



An introduction to the
HEAP

*The Isle of Wight
Historic Environment
Action Plan*



The historic environ

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

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

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

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

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



Pictured: A selection of historic landscape types on the Isle of Wight



ment...

The Island's historic environment encompasses a wide range of historic landscapes, built environments and archaeological sites.



Early Bronze Age Barrows on Brook Down



Locally distinctive buildings in Brighstone (*above*) and Hulverstone (*below*)



Stone Age 'Longstone'



The medieval St Catherine's Lighthouse



Introducing the HEAP



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

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

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

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

It promotes the conservation of historic environment

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

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

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

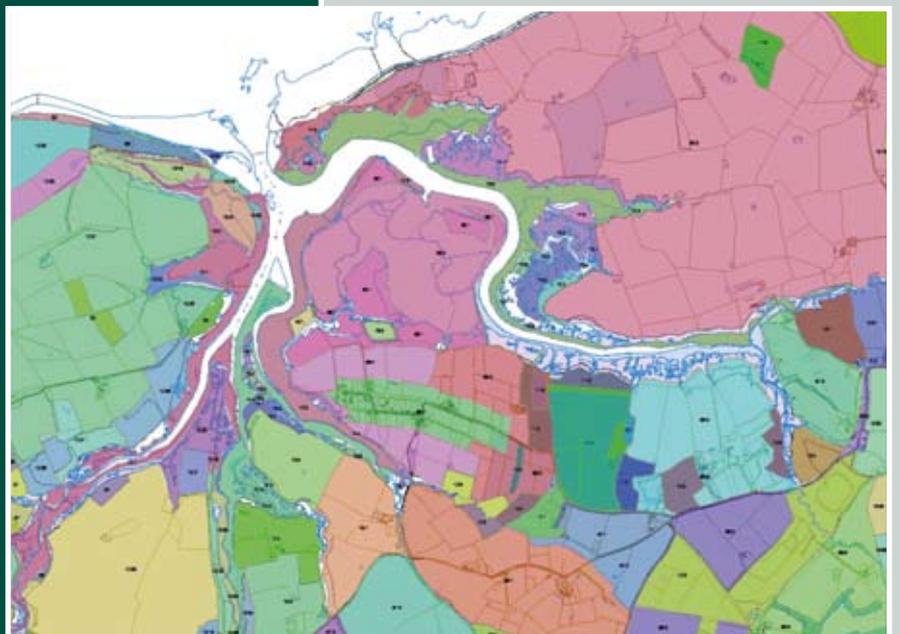
Left: Newport, a medieval planned town with a historic street plan and fine 18th and 19th century buildings, is now undergoing rapid change.

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



Right: Extract from HLC map showing historic landscape types around Newtown including field patterns, the distinctive shape of the medieval borough and reclaimed marsh to the north.

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



The Isle of Wight HEAP has been prepared by the Isle of Wight county archaeology and historic environment service in partnership with organisations involved in conserving, managing and studying the Island's historic and natural environment.

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

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

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

Acting in partnership



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



p to manage change

Main picture:
Arable cultivation
near Arreton

Right: Shorwell
parish landscape
character
assessment



How to use the Is

The Historic Environment Action Plan includes the following documents:

- Isle of Wight Historic Environment Overview**
- HEAP Aims, Objectives and Actions**
- 15 HEAP Area plans**

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

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

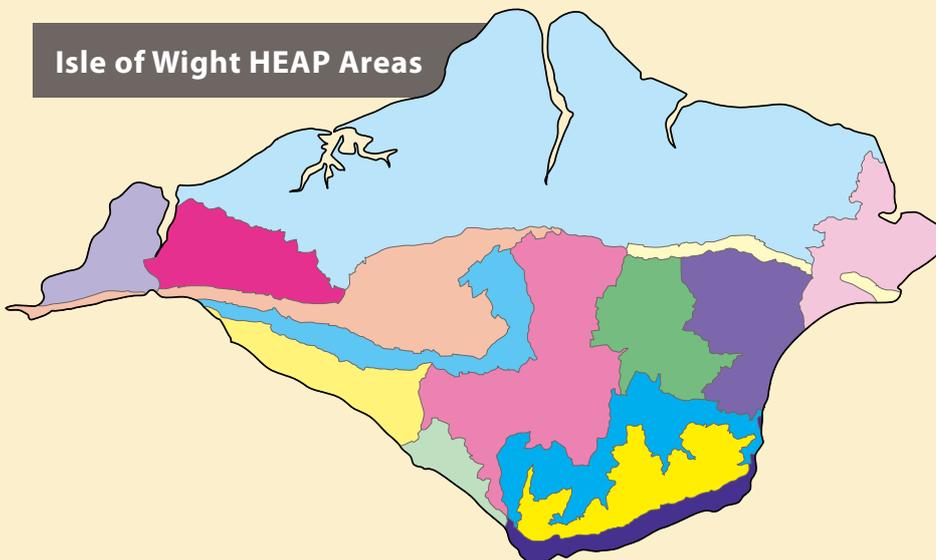
Each HEAP area is discussed in a separate document that identifies historic landscape types and components, historic processes, condition, fragility, forces for change and management issues.

In the next five years it is hoped to produce additional HEAP documents for historic landscape types including field patterns, open land, woodland, valley floor, coastal land, settlements, recreation and tourism, parks and gardens, military sites, roads and tracks and industry.

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



Isle of Wight HEAP Areas



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

le of Wight HEAP



Views showing some of the Island's varied HEAP areas

Taking the HEAP forward

Over the next five years the HEAP Steering Group will oversee delivery of the HEAP actions. Work will be initiated to identify, record and characterise historic landscape types, to conserve and enhance the historic environment and to promote public awareness, access and enjoyment.

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

Benefits of the HEAP

The Historic Environment Action Plan will:

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

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





Looking after the Island's historic environment



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



Main picture: Isle of Wight Council archaeologists teaching Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society members to record historic boat remains in the inter-tidal zone at Ryde.

Bottom left: County Archaeology and Historic Environment Centre – a Victorian school building of historic interest

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



The county archaeology and historic environment service:

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

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

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

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

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



The Portable Antiquities

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





Enjoy and learn about the Island's historic environment

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

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

Getting involved with the historic environment



Help with sustainable management

Some schemes can assist with the management of heritage assets.

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

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

Below: School children learning excavation skills with the the county archaeologist.



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

Further information about the Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan can be found at www.wildonwight.co.uk

The county archaeology and historic environment service is located at:

61 Clatterford Road, Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1NZ

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

HEAP Steering Group Members

Isle of Wight Council departments:

Archaeology and historic environment service

www.iwight.com/archaeology

Conservation and design team

www.iwight.com/living_here/conservation_and_design

Countryside section

www.iwight.com/countryside

Planning services development team

www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/development_control

Rights of way section

www.iwight.com/living_here/environment/rights_of_way

Isle of Wight record office

www.iwight.com/library/record_office

Dinosaur Isle

www.dinosaurisle.com

Eco Island

www.eco-island.org.uk

Isle of Wight AONB Partnership

www.wightaonb.org.uk

Country Land and Business Association

www.cla.org.uk

English Heritage Characterisation Team

www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage Historic Environment Field Adviser

www.english-heritage.org.uk

(Hampshire and IW)

Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Forestry Commission

www.forestry.gov.uk

Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology

www.hwtma.org.uk

Island 2000

www.island2000.org.uk

Island History Forum

local.studies@iow.gov.uk

Isle of Wight Economic Partnership

www.iwep.com

Isle of Wight Gardens Trust

www.gardenstrusts.org.uk

Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society

www.iwnhas.org

Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society

www.iwias.org.uk

National Trust

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Natural England

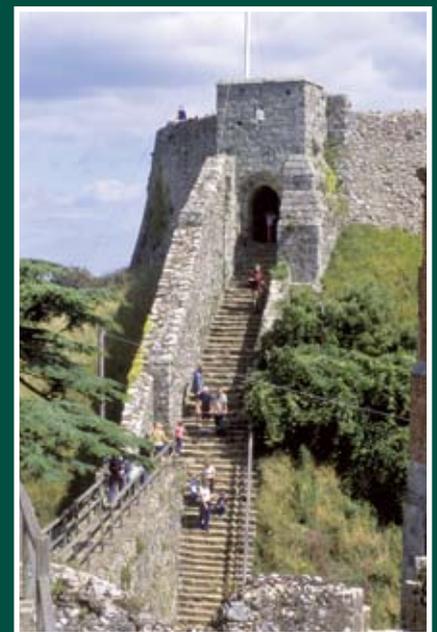
www.naturalengland.org.uk

Wight Conservation

www.wightconservation.co.uk

Wight Wildlife

www.hwt.org.uk



Acknowledgements

The publishers would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for the use of photographs:

Isle of Wight AONB Partnership, Centre for the Coastal Environment, Natural England – Joe Low, Mike Cotterill and Colin Pope

