



# Outstanding Beauty: Outstanding Heritage

AONBs and the historic environment



Our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are among the most attractive and fascinating landscapes of England and Wales. Their beauty is the result of many centuries of human influence on the countryside and the daily interaction of people with nature. The history of these outstanding landscapes is therefore fundamental to their present-day appearance and to the importance which society accords them. If these essential qualities are to be retained in the future, as the countryside continues to evolve, it is vital that the heritage of AONBs is understood and valued by those charged with their care and management, and is enjoyed and celebrated by their local communities.

## AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) were first introduced by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 in order to conserve the natural beauty of a key landscapes in England and Wales. Currently there are 36 AONBs in England, four in Wales and one shared between the two countries. Varying greatly in size and dramatically in character, they cover a combined area of 21,435km<sup>2</sup>: 13.9 % of the total land area of both countries.

While the title of AONBs stresses their *naturalness*, it is important to recognise that these are actually *cultural* landscapes, created by generations of farmers, foresters, estate owners and industrialists working with the grain of nature to shape and re-shape the lie of the land. This historic dimension is fundamental to the character of today's AONB landscapes. It underpins their distinctiveness and sense-of-place and the aesthetic and emotional response they elicit in both visitors and residents alike. This heritage is of fundamental importance to local economies, generating inward investment, facilitating local branding and attracting numerous visitors from home and abroad. It is an asset of incalculable value.

Because of this rich historic inheritance, AONBs in England and Wales are a major repository of our most important historic sites. In England and Wales, AONBs contain nearly 50,000 listed buildings, nearly 5,000 nationally important ancient monuments and over 300 designated historic parks and gardens. Eight AONBs also include parts of internationally important World Heritage Sites.

AONBs are also living and working landscapes. Caring for their exceptional heritage does not mean preserving these places 'in aspic'. Indeed, it is the evidence of archaeology that shows us how these landscapes have changed – often continually and radically – over many centuries. Further evolution is inevitable as populations shift, our climate changes and agriculture responds to global pressures.

Caring for the historic environment is therefore a matter of working with change and managing it to ensure we retain what society most values. AONB management plans, and the integrated long-term approach to land management which they promote, will be of fundamental importance in promoting a common vision for the future and delivering enhanced management of the heritage in the face of pressure for change. English Heritage and Cadw will work with AONBs, wherever possible, to help them deliver their plan objectives.

This leaflet has been produced to mark the signing of the first joint accord on the historic environment between English Heritage and Cadw – the national heritage agencies of England and Wales – and the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB).

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

This accord represents a commitment by the three organisations to work in partnership in order to promote the conservation, understanding, and public enjoyment of the heritage in AONBs. In doing so, the partners recognise that this cooperative work must extend beyond designated historic sites to embrace the historic character of the landscape as a whole.

The case studies provided in the rest of this booklet demonstrate how the three organisations, together with professional staff in individual AONBs, local communities and a wide range of partners are already working closely to secure this objective. The studies highlight a number of exemplary projects drawn from Wales and the regions of England, including survey, site and landscape management, public participation and innovative interpretation. Taken together, the case studies emphasise the complex layering of history visible – and sometimes less visible – in today's countryside and they show how the natural beauty of these landscapes has been moulded by the choices and actions of previous generations. The studies also underline the importance of heritage for education, for fostering a sense of community identity, and for the creation of local employment and prosperity.

This selection of case studies is by no means exhaustive and much excellent work is taking place in other AONBs. We hope, however, that these examples of good practice will inspire others and will, over time, become the norm in all the outstanding landscapes of England and Wales.

The joint accord can be downloaded from [www.english-heritage.org.uk/finestlandscapes](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/finestlandscapes)



Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive, English Heritage

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Thurley".

Colin Peacock, Chairman, NAAONB

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Peacock".

Tom Cassidy, Chief Executive, Cadw

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cassidy".

## CUTTING EDGE: FIELD SURVEY

Enhanced understanding aids better management and public enjoyment of the heritage. Innovative survey is the key to securing understanding.

### MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SURVEY IN THE QUANTOCKS

The historic character of the Quantock Hills is evident for all to see and enjoy. Stand by the Bronze Age cairns at the summit of Wills Neck and a special prehistoric landscape unfolds. On the western scarp of the hills lie prehistoric barrow cemeteries with huge stone cairns, platform cairns and ring cairns – places for burial and ritual used over 3,500 years ago. Look out across the coastal plain towards the sea and the countryside of the middle ages is preserved. Buildings, earthworks, field patterns and place names combine to reveal a medieval landscape of deer park, woodland, farm and field, with the manor house at its heart. Now-obsolete mill and tannery buildings along the base of the hills testify to once-thriving rural industries based on the raw materials from woods and farms and water from the hills.

The need for a comprehensive, field-based survey of the archaeology of the Quantock Hills to inform conservation and management was identified in the Quantock Hills Management Strategy for 1999. The survey work was carried out by English Heritage, with the support of the Quantock Hills AONB Service, the National Trust, Friends of Quantock and the Fairfield Estate. A combination of archaeological, landscape and geophysical survey, together with aerial photography and architectural analysis, have been used to record and better understand the archaeology and buildings which make up the fabric of the historic landscape of the Quantock Hills. That heritage is diverse, rich, and outstandingly well preserved. Our increased understanding of the historic environment has fed into many other projects: archaeologists and the AONB Service working together when sensitive areas of common are managed by burning or bracken bruising; education packs and a website for schools; guided walks and field trips to lead people into their landscape, and a trip for school children around their local motte and bailey castle. A book summarising the survey work will soon be published by English Heritage.



Hazel Riley, Archaeological Investigator, English Heritage

**1a** View of East Quantoxhead, Somerset. Photograph Hazel Riley, English Heritage

**1b** Survey work at the church and manor house, East Quantoxhead. Photograph Hazel Riley, English Heritage

**2a** Ancient field system and parish boundary earthwork in woodland at Ravenshill Nature Reserve. Photograph Worcestershire County Council

**2b** Aerial reconnaissance was an important part of the Malverns survey. Photograph NMR 14933-08 © Crown copyright.NMR

## INNOVATIVE SURVEY IN THE MALVERN HILLS

The Malvern Hills AONB is one of the smallest in the country, but also one of the most environmentally diverse. Until recently, detailed knowledge of the archaeological resource in the AONB was limited. Following a request from the AONB Joint Advisory Committee, English Heritage set up a pilot archaeological survey project covering the entire AONB. The project was supported by a diverse range of interested bodies including CPRE, the Malvern Hills Conservators, the National Trust and the local authority archaeological services in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The pilot project comprised a detailed survey of the six nationally important scheduled monuments within the AONB and a wider survey of the entire AONB landscape. The landscape survey extended beyond the boundary of the AONB and involved documentary research, field investigation and aerial survey, including aerial reconnaissance, and mapping from aerial photographs. The full results of the project will soon be published by English Heritage.

To secure the improved management of the AONB's archaeological sites and historic landscape features, the project's survey phase was linked to a second phase of management action and monitoring. This is well illustrated by a woodland survey undertaken by the local authority archaeologists as part of the wider project. Innovative rapid survey and GPS mapping techniques were developed to record evidence for the landscape history of present day woodland. A wealth of new sites has been discovered, ranging from prehistoric boundary banks and field systems to rabbit warrens, limestone quarries and charcoal burning platforms. These results are already influencing the management of woodland sites in the AONB, with owners and farmers learning about the history of their woods and how to recognise features and conserve



them for present and future generations. At Ravenshill Nature Reserve in Worcestershire, managers were amazed to learn that woodland they regarded as 'ancient' was actually cultivated in medieval times. Management practices have changed to help reveal and conserve the ridges and furrows of the medieval arable field. Intensive coppicing allows the features to be seen on the ground, while a thick oak canopy is being encouraged to suppress brambles and scrub. Schoolchildren visiting the Reserve can now learn about the change from arable land to woodland, how it came about, and why.

Jeremy Bretherton, Historic Environment Adviser, Defra Rural Development Service

## MAPPING HERITAGE ON A SHIFTING COAST: SUFFOLK COAST & HEATHS AONB

The designated Suffolk coast is indisputably 'outstandingly beautiful', but how 'natural' is it? A *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey* undertaken by Suffolk County Council, funded by English Heritage, was partly designed to address this question but also to help plan conservation of the coastal heritage in the AONB through the 21st century.

Over the last 10,000 years, sea-level rise has inundated former land surfaces. Prehistoric artefacts indicate human occupation of areas that are now mudflat or salt marsh. The resources of the coast were increasingly exploited from the late Iron Age onwards, and saltern sites show that parts of the Alde and Blyth were then industrial in character. There are massive Anglo-Saxon fish traps in the Stour and oyster pits all around the estuaries. Post-medieval jetties – some related to industries such as brick-making – and remains of vessels (from the Covehithe Anglo-Saxon dug-out boat to the hulks of sailing barges) reflect past river transport. The coastal landscape was transformed by reclamation and embankment from the medieval period onwards, converting vast areas to grazing marsh and arable. Military structures ranged from the now-destroyed Roman fort of Walton Castle to the Cold War installations of Orford Ness.

The survey involved aerial reconnaissance, analysis of aerial photographs and historic maps, and walk-over survey of the inter-tidal zone and its hinterland in order to enhance the local authority Historic Environment Record.

Many sites are now threatened by cliff or salt marsh erosion, and some may be lost as a result of coastal management schemes, arising from shoreline and estuary management plans designed to deliver sustainable and ecologically-rich coastlines. Close collaboration between English Heritage, the Environment Agency, English Nature, the RSPB, the AONB and other bodies will help to deliver fully integrated coastal management and avoid unnecessary destruction of the evidence for the historic human activity that so fundamentally shaped the modern coast.

**3a** Historic oyster pits in the Deben Estuary. Photograph NMR 21833-08 © English Heritage.NMR

**3b** Survey in saltmarshes at Waldringfield in the Deben Estuary. Photograph Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

**4a** Farming near Silbury Hill in the Avebury World Heritage Site. Photograph 02-4408 The Countryside Agency/Ann Seth

**4b** Barn re-thatched in long straw at Ibthorpe, Test Valley, Hampshire. Photograph Hampshire County Council



## PEELING BACK THE LAYERS: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Historic Landscape Characterisation is a way of understanding the development and historic significance of the landscape as a whole.

4a



4b



### MAPPING HISTORY IN THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS

The North Wessex Downs is an ancient landscape. The archaeology is immensely rich, with many of its monuments ranking among the most impressive in Europe. However, the past is etched in every facet of the landscape – in the fields and woods, tracks and lanes, villages and hamlets – and plays a major part in defining its present-day character. Despite the huge amount of information that is now available on individual archaeological and historic sites, there is still much to be discovered about the wider cultural landscape and settlement evolution of the North Wessex Downs.

The AONB Partnership recently began an English Heritage-funded Historic Landscape Characterisation project to provide a GIS-based understanding of the historic depth of the AONB landscape. This is being carried out by a working and funding partnership between the AONB Partnership, in particular West Berkshire Council (whose archaeological team is carrying out the work) and Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire County Councils, and is due to run for 30 months. The project will cover both the whole of the AONB and the rest of West Berkshire.

English Heritage, this time through partnership with Hampshire County Council, is also carrying out a Farmstead Characterisation study that includes part of the AONB. The project is developing methods of characterising farmsteads in a way which is compatible with landscape character assessment and Historic Landscape Characterisation.

This improved understanding will help throw light on management priorities for the future, enabling key partners to identify, conserve and enhance important cultural landscapes and to enhance the management of individual sites and features which are central to the character of the area.

Richard Clarke, North Wessex Downs AONB

## COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF HISTORIC CHARACTER IN BOWLAND

The Forest of Bowland AONB is dominated by a central upland core, part of the main Pennine range, fringed by foothills and steep-sided valleys which open onto lowlands, including those of the Lune Valley. Although the AONB is sparsely populated, one million people live within 30 minutes journey time and the area is experiencing growing numbers of day visitors.

Historic Landscape Characterisation has been carried out for the whole of Lancashire, and the heritage section of the AONB management plan has drawn on this to ensure that the historic dimension of the entire landscape has been taken into account, not just specific sites of interest.

The county-level characterisation work has been taken a stage further in the Forest of Bowland and Lune Valley through a joint project between English Heritage and the Archaeology Service of Lancashire County Council. This project was one of a dozen interlinked projects in ten countries carried forward under the European Pathways to the Cultural Landscape and part-funded by the European Union Culture 2000 programme.

An important element of the project was to promote greater understanding and engagement by local communities in the historic aspects of their landscape. This has involved gathering community perceptions and opinion on the landscape by means of a postal questionnaire, interview surveys and public meetings. Alongside the physical aspects of the landscape, the project attempted to address the myth and folklore of the area, providing an alternative insight into how communities have experienced and interpreted the landscape in the past. The project has led to a dedicated website allowing the public to experience the historic landscape of the Forest of Bowland and Lune Valley by means of a series of Quick Time Virtual Reality 360 degree panoramas ([www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/heritage/project.asp](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/heritage/project.asp)). Other results include a series of landscape reconstruction paintings, a 3D reconstruction of Castle Stede Motte and Bailey Castle in the medieval period and modern day using computer game software, and a self-guided trail of the Abbeystead area.

**5a & 5b** Condition of boundary features is a major factor in the local character of the Forest of Bowland AONB. Photographs © Lancashire County Council

**6a & 6b & 6c** Chapels are an important aspect of character in the North Pennines AONB. (6a) Allendale Primitive Methodist Chapel, (6b) Easter House, Keenley Wesleyan Chapel. Photographs Peter Ryder



## A SENSE OF PLACE: BUILDINGS, PARKS AND GARDENS

Historic buildings and designed landscapes are fundamental to local character and community identity.



### THE HERITAGE OF NON-CONFORMITY IN THE NORTH PENNINES

In the summer of 2003, English Heritage published a study on the non-conformist chapels and meeting houses in the Durham area of the North Pennines AONB. This is one of a series of studies that take a comprehensive look at the built heritage of nonconformity in the Northern Pennines and follows reports on the chapels and meeting houses within the Northumberland and Cumbria sections of the AONB, as well as Lower Weardale outside the AONB.

Waves of religious revival and consequent social change had a major effect on society and architecture in the North Pennines throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. In the area of this study, this effect is seen predominantly in the context of the growth of the two great strands of Methodism: Wesleyan, beginning in the mid 18th century, and Primitive, beginning in the early decades of the 19th century. The influence of these movements is seen both in the buildings of the area and in social attitudes and traditions that still persist.

The future of many rural places of worship is uncertain, and the study will be a useful tool in helping the AONB's local authorities develop strategies and action plans as well as facilitating sympathetic repairs and restoration work aimed at retaining some of the unique character of the North East.

Helen Chimmiri-Russell, North East Policy Officer,  
English Heritage

## DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN THE HOWARDIAN HILLS

The Howardian Hills AONB occupies a clearly defined range of hills from the Vale of York in the west to the Vale of Pickering in the east. To the north it is bounded by the uplands of the North York Moors and the Cleveland Hills, and to the south east by the Yorkshire Wolds. Along with the extensive and varied woodland cover, the area is characterised by the large extent of designed landscapes that have a dramatic effect upon the landscape of the AONB.

Many features associated with these designed landscapes are now at a stage where damaging change is becoming significant, and there is a growing need for appropriate management action to conserve and enhance the key characteristics of these special places. At Castle Howard, the most extensive designed landscape in the AONB, there are planned vistas stretching for miles across the landscape with designed focal points and monuments placed at key points. Estate woodland, scattered copses and mature hedgerows break up and define the landscape and help to give a well-wooded feel to the gently rolling landscape.

By working in partnership and focusing on our respective strengths, the work of English Heritage and the AONB is complementary. Archaeological survey of the AONB, which included lost elements of designed landscapes, was completed by English Heritage staff in the 1990s and has informed the AONB management plan. More recently, English Heritage grant-aid has been focused on the built elements of designed landscapes, such as the monument to the seventh Earl of Carlisle and the Castle Howard Obelisk, while the AONB team has focused on wider landscape character by restoring hedgerows and managing woodland.

**7a & 7b** Designed landscapes are a dominant feature in the Howardian Hills AONB. Photographs: Castle Howard. NMR 12327-34 and NMR 17721-03 © English Heritage. NMR

**8a & 8b** Remains of former medieval villages surviving in pockets of grassland at (8a) Orford and (8b) North Cadeby. Photographs NMR 12184-24 and NMR 12435-22 © Crown copyright. NMR



## GETTING DOWN TO EARTH: HANDS-ON MANAGEMENT

Enhanced management of sites and landscapes is the key to their long-term conservation and public enjoyment.



8a

### MONUMENTS AT RISK SURVEY IN THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, characterised by an area of chalk upland, predominantly under intensive arable cultivation, cut by steep valleys with surviving pockets of old grassland, has a wealth of archaeological and historic landscape features. There is longevity of settlement which makes the Wolds a premier archaeological landscape. By the Neolithic period, the Wolds had become a cultural focal point, attested by an exceptional ritual landscape, including a nationally important concentration of long barrows. The area was one of the most densely populated parts of England in early medieval times, now represented by the survival of medieval settlement remains as earthworks in pockets of grassland in an otherwise arable landscape.

One of the key aims of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan is to protect and enhance historic features within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage. The national *Scheduled Monuments at Risk* project – completed first by English Heritage in the East Midlands Region – has assessed 51% of the 92 scheduled monuments in the AONB as being at high risk, principally as a result of arable cultivation.

A follow-up project, *Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation (COSMIC)*, jointly funded by English Heritage and Defra, is delivering a more detailed assessment of risk and management proposals for archaeological sites under arable cultivation in the region. The project includes fieldwork on scheduled monuments and other important archaeological sites in the Wolds to assess the condition of buried archaeology. To capitalise on the information provided by *Scheduled Monuments at Risk* and *COSMIC*, a specialist sub-group is being set up by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, with English Heritage and local authority archaeologists as key partners. This group will drive forward actions to improve the management of the nationally important archaeological remains which form an essential part of the character and heritage of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.



8b

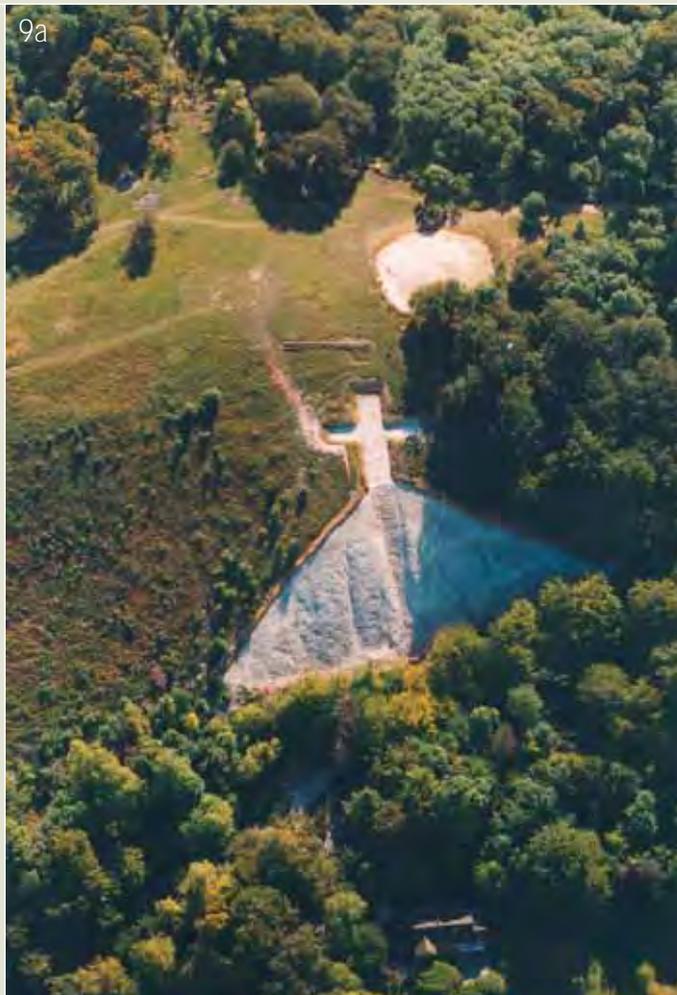
Kate Fearn, Designation Team, English Heritage

## WHITELEAF HILL RESTORATION PROJECT

The origin of Whiteleaf Cross, first mentioned in an antiquarian account from 1742, is the focus for much local debate and discussion within the Chilterns AONB. The cut chalk symbol, a nationally important Scheduled Monument, stands on a hillside above the market town of Princes Risborough, in Buckinghamshire, at the heart of a Local Nature Reserve managed by the County Council. Community concern over the deterioration of this well loved feature, a desire to understand more fully the complex archaeology of the site, and the need for ecological and access improvements have been the driving forces behind the project.

The work aims to restore the chalk cross as a stable and visible monument; recreate a large area of once open chalk downland; map, identify and record known and newly discovered archaeological features; improve access facilities and local participation; and increase public awareness and understanding of the rich ecological and historic environment. The project is run as a partnership with English Heritage, the local Town Council and Countryside Group, English Nature, the Chilterns Conservation Board and local people, with generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Onyx Environmental Trust, Buckinghamshire County Council, Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd and assorted local organisations. Allied to the restoration work is the Whiteleaf Community Archaeology Programme, which uses local volunteer effort in more extensive archaeological surveys on both Whiteleaf Hill and its neighbouring reserve at Brush Hill.

The on-site works are nearing completion, but the challenge still remains to encapsulate knowledge gained through the various surveys, and a wealth of local cultural history, into a series of educational and interpretive media – no mean task considering the sheer size of our new understanding and the high expectations of local people. All involved look forward to a quiet day when they can stand above a dazzling white cross in a sea of chalkland flowers, and look far across the Vale below.



**9a** Whiteleaf Cross Scheduled Monument. Photograph NMR 23542-37 © English Heritage.NMR

**9b** Community involvement: an important part of the restoration project. Photograph Buckinghamshire County Council

**10a** Bruising bracken to improve archaeological site management. Photograph R Law-Cooper

**10b** Iron Age site at Bulwark Camp. Photograph Crown Copyright: RCAHMW

10a



10b



## OUR COMMON INHERITANCE IN THE GOWER PENINSULA

One of the characteristic features of the Gower Peninsula in South Wales is its patchwork of commons. In summer, these become covered with a deep growth of bracken and gorse, which hides a large number of well-preserved archaeological sites and is steadily choking out the distinctive heathland. The Gower Commons Initiative was set up in 2000 as a partnership between the commons owners (including the National Trust), the registered graziers and the City and County of Swansea who run the AONB office. It is funded by a five-year grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the project officer is based in the National Trust's regional office.

The project's main activity is to undertake bracken control in an ecological and sustainable way. Research on sites in Dartmoor has shown how destructive the rhizomes of bracken can be. The method employed on Gower uses a machine that looks like a gang mower with blunted blades. This bruises the growing fronds and over successive years, the bracken has been dramatically reduced in height and density, allowing the less vigorous plants to regain their foothold. It is now viable to graze these areas again.

Several important archaeological sites, including the complex of three Iron Age camps on Hardings Down and the multivallate hillfort, the Bulwark, have benefited enormously, and the work has been monitored by Cadw. The project includes archaeological surveying of the cleared areas by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. The Trust has identified three Bronze Age barrows – Hardings Down – and discovered two prehistoric hut groups and two medieval long houses – Ryer's Down: site types which rarely survive in lowland Glamorgan.

Sion Brackenbury, Project Officer, Gower AONB  
([sion.brackenbury@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:sion.brackenbury@swansea.gov.uk))

## OUTREACH AND ENJOYMENT: ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

The heritage is an important asset for engaging local communities, sustaining tourism and creating employment.

11



### BACK FROM THE BRINK: A HERITAGE ASSET ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Isle of Wight AONB covers 50% of the Island's surface and is vital to its green tourism economy. Brading Roman Villa lies near the eastern tip, where a great natural inlet, Brading Haven, once offered shelter to Roman ships. A publicly accessible Roman Villa in a picturesque and surprisingly little-altered rural and maritime landscape is a cultural and economic treasure for an island now heavily dependent on cultural tourism.

The sea, the shore, the sheep-cropped downland and the fertile vale were all fully exploited by the villa owners of the 4th century. Their beautiful mosaic floors are a stone picture gallery of classical figures engaged in land-use activities of the time: ploughing, shepherding, vine-growing and oyster fishing. All of these ancient practices persist on the Island today.

By the 1990s, the Edwardian building sheltering the Roman villa had become unsafe, imminently endangering the survival of the Roman remains. The villa Trustees, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have acted together to safeguard the villa by

replacing its ageing cover building. Designing a new structure to do justice to a sensitive location within the AONB was a considerable challenge. The new grass-roofed building does justice to its 4th century predecessor as well as the surrounding landscape. Since the new building opened in August 2004, visitor numbers have exceeded 20,000. The centre is open throughout the year, and the Trust provides 11 jobs in an area where new employment opportunities are scarce.

The villa's Trustees have adopted their own management plan that seeks to monitor and preserve the rural landscape 'to the full horizon around the villa', fully supporting the Island's AONB Management Plan, which seeks '...to raise awareness of the importance of the historic environment, to learn more about its contribution to landscape through research and monitoring, and ensure that it is always considered and respected, protected and enhanced whenever there are proposals for development or other change within the AONB.'

David Tomalin, Trustees Brading Roman Villa

11 Imaginative design in the sensitive landscape setting of the Isle of Wight AONB. Photograph Brading Roman Villa

12a & 12b A heritage trail and interpretation panels enhance visitor access to the mining heritage of Greenhow. Photographs Nidderdale AONB

12a



12b



## THE MINING HERITAGE OF NIDDERDALE

The Nidderdale AONB successfully secured a major Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) grant from English Heritage, acting on behalf of Defra, for a survey project based in Greenhow. This area is dominated by the presence of Coldstones Quarry, an active limestone extraction site for which a license is currently being sought for permission to extend the quarry workings.

The character of Greenhow village and its surrounding landscape has been shaped by its industrial past. The settlement developed as the mines and nearby lime-burning industry were established during the 1600s. However, two finds of lead ingots bearing Roman inscriptions suggest a much earlier origin for the site and a nationally significant history.

Aerial survey as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme carried out in the 1990s revealed extensive and dramatic mining heritage in the Greenhow area. Despite this, the majority of archaeological features in the area remained unrecorded on the ground until now. The ALSF project involves a full survey to assess the extent of mining remains. It also identifies sites at risk and those which would benefit from statutory protection or consolidation work. The results of the survey are being used to inform further work that will focus on the consolidation and repair of specific features.

An industrial heritage trail has been created to help local people and visitors interpret and understand the landscape. The trail has been designed to have a nine-mile and five-mile loop. A series of interpretation boards along the route help to explain the history of the landscape. An accompanying leaflet with route map and key information has been produced and is available in local shops and tourist information centres. A series of exhibitions has also been held to promote the archaeological research and creation of the industrial heritage trail. In addition, slide shows and guided walks around the trail, led by an archaeologist, have been very well supported.

A second information leaflet aimed at local landowners has been produced to raise awareness about the need to protect and care for industrial archaeology on their land. The leaflet explains what industrial archaeology is, its importance, what may threaten the remains and how simple measures can be taken to protect it.

Paul Burgess and Sarah Kettlewell, Nidderdale AONB

**Cadw** is the historic environment agency of the Welsh Assembly Government with responsibility for protecting, conserving and promoting the Welsh historic environment. For more information, please see [www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)

**English Heritage** is the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment.

Our role is to champion and care for the historic environment which we do by:

- improving understanding of the past through research and study
- providing conservation grants, advisory and education services
- identifying and helping to protect buildings and archaeological sites of national importance
- maintaining over 400 historic properties and making them accessible to the broadest possible public audience
- maintaining the National Monuments Record as the central publicly accessible archive for the historic environment in England.

For more information, please see [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Further information on all English Heritage surveys and collections of aerial photographs relating to AONBs and other parts of the country can be found at the NMR at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr)

**The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB)** is an independent organisation that represents the interests of the 41 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales. For more information, please see [www.aonb.org.uk](http://www.aonb.org.uk), which has links to the individual AONB websites.

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