valley around Blackwater are both shaded green without stippling on the 1793 map, suggesting that these areas provided better quality pasture land than that of 'The Wilderness'.
 - The tithe schedules of c. 1840 include various references to *withy beds* and to *moors* in the valley-floor land of the Medina and Yar. Withy beds were managed to supply basket-making materials. Moor was a dialect word for damp pasture.
 - *Secondary woodland* became established in the Medina Valley to the east of Gatcombe and in the Yar Valley to the west of Godshill, mainly during the 20th century.
- Various historic water-mills are known from this Area.
 - Domesday Book records a mill at Gatcombe, another at Huncheford (now known as Blackwater) and seven within Shide Manor, although only one of the Shide Mills (Upper Shide) fell within this Area. (Basford, 1980, 152).
 - Southford Mill, Ford Mill and Bridgecourt Mill, in Godshill Parish, are mentioned in 16th century documents (IWCRO).
- All these mills are shown on the OS 1793 map and the OS 25" 1909 map.
- The Newport – Godshill Road (now the A3020) is shown on the OS 1793 map but straight sections of road at Blackwater Hollow and north west of Godshill at Bow Bridge (still apparent on modern maps) suggest 18th century realignments, possibly in connection with the enclosure of open land.
 - The road from Blackwater to Crouchers Cross (now the A3056) is indicated on the 1793 map but does not appear to have been a major route at that time. Burnt House Lane and the track over St Georges Down (now the 'Bembridge Trail') may have been the main routes between Newport and Arreton.
 - Around Bleak Down roads seem to have developed as tracks along *funnel entrances* to the common.
 - One route, shown on the 1793 map as leading onto and defining the southern edge of Bleak Down, is now known as 'Beacon Alley'. This name is thought by Mills (1996, 26) to be a reference to the site of a beacon, perhaps on Bleak Down but the site is not mentioned in the beacon lists of 1324 and 1638 (Kökeritz 1940, lxxvii-lxxx).

- The road from Presford Farm to Kingston is shown on the 1793 map as a track across heathland. 'Bucks Barn' is shown close to the road on the 1793 map and may have been a farmstead established to clear and enclose rough land in this area.
- The railway line from Newport to Sandown was constructed between 1875 and 1879 and ran through this Area between Shide and Merstone.
 - The railway line between Merstone and Ventnor was constructed between 1897 and 1900 and ran partly through this Area between Merstone and Ford Farm.
- A County Lunatic Asylum was built in a rural setting at Whitecroft in 1894-6.
 - The site of the asylum lay mainly within an outlying portion of Carisbrooke Parish.
 - The asylum was closed in the late 20th century and private housing is now being built within the grounds.
- Gravel working took place at Bleak Down in the early 20th century.
 - The site of the gravel works has subsequently been used for landfill.
- Small-scale gravel pits around St George's Down are marked on 19th century maps
 - Large-scale extraction on St Georges Down started in the 20th century and continues at the present day.
- The golf course on St George's Down is of early 20th century origin but position of golf course has moved as gravel extraction has proceeded.
- Railways closed in the 1950s.
 - Within the last few years the Newport-Sandown cycle track has been constructed, largely on the former railway line.
 - The cycle track lies within this Area between Shide and Merstone.
- Late 20th century residential development in Rookley and on north-western edge of Godshill (outside the *historic settlement core* of Godshill which falls within the *South Wight Downland Edge Area*).
 - Blackwater remains a small settlement although it does contain some modern buildings.
- Ponds have been excavated recently in valley-floor locations and it is presumed that these are mainly for agricultural use, although some could be for fishing.

Archaeology and Built Environment (details in HER)

- Few earthworks within this area, possibly because of intensive arable agriculture in the fairly recent past. However, other archaeological evidence suggests substantial prehistoric activity.
 - Palaeolithic flint assemblage from Bleak Down.
 - Neolithic and Bronze Age flint assemblages, particularly from Medina Valley near Gatcombe, Whitecroft, St George's Down and Bucks Farm.
 - Crop- marks and soil- marks visible on air photographs, probably in greater density than for any other HEAP Area except Thorley/Wellow Plain.
 - A ploughed round barrow at Mount Joy, on chalk soil close to boundary with *West Wight Chalk Downland Area*, was excavated in 1980.
 - Analysis of valley sediments and peats of the River Medina has produced a full pollen and stratigraphical sequence for late glacial and post-glacial vegetation (Scaife 1987).
- Roman material found to the south of Newport indicates the existence of a Roman building, possibly a corn-drying kiln or hypocaust.
- Fishponds of possible medieval date within Kingston Copse, indicating that the copse, although classified as *ancient woodland* is of post-medieval date.
- Kingston Church is probably the only surviving medieval building within the Area, dating from the 13th century with 19th century restoration.
 - The church became redundant in 1985 and has been converted to a private house (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 159).
- 17th and 18th century buildings include large houses such as Kingston, Billingham, Great East Standen, Standen House and Pidford as well as more modest farmhouses and cottages.

- Millers' houses at Blackwater and Upper Shide are in residential use but Gatcombe Mill is a ruin.
 - The mill pond still survives at Blackwater Mill
- The former Asylum at Whitecroft has a water tower of 1898-1902 with clock turret. This feature has been retained in the redevelopment of the site and is now a listed building.
 - The Conservation Area at Whitecroft is characterised by the robust and imposing Victorian buildings of the former hospital. The buildings are set within landscaped grounds which are contained by mature trees adding to the sense of isolation. The group is dominated by the central clock tower which also acts as a local landmark.

Relationships with other HEAP Areas

- This Area can be clearly distinguished from the *South-West Wight Coastal Zone* in terms of *field pattern morphology* both on modern maps and air photographs and on the OS 1793 map.
 - The field patterns in the *South-West Wight Coastal Zone* are mainly derived from *open-field*.
 - The field patterns in the *South Wight Sandstone and Gravel* HEAP Area are mainly derived from enclosed heath, common or waste.
 - Both sets of field patterns have been subjected to amalgamation and reorganisation in the 19th and 20th century but a difference in field pattern morphology remains.
- Settlement occurs at the interface between this HEAP Area, the *West Wight Downland Edge and Sandstone Ridge* and the *South Wight Downland Edge*, enabling these settlements to exploit resources from different HEAP Areas.

Time-Depth

- Prehistoric flint assemblages, crop marks, and palaeo-botanical material from the river valley peats provide evidence of prehistoric activity.
- The *dispersed settlement pattern* probably dates from medieval times with some manorial centres known to exist by the time of Domesday Book (1086).
- The pattern of roads and tracks is closely associated with the settlement pattern and is likely to be of a similar age, although some individual routes may be of more recent date.
 - Many Rights of Way marked on the Isle of Wight Council's Definitive Map (2000) are also shown on the OS 1793 map but may be much more ancient.
 - However, some Rights of Way have been created in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- The boundaries of medieval parishes have quite often survived as boundaries of modern civil parishes although there are many differences between the modern civil parishes and the medieval parishes.
 - These boundaries may run along existing roads and field boundaries or along natural features such as streams.
- Field patterns within this Area do not generally appear to be very old, many exhibiting straight field boundaries, although the overall field patterns are often not very *regular* in form.
 - Relatively few appear to have been enclosed from medieval open fields.
 - Many field patterns appear to have originated either in 18th and 19th century enclosure of open grazing land (including heathland) or in 19th and 20th century *amalgamation* and *reorganisation* of existing field patterns.
 - However, there are also patches of smaller, irregular field patterns which probably pre-date the 18th century.
- The use of valley-floor land for grazing marsh and pasture is of ancient origin although it is difficult to date existing valley-floor enclosures without further work.
 - Much of the existing valley-floor woodland is relatively recent (19th or 20th century).
- Historic buildings in this Area date mainly from the 17th to 19th centuries.
- Routes of 19th century railway lines still survive in part.

Contribution of Historic Landscape to Present Landscape Character

- The historic *dispersed settlement pattern* of this Area forms an essential part of its present landscape character, as does the associated pattern of roads and Rights of Way.
- The present fieldscape is largely the result of post-medieval enclosure of heathland and rough open grazing, and of the reorganisation and amalgamation of these primary enclosures in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Hints of the Area's pre-enclosure character still exist, for instance the position of the Chequers Inn at the former edge of Bleak Down Common and the roads around Bleak Down which have evolved from tracks leading up to and crossing the common.
- Valley-floor land at 'The Wilderness' is still grazing marsh as shown on the 1793 map although in other valley-floor locations woodland has become established in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Woods occupy a small proportion of the overall area and there is little 'ancient woodland' but, nevertheless, woodland makes a contribution to the landscape, particularly in the Medina Valley to the east of Gatcombe.
- 17th, 18th and 19th century buildings contribute significantly to landscape character.

Values, Perceptions and Associations

- This Area does not have a distinct character and identity in the way that some other HEAP Areas do, particularly those associated with the downland or coast.
 - Nevertheless local people value the historic landscape and at Rookley it has been celebrated recently in a walks leaflet (Rookley Parish Council 2006).

Research and Documentation

- Historic Environment Record is basic resource for archaeology, built environment and historic landscape character (includes HLC layer).
- 'Kingston Church: an archaeological survey' (Basford 1988).
- 'Notes on the Historic Landscape Character of Rookley Parish' (IWCAHES 2006).
- Character Appraisal of Whitecroft Conservation Area (IWC 2004).

Amenity and Education

- This HEAP Area is one that tourists pass through on the way to other parts of the Island and it does not contain many formal tourist facilities although there is a country park at Rookley.
- However, a number of trails pass through the Area.
 - The 'Stenbury', 'Bembridge', 'Shepherds' and 'Worsley' Trails utilise historic Rights of Way and were created in the 1970s.
 - The Yar River Trail follows the Eastern Yar from source to sea and much of its southern half runs through this Area <http://www.island2000.org.uk/downloads/yarriver.pdf>
 - The Mill Trail runs from Carisbrooke and Newport out to Gatcombe, including the sites of Lower Shide Mill, Upper Shide Mill, Blackwater Mill and Gatcombe Mill. <http://www.island2000.org.uk/downloads/milltrail.pdf>
 - 'Country Walks in and around Rookley' is a local trail leaflet created by Rookley Parish Council (2006) using existing Rights of Way and drawing on HLC information.
- Part of the Newport-Sandown Cycle Track lies within this Area.
- There is Open Access land at St Georges Down and Bleak Down
- 'Shorwell Parish Landscape Character Assessment' includes the local landscape character areas of the 'Shorwell Arable Plain' and the 'Shorwell Sandstone Hills' which fall within this HEAP Area (Isle of Wight AONB 2005).

Features of Particular Significance within this HEAP Area

- Buried archaeological sites indicated on air photographs.
- Palaeo-botanical evidence from river vallays.
- Historic settlement pattern with associated roads and Rights of Way

- Post-medieval field patterns enclosed largely from heathland and open rough grazing, many having been reorganised or amalgamated in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Valley floor grazing marsh, pasture and woodland.
- Historic buildings.

VULNERABILITY

Rarity and Typicality

- No rare historic landscape components have been identified within this HEAP Area although there may be rare semi-natural habitats.
- Non-estuarine valley floor land is fairly limited within the Isle of Wight as a whole but is well represented within this HEAP Area.

Coherence

- Although this HEAP Area can be distinguished from adjacent HEAP Areas by its topography, by its relatively sparse settlement and by past and present land use it does not really have a distinctive and coherent character of its own.
- Late 20th century residential development has affected the character of Rookley (and of Godshill at the boundary with the *South Wight Downland Edge*) but has not had a great impact on the Area as a whole.

Condition and Fragility

- The character of this Area has been very greatly modified over the last few centuries by the enclosure of heathland and wet grazing land.
 - Surviving patches of heathland and wet grazing land ceased to have a viable function in the 20th century landscape and agricultural improvements have dramatically changed the character of these areas of traditionally low-intensity management, as has extensive gravel extraction on the higher heathlands.
- In recent years there has been a decrease in number of small farms with land being leased to large arable holdings.
 - This has led to subsequent neglect of farm buildings and lack of management of marginal land.
- Historic landscape character has been eroded in a piecemeal way in recent years by various actions.
 - A few non-agricultural buildings of inappropriate size and character have been constructed on former agricultural sites. These can have a disproportionate effect on historic landscape character.
 - Motor traffic has damaged the banks of historic minor roads and exacerbated natural erosion in some areas e.g. to the south of Rookley.
 - Inappropriate highway features have detracted from rural character e.g. lighting, bollards and traffic islands in Rookley.
 - Inappropriate planting of large conifers has taken place e.g. beside A3020 between Newport and Blackwater and between Rookley and Godshill.
 - Inappropriate fencing has also been erected in some locations.
 - Motor sports activity has affected landscape character at Gore, near Arreton.
- The creation of a cricket ground between Shide and Blackwater has inserted a fairly large recreational facility into the rural farmland of this Area.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Forces for Change

- Changing economic forces affecting agriculture are likely to have an impact on the historic landscape.
 - In recent years a decline in economic viability of agriculture has tended to discourage the maintenance of historic boundaries and traditional buildings
 - In the near future the growth of biofuels may change the look of the landscape and may also push up the price of wheat.
 - Higher prices for wheat may lead to renewed pressure on marginal land.
- Grant-aided woodland planting schemes may continue to be attractive to farmers and landowners in the future. Proposed schemes need careful assessment to ensure that they reinforce historic landscape character.
- This Area will continue to be important for mineral extraction.
 - A Minerals and Waste Strategy will form one of the documents of the Island Plan and will allocate land for mineral extraction.

Management Issues

- Maintenance of farmed landscape and sympathetic management of historic landscape features, hedgerows and marginal land.
- Need for sympathetic management of valley floor, reconnecting the river with the flood plain and maintaining traditional grazing marsh and pasture.
- Need to resist inappropriate non-agricultural and recreational developments away from settlements.
- Appropriate management of surviving areas of heathland.
- Need to ensure that tree and woodland planting is appropriate to historic landscape character.
- Need to conserve historic roadside banks.
- Need to ensure that highway works do not detract from rural character.
- Need to ensure that new farm reservoirs do not have negative impacts on archaeological sites or historic landscape character.
- Need for field investigation of archaeological crop marks and soil marks identified from air photographs.
- Need for further historic landscape research to investigate why this Area, which was well utilised in prehistoric times, seems to have become more peripheral in Anglo-Saxon and medieval times.
 - Field and documentary research into depopulated medieval settlement at Roud is required.
 - Further research into historical use of valley floor at The Wilderness and elsewhere is required.

Conservation Designations

- The western part of this HEAP Area is within the AONB.
- No *Scheduled Monuments* within this Area.
- The *Whitcroft Conservation Area* and part of the *Godshill Conservation Area* fall within this Area.
- 63 *Listed Buildings* within this Area, of which Billingham Manor, Kingston Manor and Standen House are Grade II*. All other listed buildings are Grade II.
- No historic parks and gardens on the *English Heritage Register*
- No historic *parks and gardens of local importance* listed in the UDP.
- There are SSSIs at Cridmore Bog and The Wilderness.
- 24 SINC's within the HEAP Area, including virtually all woodland, St George's Down, Kennerley Heath, Munsley Bog, Bohemia Bog, Bleak Down and the Upper Yar Valley.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

The Isle of Wight HEAP Objectives and Actions are set out in a separate document. These objectives and actions are generic and many of them are relevant to all HEAP Areas. Those that are most relevant to this HEAP Area are cited below.

- A12** Complete Field Patterns HEAP.
- A13** Identify field patterns of significance.
- A14** Complete Rural Settlement HEAP.
- A16** Completion of character appraisals for all existing and potential Conservation Areas, using appropriate HLC and HEAP data.
- A19** Investigate funding and potential for 'ground-truthing' of selected AP sites.
- A20** Complete Valley Floor HEAP.
- A23** Completion of HEAP for Roads, Lanes and Tracks.
- A24** Complete field survey of historic Rights of Way.
- A26** Complete HEAP for Mineral Extraction.
- A28** Complete Boundaries HEAP.
- A29** Complete Climate Change HEAP.
- A30** Investigate potential for projects to identify archaeological features within cultivated and non-cultivated land for all HEAP Areas.
- A32** Facilitate the supply of HEAP and HLC information to land managers, farm advisers, farmers and funding bodies.
- A33** Facilitate use of HLC information to assess importance of hedgerows affected by hedgerow removal notices.
- A34** Advocate protection of buried archaeological features within cultivated land.
- A35** Promote conservation of historic farm buildings.
- A36** Support maintenance of heathland and downland by appropriate grazing regimes.
- A37** Support projects for reversion of cultivated land, improved grassland or plantation woodland that will result in restoration of historic downland or heathland.
- A39** Promote the retention of significant historic field patterns.
- A40** Support traditional grazing and other appropriate management of valley floor land.
- A41** Ensure that woodland and forestry management and new tree planting does not damage archaeological features or historic landscape character
- A44** Seek effective ways to lessen damage to road banks caused by motor traffic.
- A45** Advocate maintenance of historic character of rural roads.
- A48** Promote the conservation of historic buildings and their settings where these contribute significantly to the character of HEAP Areas.
- A50** Raise awareness of the need to avoid disturbance of wetland peats likely to contain palaeo-environmental material.
- L2** Characterisation study of Isle of Wight farmsteads in relation to HEAP Areas.
- L4** Academic study of rural settlement patterns, including settlement morphology, significance of dispersed settlement and evidence of medieval desertion.
- L6** Encourage further research into valley floor land use throughout the Isle of Wight, to include use of documentary sources, map sources and fieldwork.
- L14** Encourage preparation of booklet on historic lanes and tracks.