Historic Environment Audit

of the

West Wight Landscape Partnership Area
Isle of Wight

Produced by the
Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service,
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1.0 The archaeological background:

The Historic Environment is a collective name for all of the archaeological remains, structures, buildings and buried deposits which survive from any period of our human past. This section describes the general archaeological development of the entire Isle of Wight which forms the context of the remains to be found in the West Wight.

The Isle of Wight was first inhabited around half a million years ago in the Palaeolithic period, when its landmass was still attached to Europe and Britain. The first islanders were hunter-gatherers who visited during the warmer spells between the Ice Ages and who have left behind their worked flint tools in and around the river valleys where they followed and hunted the seasonal herds and collected nuts, plants, fish and other foods from the heavily forested landscape.

The final separation of the Isle of Wight occurred around 10,000 years ago, during the Mesolithic period, when the Solent River was drowned by sea level rise. Important remains dating to the Mesolithic period, such as hearths, stone tools and environmental deposits survive in submerged river estuaries and along the south coast of the Island.

Farming was introduced to the Island around 5000 years ago in the Neolithic period. This allowed the local people to build permanent settlements for the first time and they also built communal funerary monuments. The beginning of the clearance of much of the ancient forest dates to this period as farming communities established new ways of growing crops and farming animals.

Around 2500BC, the use of bronze was introduced and bronze axes and weapons became so important that the period is called the Bronze Age. The effects of Bronze Age communities interactions with the natural environment can clearly be seen today, such as the later Bronze Age construction of wooden fish traps on the beaches or the communal building of burial mound cemeteries along the Island's central chalk ridge designed to provide a ceremonial aspect to the landscape

The development from bronze to the use of iron working technology has led to the next archaeological period being known as the Iron Age. This dates to about 800 BC to the coming of the Romans. Iron Age communities farmed the Island's landscape and the remains of their field systems and enclosures still survive as earthworks. Settlement sites and imported finds show that our Iron Age tribal society took part in trade with their neighbours in mainland Britain and in Europe.

The Roman Conquest of Britain in AD43 saw the building of several Roman villas along the central chalk downs. It is likely that they controlled the production and trade in products such as wool, corn, pottery and building stone.

By the end of the 4th Century AD, the Roman control in Britain has collapsed and the subsequent settlement of Germanic peoples resulted in the distinctive settlements and cemeteries of the Anglo-Saxons. Gradually a dispersed pattern of self-sufficient farmsteads developed into the network of 101 settlements which are mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

During medieval times, the Island was a fairly isolated rural community which was controlled by the occupants of Carisbrooke Castle. Its landscape developed into a complicated pattern of nucleated villages, scattered hamlets and single farmsteads which grew up within the medieval parishes and manors. Many of these were depopulated during the environmental and social crises of 14th and 15th centuries. Medieval planned towns were also laid out at Newport, Yarmouth and Newtown, but none seem to have prospered.

The Island's geographical position gave it political and military significance in the 16th century as Henry VIII built coastal defences in response to French invasion threats.

Towns grew up at Cowes and Ryde in the 17th and 18th Centuries, but it was during the early 19th century that the Island became popular with tourists and the development of towns at Ventnor and Shanklin. The construction of the railways, later in the century, brought the development of Sandown and other seaside towns as well as the laying out of many landscaped historic parks and gardens.

Shipbuilding made Cowes into the Island's only industrial town during the 19th Century and increased military activities saw the creation of a wealth of military archaeology dating mainly from the 1850's and 1860's, but with additions and modifications during the First and Second World Wars.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Geographic area:

This Heritage Audit was carried out to identify known surviving archaeological sites, deposits, monuments and landscapes within the 117.8 square kilometres of land covered by the West Wight Landscape Partnership. This includes the electoral wards of Brighstone and Calbourne; Freshwater Afton; Freshwater Norton; Shalfleet and Yarmouth; Totland.

Figure 1: The area of the WWLP

2.2 Information sources:

This desk based Heritage Audit has collated the information held by the following sources:

- The Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record, which is the definitive database of known archaeological remains and is held by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service at the County Archaeology Centre, 61 Clatterford Road, Carisbrooke.
- English Heritage's Extensive Urban Survey of small towns of England – coverage for the Isle of Wight;
- The Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation Project;
- Unpublished information from local antiquarian journals;
- Unpublished information from local amateur archaeologists;
- Unpublished aerial photographs and other sources.

2.3 Archaeological Periods and dating:

The archaeological remains are grouped by period in order to allow chronological sense to be made of the development of the landscape through time. The following period terms are used throughout the Audit:

Palaeolithic – 450,000 to 10,000 BC;
Mesolithic – 10,000 BC to 45,000 BC;
Neolithic – 4500 BC to 2000 BC;
Bronze Age – 2500 BC to 700 BC;
Iron Age – 800 BC to AD 43;
Roman – 43 AD to 410 AD;
Saxon – 400 AD to 1066 AD;
Medieval – 1066 AD to 1485 AD;
Post Medieval – 1485 AD to 1800 AD
Modern – 1800 AD to 2006 AD

2.4 Nature of the Archaeological remains:

Archaeological remains range from single finds, such as a prehistoric flint tool or Roman coin, to our town, village and isolated farm settlements, from the standing structures and buildings, from Carisbrooke Castle to the Longstone or Victorian buildings, from buried deposits beneath our modern streets and fields to the eroding layers of palaeo-environmental material in the cliff edges around our coastline. For the purposes of this Assessment, the known archaeological remains of the West Wight Landscape have been classified as follows:

2.4.1 Sites of Recovered Artefacts – These are the find spots where single or groups of archaeological objects have been found. The objects can include pottery, flint tools, and coins and the find spots can be both terrestrial or on the seabed. For the majority of these sites there is nothing visible left at the site and the amount of useful information the object can tell us is limited as often the object has been simply lost by someone in the past. Due to the limited evidence supplied by find spots, they have

only been included in this Assessment if they provide useful information about past human activity in the West Wight.

2.4.2 Sites of Buried remains – These include all in-situ archaeological remains which survive below the surface of the modern ground. These can range from grave sites, ploughed out earthworks such as barrows, hearths, aircraft crash sites, to flint scatters, pits, lost track ways. For the majority of these sites there is nothing visible left at the site, however their importance is great as they are often the only surviving first hand evidence for human past activity to survive on the site at which that activity was carried out. All known examples of this type of archaeological remains have been included in this assessment.

2.4.3 Marine and Intertidal zone remains – Because the Isle of Wight was once connected to Britain and Europe, there are archaeological remains of former human activity both on the seabed and within the intertidal zones. These include later shipwrecks and seabed archaeology, as well as prehistoric landscapes and structures. All known examples of this type of archaeological remains have been included in this assessment.

2.4.4 Environmental Archaeological Sites – These sites are the remains of the prehistoric environment and include peat deposits and organic remains which contain information from pollen, seeds and other plants that can tell us about the past environment. The majority of these sites are not visible on the ground, but their importance is great and all known examples of this type of archaeological remains have been included in this assessment.

2.4.5 Crop Marks and Soil Marks – These are sites of human activity for which nothing survives on the surface, but differential crop growth can reveal outlines of these buried remains in the altered growth which show what is present below the ground. These sites are usually revealed by aerial photography and nothing is visible on the ground. Very few of these type of sites have been excavated on the Island, however, they are a very important type of site and all known examples of this type of archaeological remains have been included in this assessment.

2.4.6 Documentary Evidence – This is evidence derived from past written accounts or from maps or pictures which may show that archaeological remains survive at a certain site. Such sources include the Domesday Book of 1066 AD, Ordnance Survey maps and Second World War military documents. In some cases, this type of site can be classed as conjectural due to the loss of evidence on the ground to reinforce the written evidence and nothing can be seen at the site. Due to the limited evidence supplied by documentary evidence sites, they have only been included in this Assessment if they provide useful information about past human activity in the West Wight.

2.4.7 Earthworks – These are visible structures made from earth and other materials which have not been levelled or destroyed and can be seen on the ground today. They include burial barrows, settlement sites and the humps and bumps of past buildings or structures. These sites are visible in the landscape today, although they may be difficult to see and are an important survival from the past. All known

examples of this type of archaeological remains have been included in this assessment**.**

2.4.8 Structures – These include all existing buildings, monuments and built structures such as bridges, dovecots, postboxes, houses and any structure which is not an earthwork. They are visible and are often the most accessible type of archaeological site. Despite this, some structures such as memorials, boundary stones or modern buildings of no historical interest are limited in the information they can tell us about the past. Therefore, some structures have been excluded from this Assessment if they do not provide useful information about past human activity in the West Wight.

2.4.9 Whole Historic Landscapes and Landscape Elements – In some towns, villages or rural areas, the appearance of the modern landscape has actually been created by past human land use. These include the enclosures and boundaries of medieval or earlier field systems, the prehistoric ceremonial and burial landscapes on some of the Island's downlands, as well as more modern designed gardens and landscapes. These are important types of archaeological remains and the results of the Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation has been used within this assessment wherever possible.

3.0 Archaeological designations:
A number of national, regional and local legal designations are available to protect and manage the different types of historic environment remains in England. These designations comprise:

3.1 Conservation Areas:
Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 imposes a duty on local planning authorities to designate as conservation areas any 'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Conservation Area designation helps to protect an area's special architectural or historic interest by providing the basis for policies designed to preserve or enhance all aspects of the character or appearance of the area by controlling demolition of unlisted buildings and works to trees, by stricter planning controls within a conservation area and by a statutory requirement for the local planning authority to consider the impact of a proposed development upon the character or appearance of a conservation area. Further advice on restrictions and controls within Conservation Areas can be provided by the Isle of Wight Council's Conservation and Urban Design Team based within the Planning Department.

3.2 Scheduled Monuments:
Nationally important archaeological sites and monuments in England are given legal protection by being placed on a list, or 'schedule' by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, it is illegal to affect, damage or destroy a Scheduled Monument and a formal system of **Scheduled Monument Consent** for any work to a designated site is operated by English Heritage, the Government's advisers on the historic environment. Further advice on restrictions and controls for Scheduled Monuments can be provided by the English Heritage South Eastern Regional Team or the Isle of Wight County

Archaeology and Historic Environment Service based within the Isle of Wight Heritage Service of the Isle of Wight Council.

3.3 Listed Buildings:

Nationally important buildings of especial architectural heritage are designated as being "listed", that is they are placed on statutory lists of buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest' compiled by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. There are 3 grades for Listed Buildings to show their relative importance: Grade I buildings are those of exceptional importance; Grade II* are those of more than special importance and Grade II are those of special importance warranting every effort to preserve them. Any alterations or redevelopment proposals affecting the character and setting of a Listed Building must receive Listed Building Consent from the Isle of Wight Council and further information about this process can be provided by the Isle of Wight Council's Conservation and Urban Design Team based within the Planning Department.

3.4 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Importance:

English Heritage, the government's advisers on the Historic Environment, are required to hold a Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Importance. Although inclusion of an historic park or garden on the ***Register*** in itself brings no additional statutory controls, local authorities are required by central government to make provision for the protection of the historic environment in their development plan policies as registration is a material consideration in the local government planning process (*Planning Policy Guidance Note 15, 2.24, September 1994; Central Government Circular 9/95, Environment Circular 14/97 /Culture, Media and Sport Circular 1/97.* Further information about the restrictions and controls of this process can be provided by English Heritage's South East Regional Team.

3.5 Historic Environment Record sites:

Archaeological sites which are not scheduled monuments are protected through the Local Government Planning Process if they are recorded on the relevant County Historic Environment Record (HER), the definitive database, usually held by the relevant County or Unitary Authority. Under the procedures set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (1990), all development proposals are required to make provision for archaeological mitigation measures prior to all proposed developments. Archaeological considerations are placed firmly at the centre of the Isle of Wight Council's local planning process by the inclusion of appropriate policies in the Unitary Development Plan and its successor, the Island's Local Development Framework, and there is a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of nationally important remains. The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record (IOWHER) is managed by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service based within the Isle of Wight Heritage Service of the Isle of Wight Council. Any archaeological site recorded on the Isle of Wight HER will be referred to by its HER number in brackets for reference purposes. Further advice on the impact of development proposals on Historic Environment sites on the Island can be provided by the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Archaeologist, based in the Development Team, as part of the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Department.

3.6 Areas of Archaeological Potential:

English Heritage, government advisers on the historic environment, commissioned a national survey of historic towns in 1999 and identified "Areas of High Archaeological Potential" and the lesser grade of "Areas of Archaeological Potential" which are now recorded on the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record. Areas of High Archaeological Potential are likely to contain archaeological remains, whether buried or standing, of national importance and require preservation in-situ or when this is not justified, require appropriate archaeological excavation and recording in advance of any development proposals. Areas of Archaeological Potential are areas likely to contain regionally important archaeological remains for which the most likely response is appropriate archaeological investigation and recording. Further information can be provided by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service based within the Isle of Wight Heritage Service of the Isle of Wight Council.

4.0 The value of Archaeology

4.1 The importance of evidence of our past

A fundamental educational requirement for human interaction is the development of the skills of enquiry and discovery, of seeking the relationships between what happened and the resulting evidence. **We learn from the past**.

Archaeology is the study of the material evidence of our own human past and provides an ideal body of evidence for individuals, families, communities and countries to apply these skills to. The resulting information is also personal to the inquirer as it relates directly to their own and to their community's past.

The geographic position of the Isle of Wight has resulted in its use for military, economic, social, recreational and strategic purposes which have left behind a wealth of information about how the Islands natural resources have been use by humans over almost 450,000 years, and about what daily life was like for our ancestors. **Every person, family, community and society wants and needs to know about their past as that information allows them to make sense of the present and the future**. **There are 3 different main types of value of the Island's archaeological resource:**

Values	What it means	Our responsibilities
Existence Value	What have we got ?	Discover and record what we have got.
Option Value?	How should we sustainably manage it for future generations	Sustainably manage it for future generations
Use Value	How can we use it ?	Recognise and implement how to use it.

4.2 The Existence Value

Our Archaeological resource has value because it exists and its management by the Isle of Wight Council is appreciated by the wider community without the need to get involved with every fine detail. Added value is given to some types of remains because they are extremely rare or have meaning to the local community. Street names, business names, school projects and tourist interest are all ways in which the community interest in the resource is manifested.

However, it is vital for archaeologists to find and record surviving remains so that the information about our past can be passed on to the community. Systematic surveys of the Island's landscapes, coastal zone and sea bed need to be undertaken if we are to record the rapidly vanishing resource in the face of increasing agricultural operations, development and erosion.

A primary responsibility for the Isle of Wight Council is to ensure that archaeological remains are recorded and that the resulting information is available for the Community by its inclusion on the Island's database of archaeological information – The County Historic Environment Record**.**

4.3 The Option Value

The concept of environmental sustainability was endorsed by the British Government at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and The Isle of Wight Council has a responsibility to ensure that the expectations and needs of those who wish to use the archaeological resource in the future is taken into account in our current management approach.

The approach to today's management of the Island's archaeological resource sits within a wider management framework operating within the concept of sustainability which ensures that something of our past and present survives for those in our future.

Sites of National Archaeological Importance are preserved in situ either through the protection of Scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 or through preservation in-situ or by record through the local government planning process.

4.4 The Use Value

There are many ways in which our archaeological resource is and can be used. In particular, the educational and social values are immense. Some of these different use values are listed in the table below:

	Use Values
Economic Value	The selling of books and publications, souvenirs, guided tours, visitor charges, educational services, provision of tourist accommodation and many other uses provide an economic value to the managers of the archaeological resource.
Scientific Value	The discovery of new information about the past is of special value to the biological, chemical, medical, technological and materials scientists who make vital scientific discoveries with its use.
Archaeological Value	The academic value of new information about the past is enormous; as the archaeological record is our only source of authentic data we can use to reconstruct the majority of mankind's history on this earth.
Historic Value	Modern society now understands the "time-depth" dimension of its own past, as history is now measured in relative terms such as the development of technologies. Having real examples of these technologies and their products is a direct link to different parts of our past.
Curiosity Value	Museums, school children and many adults have collections of ordinary, but unfamiliar, objects which many people are interested enough in to look at and talk about. The antiques trade is a result of the public involvement in this value.
Aesthetic Value	The fundamentally human attribute of being able to recognise and appreciate beauty is often applied to our monuments, structures and objects. Beautiful old thatched cottages, historic town centres, the rolling views of our landscapes from prehistoric burial mounds and even ancient ship hulks rotting in the estuary besides the Cowes cycle path have all built up the Island's reputation as a place of exquisite beauty.
Creative Arts Value	Artists, writers, poets, musicians, photographers and many creative artists draw their inspiration from our archaeological monuments and objects, whilst art historians study the development of human creativity through archaeological remains
Educational Value	The past plays a fundamental role in human ability to learn from our behaviour and to make sense of new things, therefore the archaeological resource should play a substantial role in the general education of children and adults. There is the potential to use Isle of Wight archaeological information with our surviving monuments and objects to provide local schools, communities and visitors with real and relevant evidence with which to develop their educational skills and local pride.
Recreation and Tourism Value	Crowds flock to pay to see Shakespeare's plays performed in a reconstruction of the 16th Century Rose Theatre or watch medieval jousting at Carisbrooke Castle. However the recreational value of archaeological walks, visits to Roman villas and archaeological sites, the fun of getting involved as a hobby and satisfying personal interest has not yet been recognised by the Island's Tourism industry.

This Heritage assessment will include the following potential use values for the remains from each period in order to raise the profile of the archaeological heritage of the West Wight. The value of the archaeological resource of the West Wight will be scored on a scale of High, Medium or Low depending on its ability to provide data and focus for the following use values:

Scientific Values: Archaeological remains as the source of research in a number of scientific fields	Geology – Palaeontology; Paleoethnobotany; Biology – Botany; Palynology (pollen analysis); Dendrochronology; Environmental Archaeology; Bio-archaeology Meteorology; Anthropology - Social anthropology; geography; Biological anthropology Medical Science – Osteology; Biochemistry; Genetics

Archaeological Values:	Traditional Archaeology – the only authentic evidence of the history of humankind; Data gives a physical link to the past; Environmental Archaeology - data from biological and chemical remains give evidence of climate, atmospheric conditions, habitats, species abundance, forestry clearance, etc; Landscape Archaeology - The character of the countryside was shaped by humans and natural forces over many millennia and archaeological evidence can help future decisions to be made in a sustainable manner;

Historical Values Archaeology provides an invaluable source of data for historians. The remains of past cultures and practises are physical links to our past.	Use of archaeological changes to show how technologies have developed through time; Links between archaeology and historical data such as the Domesday book and tithe maps Provides physical evidence for life experiences and our ancestors' achievements; Provides a physical reference each time stratified artefacts or features are discovered Provides evidence for Town planning, planned landscapes and past landscape use;

Educational Values Archaeology is very relevant to the school curriculum as it provides a physical means of translating theory into real life.	History - Brings history into life, pupils can touch and see artefacts and on site remains so therefore relate the written class-work to the real context of the life of people in history. Relevant to Key Stage 1/2/3; Visits to sites such as villas – reinforcing the teaching of the Roman period, relevant to Key Stage 2 in particular; Displays of archaeological artefacts – museums and exhibitions. Showing pupils of all ages tools, crafts, clothing, weapons etc. Useful at all ages and stages. Older pupils studying projects at Key Stage 3 would find these particularly useful. Art - Archaeological finds can provide inspiration for artwork. Such as ceramics, painting, textile working and design. Geography - In addition to learning about other cultures and their locations, archaeology provides a link to other themes within the subject such as soils, erosion, agriculture, sustainability and climatic change such as occurred in the ice age. Science - Links within this subject to environmental archaeology and biology; At a higher level archaeology provides and educational resource for those studying the subject and others at university; The community at large can benefit from the educational aspects which archaeology provides. Through community archaeology schemes adults and children alike gain knowledge and awareness. Interpretation of features adds an educational aspect to recreational experiences which educate the casual walker or visitor to sites too.

Curiosity Value	The innate human thirst for knowledge, driven by curiosity, means that archaeology has a large role to play in answering currently unanswered questions. The prospect of discovery provides the impetuous for many in everyday life.

<u>Tourism and Recreational Values</u>	The uses to which visiting tourists and local communities put to archaeological sites can all be grouped as recreational activities. These encompass several groups: Those who enjoy archaeological themed days out, visiting sites, museums, villas etc Those who prefer to participate in archaeology, via local groups and associations

	Those who have a hobby or personal interest in their past; People who just enjoy walking within a historical environment and casually absorbing the interpretation as provided.

Aesthetic Values	The ability to appreciate beauty is a human characteristic. Discoveries of beautiful small finds such as jewellery and carvings are enjoyed as are larger sculptures and mosaics. Artefacts such as these are probably a major aspect in the reason for people to visit museums and exhibitions. Furthermore man has shaped the aesthetically pleasing countryside we all enjoy today. From the patch-working effect of the fields to the build environment of mediaeval villages with their quaint thatched cottages. None of this can be considered 'natural' in its traditional respect as Man; from the Neolithic period of prehistory (c. 3600BC to 2000BC) has been clearing, planting, earth moving and enclosing the landscape to his design. This aesthetic legacy is ours to value and protect

Creative Arts Values:	Archaeological finds have provided inspiration for many artists and designers. Artists, painters, ceramicists, jewellery designers, textile designers, and sculptor makers have all been influenced by past discoveries. Contemporary arts such as photography are also influenced Cultural influences are reinforced by history and archaeology reinforces understanding of this Writers are inspired by archaeology too, as poems and stories are written linking to discoveries and knowledge gained through archaeology Television documentaries provide a valuable contemporary means of imparting knowledge gained through archaeology, Film makers are inspired to make both shorts and epics about history through archaeologically driven history.

5.0 Historic Landscape Characterisation information: Provided by Vicky Basford, Isle of Wight HLC Officer

Historic Landscape Characterisation is a technique developed by English Heritage and various County Archaeological Units to identify and describe historic components in the landscape. **B**ased on a study of key elements in the landscape such as field patterns, woodland, downland, heathland and settlement, the technique identifies areas with similar characteristics which are then plotted onto a digital map base using GIS (Geographic Information System) software. This HLC data can then be used to produce maps covering many aspects of the historic landscape both at the present day and in the past, particularly with respect to field patterns and rural settlement land uses through time. The results of the Isle of Wight HLC Project show that the West Wight is divided into several HLC Character Areas which are shown on the map below:

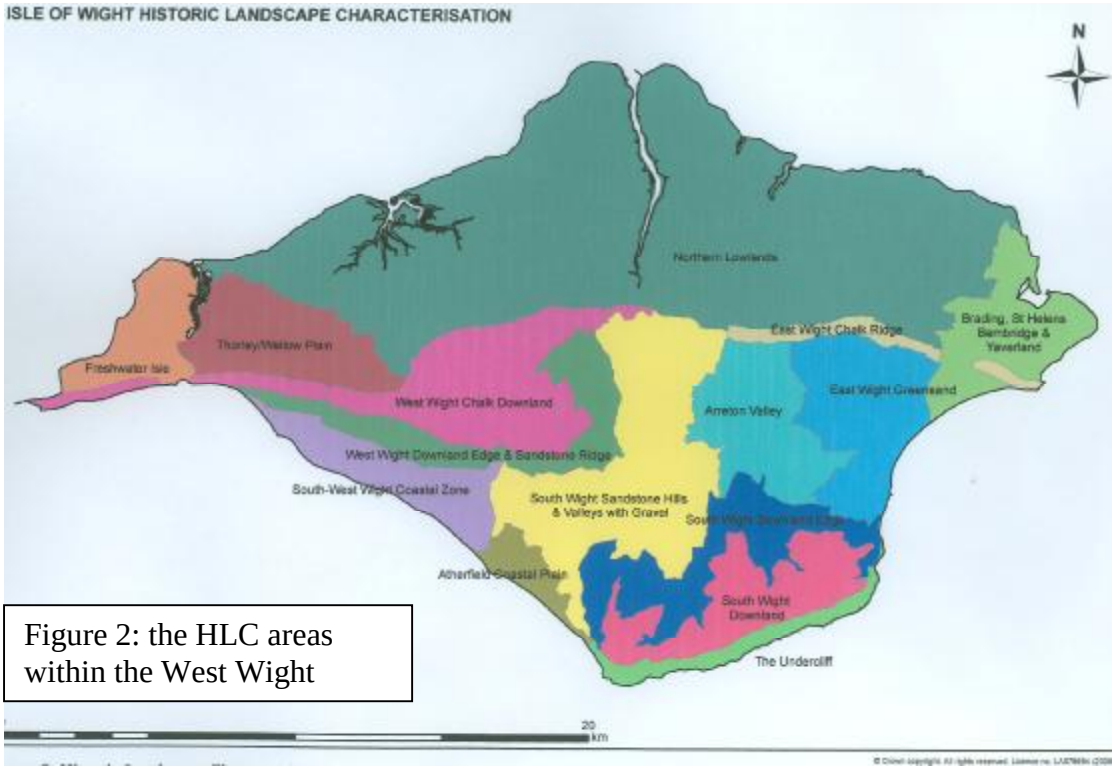


Figure 2: the HLC areas within the West Wight

5.1 Freshwater Isle Character area:

This area is situated to the north of the chalk ridge and to the west of the Yar Estuary. The underlying geology consists mainly of Eocene beds with Osborne and Headon beds produce soils that are more easily worked than those of the Northern Wight Uplands to the west. The main drainage is provided by the Western Yar river which rises close to Freshwater Bay, virtually cutting off the land to the west from the rest of the Isle of Wight and giving rise to the epithet of 'Freshwater Isle'. The Yar flows northward through marshland for just over a kilometre before becoming a tidal estuary stretching some three kilometres to the Solent. Alluvium underlies the marshy land of the Yar Estuary and gravel terraces occur along the valley side. There is also a deposit of plateau gravel at Headon Warren.

The historic landscape character of *Freshwater Isle* is unique There is very little woodland at the present day and this reflects the historical situation, for there are no references in Domesday Book to woodland in the Freshwater area (Margham 1992, 113). This lack of woodland may have encouraged the creation of open fields in the later Anglo-Saxon period. In contrast with the *Northern Lowlands*, where there were few open fields, the evidence of the Freshwater Tithe Map of 1839 suggests that at least a third of this parish had formerly been cultivated as open-field (Margham 1992, 110). Enclosure of these open fields may have started early but have been a gradual and piecemeal process, since the tithe map and the OS 1st Edition six inch map of 1862 show that individual strips were still being worked, although most of the open fields had been enclosed by that date. The enclosure of the 37 acres of open field at Easton, on the eastern flank of High (now Tennyson) Down, was authorised by the Annual Enclosure Act of 1861. This was one of only two instances of Parliamentary enclosure relating to arable open fields on the Isle of Wight (Adams 1960). Today much former agricultural land in Freshwater has been built over but some surviving fields still follow the outlines of former open fields, open field furlongs or even of individual open field strips.

It is unclear why the enclosure of open-field took place on a piecemeal basis in Freshwater, in some cases involving just a few strips, whereas elsewhere on the Isle of Wight it resulted in the enclosure of entire open fields and the subsequent creation of new internal boundaries unrelated to the former open-field strips. There may have been a lack of large 'improving' landlords over the centuries with the result that smaller farmers carried out enclosure on an ad hoc basis.

In addition to open field arable, there was a large amount of unenclosed rough grazing within Freshwater Isle until post-medieval times, much of it concentrated in the large area of 'Gaulden Common'. Even today there is still quite a large area of rough, uncultivated, gorse covered land around Golden Hill Fort. Norton Common was an area of 84 acres which ran along the cliff edge overlooking the Solent. Enclosure of the common was authorised by Act of Parliament in 1856 but did not take place as it was purchased by the War Department in 1856 (Margham 1994, 114). The Freshwater Isle HLC Area also contains the Island's largest surviving area of true heathland, approximately 50 ha in extent, on plateau gravel at Headon Warren. Manors within Freshwater Isle would also have had communal grazing rights on Tennyson Down and West High Down.

The medieval settlement pattern within Freshwater Isle was 'polyfocal', consisting of numerous hamlets around small greens rather than the isolated farms and small nucleated villages that occurred elsewhere in the Island (Margham 1994, 105). The parish church, which contains Anglo-Saxon material, stands on a gravel deposit commanding the highest point of the Yar Estuary. Margham (1992) has suggested that a planned medieval village may have been laid out at Freshwater Green, although if so this had decayed by 1793. Historic settlement patterns have now been partially obscured by 19th Century development of seaside resorts at Freshwater Bay, Colwell and Totland, although these make a distinctive contribution to historic landscape character. Later residential development in the 20th Century has given much of the area a suburban feel.

The combination of open-field arable with polyfocal settlement and small greens, is an unusual pattern for the Isle of Wight, and may have developed as a result of the local topography and soils. Early clearance of woodland from the area could have influenced the medieval land use. The influence of early landowners may also have been significant. Freshwater Parish was the core of a late Anglo-Saxon estate although this included land outside Freshwater Isle.

Archaeological earthworks are not common in Freshwater Isle to the north of the chalk although there are Bronze Age burial mounds on Headon Warren. Recent archaeological finds provide some evidence for possible Iron Age and Roman occupation. The Anglo-Saxon architectural remains in All Saints Church and the presence of a Royal Manor at Freshwater, recorded in Domesday Book, hint at the significance of the area in early medieval times. The farm house at Kings Manor was probably the only substantial building in the area until Farringford was built in the early 19th century, becoming the home of the poet Tennyson later that century. Weston Manor, nearby, dates from the 1870s. Military fortifications of the 19th century are quite prominent in the landscape around the coast and include Hatherwood Point Battery, Fort Albert and Fort Victoria.

5.2 Thorley/Wellow Plain Character Area

This HLC area is situated to the north of the central chalk ridge, centred on the settlements of Thorley and Wellow. It lies between *Freshwater Isle* and the *Northern Lowlands* but can be distinguished from both of these areas by its distinctive geology, historic landscape character and modern land use. The area contains the only extensive outcrop of Bembridge Limestone on the Island with Eocene deposits to the south. Soils derived from the limestone are easily worked, well drained loam.

The *Thorley/Wellow Plain* is of moderate altitude, rising gradually southward from 5m OD at Thorley Manor to 80m OD near the Freshwater-Calbourne Road with a somewhat steeper rise from the road to the foot of the chalk ridge at 105m OD. The Barnfield Stream flows north-west towards the Yar Estuary. Other minor watercourses flow north to join Thorley Brook. The Caulbourne rises near Chessell and runs north-east within this area before entering the Northern Lowlands.

The HLC Area extends westward as far as the River Yar and northward to the Thorley Brook, whilst the Freshwater-Calbourne Road forms the southern boundary. Three distinct sub-Areas can be distinguished, these being the Thorley/Wellow plain, the Wilmingham/Tapnell area and the sub-chalk zone between the Thorley/Wellow plain and the *West Wight Chalk Downland*. On the Thorley/Wellow plain the geology is Bembridge Limestone with some deposits of Osborne & Headon Beds. In the Wilmingham/Tapnell area the geology comprises the Osborne & Headon Beds. In the sub-chalk zone narrow deposits of Reading Beds, London Clay and Bracklesham Group deposits lie north of the of chalk ridge with a wider area of Bracklesham Group deposits around Afton and between Chessell and Calbourne. The three sub-areas derive from different historic land uses but all have a generally open & exposed landscape with large ‘prairie’ type fields & few hedgerows or trees. The sub-chalk zone includes an area of agricultural land with some surviving elements of designed landscape associated with the Westover estate. At the western end of the area is the nineteenth century Afton Park, associated with Afton Manor and also largely in agricultural use. Woodland is confined to the Wilmingham/Tapnell area, where there

is secondary and plantation woodland, and to the sub-chalk zone, where there are some copses to the east and north-east of Chessell. There is no significant woodland on the Thorley/Wellow plain.

Much of the Island to the north of the chalk ridge is thought to have contained a substantial amount of woodland in later prehistoric times but this HLC Area, like Freshwater Isle, was probably an exception to the rule. An abundance of archaeological crop marks recorded to the south of Thorley and Wellow and east of the Yar Estuary are thought to be of prehistoric date and indicate that the area had been cleared of trees by the second millennium BC. The crop marks include at least nine ring-ditches, four sub-rectangular enclosures and various linear features. One of the ring-ditches was excavated in 1984 and proved to be the surviving ditch of a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow. Roman material was also found in the plough soil during the excavation of the ring-ditch. Subsequently, field walking on the limestone plateau revealed a wide distribution of prehistoric flintwork and Romano-British ceramics (Margham 1990, 116). Recent closely monitored metal-detecting has revealed Roman and Anglo-Saxon material. This includes a Roman coin hoard and early Anglo-Saxon metalwork found near Tapnell Farm, pagan Anglo-Saxon grave goods from the East Afton area, Roman pottery and coins found near Churchills Farm and early Anglo-Saxon metalwork from the Churchills Farm area (Portable Antiquities Scheme www.finds.org.uk).

Afton, Wilmingham, Thorley, Wellow and Shalcombe were manors mentioned in Domesday Book. Thorley became a medieval parish. Wellow lay in Shalfleet Parish and the holding of Shalcombe formed a detached part of St Nicholas Parish. Afton and Wilmingham lay within the medieval parish of Freshwater but the present landscape character of this part of the parish, east of the river Yar, is closer to that of the Thorley/Wellow area than to that of Freshwater Isle so it has been included in this HLC Area.

There are only two nucleated settlements within this area, these being Thorley and Wellow. Thorley comprises a church/manor complex with the interrupted row settlement of Thorley Street some distance to the east. Margham (1990) has suggested settlement shift from the manorial site to Thorley Street by the mid sixteenth century. Wellow is also an interrupted row settlement slightly to the east of Thorley in Shalfeet Parish. Apart from Thorley and Wellow, all other settlement within this HLC area consists of isolated farms. As well as the Domesday Book holdings mentioned above, Chessell Manor and Churchills Farm in Shalfleet Parish are both mentioned in medieval documents (Kökeritz 1940, 209).

Medieval land use around Thorley included a block of open-field to the west and south of the manor house. A manorial survey of 1648 refers to ‘Westfield’, ‘Home Field’ and ‘East Field’. Margham (1990) has demonstrated that most of this open-field was enclosed by 1608 when the overwhelming majority of fields listed in a manorial survey were closes. A document of 1646 refers to ‘three acres in a close, lately part of Thorley Common Field’ (IWCRO JER/HBY102/5) but there appear to be no seventeenth century references to surviving open field. By contrast, in the neighbouring Shalfleet Parish a 1608 survey of farms held from Wellow Manor indicates that most of the farms possessed ‘arable land in east field’ and ‘arable land in west field’. These strips in the east field and west field amounted to 219 acres,

compared with 55 acres held in closes, some of which were pasture. However, the principal holding of Wellow Manor, comprising 150 acres, seems to have held all its land as closes, with the exception of 20 acres of 'common pasture called the Down' and 2 parrocks of 1 acre each adjoining the house.

The field boundaries shown on the OS 1793 map in the Thorley and Wellow areas suggest that complete open fields were enclosed, rather than individual strips and bundles of strips as in some parts of Freshwater. Small enclosed strips are shown to the south of Thorley Street but these may have been crofts attached to individual tenements rather than being within the open-field. Surprisingly, in view of recent land use, and the relatively good quality of some of this land, the arable land of Thorley Manor listed in a survey of 1648 accounted for only 156 acres. This can be compared with the 1580 acres making up Thorley Parish, which was coterminous with the manor. The non-arable area probably included downland, the poorer quality land to the north west of Tapnell Farm, and Thorley Common which is discussed below. In the neighbouring manor of Wellow, within Shalfleet Parish, quite large fields are shown on the 1793 OS map to the north of Wellow Common and to the west of Churchills Farm. Much of this area seems to have been carved out of former open-field, as field names in the tithe survey refer to 'Part of West Common Field' although there is no corresponding reference to the former east field.

Within Thorley parish there was common for 616 sheep in 1560 and 590 in 1680.The lower slope of Tapnell Down had been enclosed by 1608. However, the amount of unenclosed land within Thorley Parish was still over six hundred acres in the seventeenth century and most of this would have been common pasture, as the open-field had been enclosed by this time. Some of the unenclosed land would have been on the high chalk downland and much of it may have been on the relatively poor quality land to the west and north of Tapnell. However, Thorley/Wellow Common was located on relatively good quality land lying on the Bembridge Limestone. Thorley Common adjoined Wellow Common in neighbouring Shalfleet Parish. It seems to have been an irregularly shaped area lying to the east and south of Thorley's open fields and to the south of Wellow's 'West Field', with a possible further area of rough ground separating Wellow's 'West Field' from its 'East Field'. In Wellow Manor there was common for 420 sheep belonging to copyholders in 1608. Some of this would have been on Wellow Down but much would have been on Wellow Common. The area of Thorley/Wellow Common seems to have been enclosed between 1680 and 1793. The OS 1793 map and the later tithe maps both show small enclosed plots on either side of the parish boundary and field names in the tithe survey books indicate the shares of former copyholders after enclosure.

The relatively late date for the enclosure of Thorley and Wellow Common is clearly indicated from documentary evidence, from field boundaries shown on the OS 1793 map and from field names in the early nineteenth century tithe surveys. The relationship of Broad Lane to the surrounding enclosures on the OS 1793 map confirms the late date of these enclosures. Broad Lane runs in a south easterly direction from Newclose Farm in Thorley Street to the Freshwater-Calbourne Road just west of Shalcombe. It is shown on the OS 1793 map and cuts across the recently established enclosure plots on Thorley and Wellow Common, respecting enclosure boundaries in only one area, where it follows the boundaries of former open fields (Broad Field and East Green Field, as named in the tithe survey). The lack of respect

for the enclosed plots of Thorley and Wellow Commons suggests that Broad Lane predates these enclosures. Broad Lane also cuts across field boundaries within the holding of Shalcombe Manor, indicating that Thorley/Wellow Common may also have included some unenclosed land belonging to this manor.

The existence of the relatively large Thorley/Wellow Common on the Bembridge Limestone poses two interesting questions. What was the significance of the shared land use between Thorley and Wellow and why was this relatively good quality land being used as a sheep common? The close linkage between the commons of Thorley and Wellow may possibly suggest some former tenurial connection in Anglo-Saxon times. Thorley parish originated in the eleventh or twelfth century and would formerly have been part of a larger 'parochia' or mother parish but Margham (1990, 115) is uncertain whether Thorley was taken out of Freshwater or Shalfleet parochia. However, Thorley being a daughter church of Shalfleet can be argued from links between Thorley church and Christchurch Priory's manor of Ningwood in Shalfleet Parish, from the tithing of Thorley in 1560 including Hamstead and Wellow (both in Shalfleet Parish) and from the presence of small leaved limes (an indicator of ancient woodland) along the stream forming the medieval boundary between Freshwater and Thorley parishes. The indented parish boundary between Thorley and Shalfleet parishes, shown on the OS six inch 1st Edition of 1862, may possibly indicate that open fields were laid out in the area at a time when Thorley and Wellow were still a single tenurial unit.

It is possible that Thorley Common occupied land that was formerly a rabbit warren. Worsley (1781, 264) stated that 'the greater part of Thorley was once a rabbit warren, as appears by a grant of the Countess Isabella, who gave to the Prior of Christ-church a fifth part of the coneys in her manor of Thorley'. However, a more likely site for this rabbit warren would have been the land to the north west of Tapnell Fam. The farm is a post-medieval holding associated with intakes of downland, possibly dating from the later sixteenth century and represented by regular fields with a north-south axis running along the northern edge of the chalk ridge. However, Tapnell Farm may also have exploited the former Thorley Warren. Some large enclosures are shown on the OS 1793 map to the north-west of the farm and these are shaded green, indicating pasture. However, much of this land is identified as rough ground on the OS six inch map of 1862 and is named as 'Tapnell Furze' on the 1898 map A Forestry Commission plantation was established here in the later twentieth century.

At the eastern end of the HLC Area, beyond Dodpits Lane, the character of the landscape is somewhat different from the main area of the Thorley/Wellow Plain. Although still dominated by large fields created by extensive boundary removal in the later twentieth century, this sub-area has more varied relief and is dissected by feeder streams of the Caulbourne. The 1862 Ordnance Survey map shows fairly regular fields with straight boundaries within much of this area and these may represent agricultural improvements on the Westover estate. There are also elements of 'designed landscape' connected with the Westover estate within this sub-area, notably plantations, shelter belts and estate buildings.

This HLC Area has suffered more boundary loss in the twentieth century than other areas. Its present landscape character is dominated by large 'prairie' type fields with

few hedges, woods and trees except on the western fringe of the area at Wilmingham and Tapnell.

Some vernacular Bembridge Limestone farm buildings and cottages survive within the area although there are also many late 20th Century residential buildings in Thorley and Wellow. The most significant historic buildings are the early 18th Century manor houses of Thorley and Afton. Only the porch of Thorley's medieval parish church survives close to Thorley Manor, the replacement nineteenth century parish church being some distance to the east.

5.3 Northern Lowlands Character Area

A large part of the land to the north of the central chalk ridge in the West Wight lies within this character area. It is mainly a lowland area but is moderately hilly in parts, although the land does not rise above the 75 metre contour. The area is characterised by its extensive Solent coastline and by the creeks, inlets and estuaries punctuating that coastline. Drainage is provided by streams flowing northward into the Solent. Most of the area lies on Oligocene geological formations, particularly the Hamstead Beds which provide clayey, seasonally waterlogged soils.

Most of the *Northern Lowlands* HLC Area is interpreted by Margham (forthcoming b) as a 'landscape of colonization' which was less favoured than other areas for early settlement but he has also shown that specific locations on the more freely draining gravel areas attracted settlement in Anglo-Saxon times. Several fairly early settlements have tūn suffixes to their place-names and probably came into existence between AD 750 and AD 950, a period to which many mainland settlements with tūn suffixes can be dated. A study of population figures in Domesday Book shows that two 2km squares have in the West Wight have higher population densities than parts of Central and South Wight. (Margham 1988). These contained the parish churches of Calbourne and Shalfleet. Calbourne is probably best considered as a 'Downland Edge' settlement and has been included within the *West Wight Chalk Downland* HLC Area. Shalfleet, one of only four Domesday manors situated on the Hamstead clays, also had a church mentioned in Domesday Book. The church and manor house lay close to a natural harbour at the head of Shalfleet Lake and this may explain its early significance.

Although Domesday Book indicates specific concentrations of population within the *Northern Lowlands* it does not provide evidence for the settlement *pattern*; that is whether settlements were nucleated or dispersed. The OS 1793 drawings show both the small size of settlement nuclei within this area (often comprising only the manor house, church and a few other buildings) and also that there was a fairly high density of dispersed settlement in an area to the north of Calbourne.

The position of the planned medieval towns of Newport, Yarmouth and Newtown within this HLC Area can be explained in terms of their proximity to navigable estuaries and harbours which, for trading centres, would have been even more important than access to good quality agricultural land. Nevertheless, Newport was the only one of these towns to achieve successful urban status, having the advantages of being centrally placed and in close proximity to the routeway along the chalk ridge. Newtown, on the heavy Hamstead Clay, was failing by the end of the fourteenth century and is now a tiny hamlet although the street plan and burgess plots of the

medieval borough are well preserved. There were only a dozen houses in Yarmouth by 1559 (Hampshire County Council and English Heritage 1999) although it later staged a modest recovery.

It has sometimes been assumed that little woodland clearance took place within this HLC Area in prehistoric times. However, a small localised peat mire at Newnham Farm has provided evidence that lime woodland was largely felled in the Neolithic, with some woodland remaining into the Bronze Age before its final demise at the expense of increasing agriculture (Scaife 2003, 25). Nevertheless, the extent of cultivation in prehistoric and Romano-British times was probably very limited and most of the *Northern Lowlands* is likely to have been a mosaic of woodland and wet clay heath. It was undoubtedly exploited for timber, firewood and hunting but was probably also used for extensive grazing. A similar pattern of land use may have continued into Anglo-Saxon times when each of the seven putative mother parishes had a share of this heavy marginal land.

Woodland probably still covered a substantial area of the *Northern Lowlands* in medieval times but was a finite resource that was carefully managed. A considerable part of the Northern Lowlands may have been wood pasture, which was used for extensive grazing but maintained a light cover of trees from which timber and wood could be harvested. No wood pasture exists on the Island today although there are a few areas where its former existence can be demonstrated.

There are relatively few indications of medieval open fields within the Northern Lowlands. Isolated examples have been identified, for instance at Newtown where there is archaeological and cartographic evidence for a small area of open-field associated with the planned 13th century borough. However, most existing field patterns seem to derive from the enclosure of woodland or open grazing land.

Large parts of the *Northern Lowlands* may have been open clay heath commons in medieval and early post-medieval times. Documented examples of these commons include Calbourne and Heathfield, part of which survived into the seventeenth century (Jones 2003). HLC data suggest that clay heath was gradually enclosed from medieval times onwards. Around Bouldnor, Cranmore and Hamstead open rough land was probably enclosed in the eighteenth century, as semi-regular fields are shown on the 1793 Ordnance Survey drawings. At Elmsworth, Lambslease and Shippes Farm, situated near Newtown in the North-West Wight, better quality pasture land was divided into very large closes in the seventeenth century and the present field pattern in this area probably represents eighteenth century sub-division of the earlier closes (Basford and Loader 2002).

5.4 West Wight Chalk Downland Character Area

This area contains a higher concentration of archaeological sites and monuments than any of the other HLC Areas. Many Bronze Age round barrows survive as earthworks on the chalk grassland and in woodland, with ploughed barrows on arable land. There is a Neolithic mortuary enclosure on Tennyson Down and a long barrow on Afton Down surrounded by a later Bronze Age barrow cemetery. A prehistoric field system survives beneath plantation woodland on Newbarn Down. There is a probable Iron Age hillfort on the summit of Chillerton Down with medieval strip lynchets along the side of the down. The Bowcombe Valley was an important focus of settlement from

the later prehistoric period and contains Roman remains at Bowcombe and villas at Clatterford and Carisbrooke, as well as Middle Saxon material. The earliest defences at Carisbrooke Castle are of Anglo-Saxon (or possibly late Roman) date with stone defences dating from the twelfth century to the seventeenth century. Pagan Anglo-Saxon cemeteries were excavated in the nineteenth century at Bowcombe Down and Chessell Down.

Within this HLC Area there are three distinct sub-areas. Sub-area 1 stretches from the Needles to Mottistone Down and comprises a narrow ridge with steep slopes to the north and south. The maximum elevation is 203m OD on Mottistone Down. Sub area 2 is a wide dissected plateau to the north-east of Brighstone, sloping downwards into combes around the edges of the area and attaining a maximum elevation of 214m OD on Brighstone Down. Sub-area 3 comprises the low-lying land of the Bowcombe Valley, Carisbrooke and Shide, on the outskirts of Newport. The Upper Chalk, Middle Chalk and Lower Chalk of the downland is overlain by Angular Flint Gravel in places on Mottistone Down and on the dissected plateau. The combes within Sub-areas 1 and 2 are dry. Within the Bowcombe Valley the Lukely Brook rises south of Bowcombe Farm and flows north-east into the Medina.

Sub-area 1 comprises a high ridge of unenclosed chalk grassland, with outstanding views of the Island, the Solent and the English Channel. Much of this sub-area is in National Trust care and with open access. Chalk cliffs lie to the south of West High Down, Tennyson Down, Afton Down and Compton Down. Freshwater Bay is carved out of the surrounding chalk. Thin alkaline soils support calcareous grassland within much the sub-area. Recent scrub woodland exists on Tennyson Down and there are twentieth century plantations on Shalcombe Down, Chessell Down and Westover Down. There is no settlement within this sub-area.

The gravel cappings within sub-area 2 support deeper and slightly richer soils than those of sub-area 1 but these are still classified as Grade 4 agricultural land, indicating relatively poor quality. There are extensive twentieth century plantations within this sub-area although some areas have been cleared since 1987. Agricultural land use consists mainly of improved grassland, or large exposed arable fields, with uncultivated combes on the northern edge of the plateau. Settlement consists mainly of dispersed farmsteads set within these combes but the small nucleated settlement of Calbourne, with its houses clustered around the parish church, lies on the northern edge of the chalk at the interface with the *Northern Lowlands*.

Within sub-area 3 the Bowcombe Valley is a mixture of farmland and valley-floor pasture. There are dispersed farmsteads along the length of the valley with an interrupted row settlement at Bowcombe and small nucleated clusters at Plaish and Clatterford. Carisbrooke, the centre of an Anglo-Saxon mother parish, is a regular row settlement which lies on the junction of the Chalk and the Reading Beds. Shide was a Domesday Manor but is now on the outskirts of Newport.

Sub-area 1 has earthwork evidence of some prehistoric and Roman arable land use and sub-area 2 has air-photographic evidence of fairly extensive prehistoric field systems. However, in the Middle Ages sub-area 1 and much of sub-area 2 was common manorial pasture. Individual manors had enclosed discrete areas of downland by the late eighteenth century but within sub-area 1 the land use continued

as unimproved rough grazing. Large arable enclosures were created within sub-area 2 in post-medieval times with forestry planting in the twentieth century. The Bowcombe Valley may have had some open-field on the slopes above the valley-floor pasture. There is some ancient woodland on the slopes surrounding the Bowcombe Valley.

Buildings within this HLC Area include stone farmsteads around the edge of the plateau in sub-area 2 and within the Bowcombe Valley, where there are nineteenth century estate cottages. Carisbrooke is a mixture of stone and brick buildings with the fine church tower being constructed of Greensand. Carisbrooke Castle is mainly of Greensand with some Bembridge Limestone.

5.5 West Wight Downland Edge and Sandstone Ridge Character Area

This HLC Area lies immediately to the south of the *West Wight Chalk Downland*. It comprises three distinct sub-areas, these being the region from Compton to Shorwell including the sandstone ridge, the sandstone ridge and downland edge slope from Shorwell to Gatcombe and the south-eastern Side of the Bowcombe Valley.

Sub-area 1 lies on Lower Greensand deposits. The sandstone ridge within this sub-area has a distinct landscape character of its own but has been included within the *West Wight Downland Edge* HLC Area because its land use and routeways link it with the adjacent chalk downland. Within this sub-area a string of settlements lie beneath the sandstone ridge on the junction with the *South West Wight Coastal Zone*. Brook, Hulverstone and Mottistone are of hamlet size, although Mottistone has a medieval church. Brighstone is much larger but historically was polyfocal in form, with a nucleated cluster around the church and outlying areas of settlement. Buildings within this sub-area utilise Lower Greensand of various kinds including Ferruginous Sandstone. Chalk block are also used, especially on farm buildings, and some older buildings are thatched. There are a number of former manor houses of relatively small size, built of Greensand. Mottistone Manor, of somewhat larger size, was restored by the Seely family in the 1920s and is now owned by the National Trust.

A distinctive area of common heathland grazing formerly occupied the sandstone ridge to the north of Mottistone and Brighstone. Mottistone Common was planted with conifers in the early twentieth century but the trees have now been cleared and the common is being restored to heathland. This area contains the Neolithic long barrow known as Mottistone Longstone. A nearby earthwork at Castle Hill is a possible Iron Age stock enclosure (Currie 2003). A large round barrow on Mottistone Common is one of relatively few round barrows not sited near the crest of the chalk downs. Rock Roman Villa sits at the interface with the chalk downland beside the Buddlehole Spring north of Brighstone.

Sub-area 2 comprises a zone of Upper Greensand around the edge of the high chalk downland from Shorwell to Gatcombe. Shorwell lies at the base of the chalk and historically its form was that of a linear spring-line settlement focussed on the church and on Northcourt Manor. A Bronze Age burial mound on the sandstone ridge east of Shorwell called Sheards Barrow contained an Anglo-Saxon secondary burial. At Chillerton and Gatcombe there are interrupted-row settlements with twentieth century infilling. The settlement at Gatcombe includes a church/manor element. There are also a few dispersed farmsteads. Evidence exists for medieval common open-field fitted into this hilly landscape, sometimes forming strip lynchets as at Chillerton.

Today this sub-area is mainly in arable use with large fields but also with some smaller, irregularly shaped fields and a network of hollow-ways and tracks. The older houses are of mainly of Greensand with some brick. There are manor houses at Northcourt, Gatcombe and Sheat.

Sub-area 3, on the south-eastern side of the Bowcombe Valley, comprises a level plain of upper Greensand. It has an open, exposed aspect with large arable fields and few hedgerows but good views to nearby chalk downs. Froglands Farm is the only settlement within the sub-area. An extensive area of medieval open-field appears to have existed within this fairly flat and low-lying area, associated with the settlements of Carisbrooke and Gatcombe, and possibly also with the small settlements of Bowcombe, Plaish and Clatterford on the edge of the adjacent *West Wight Chalk Downland*. Gatcombe was a daughter parish of Carisbrooke and the indented boundary between the two parishes, with dog-legs at the junction of open-field blocks, suggest that it was laid out after the open-field system had been established. This sub-area is one of the relatively few parts of the Island where open fields would have dominated the landscape in medieval times. No earthworks have survived within the sub-area but there are ancient tracks and significant finds, notably of Middle Anglo-Saxon material.

5.6 South-West Wight Coastal Zone Character Area

This HLC Area is a lowland coastal zone stretching from Compton Bay to Shepherd's Chine. A chain of settlements lie along the interface with the *West Wight Downland Edge and Sandstone Ridge* HLC Area, with the sandstone ridge forming a clear northern boundary to the area and making it feel less exposed than the *Atherfield Coastal Plain* to the south-east, although there is no protection from the prevailing south-west winds blowing in from the sea. The geology of this area comprises Wealden deposits between Compton Bay and Shepherd's Chine. Superficial gravel deposits run along the coastal strip from Shippards Chine to Grange Chine and are exposed in the cliff face, indicating the valley of an ancient river truncated by coastal erosion. A sinuous strip of alluvium and a minor stream running roughly parallel to the coast between Chilton Chine and Shippards Chine indicates the former course of this river. The coast line is punctuated by a series of chines, these being a distinctive Isle of Wight landscape feature in various HLC areas. There are soft eroding cliffs with areas of landslip

The area is low-lying and fairly flat with a maximum altitude of around 60m OD at the interface with the *West Wight Downland Edge & Sandstone Ridge* HLC Area, sloping gently southward to coast. Watercourses flow mainly south and south-west to chines on the coast, the most significant being the stream which runs from Shorwell to Brighstone before flowing into Grange Chine. The agricultural land is generally Grade 3 but Grade 4 on damp, low-lying land near the coast to the west and east of Brook.

Within this HLC Area as a whole field sizes are smaller than within the *Atherfield Coastal Plain*, there are more hedgerows and there is pasture land as well as arable cultivation. In the western part of the area, stretching roughly from Brook to Mottistone, most of the fields have hedged boundaries. Trees are present along field boundaries and there is also some woodland, whereas woodland is virtually absent from the rest of the zone. However, nearly all the woodland between Brook and

Mottistone appears to have been planted since the mid 19th Century and may be associated with the Seely family of Brook House. Some features of the nineteenth century park around Brook House survive, although it is mainly in agricultural use. To the east of Mottistone there is no woodland except on the valley-floor near Grange Chine and north-west of Wolverton Manor. Beyond Brighstone field sizes are larger, there are fewer hedges and trees are virtually absent.

Running parallel to the coast between Brook Green and Grange Chine, along the line of the ancient river mentioned above, there is a band of low-lying, somewhat marshy land that was traditionally used for pasture. Much of this coastal area is still pasture, in contrast with the coastal strip further to the east which is ploughed right up to the cliff edge. On the Isle of Wight the word 'moor' is used for areas of marshy rough grazing and the place-name 'Sudmoor' occurs in this area between Brook Green and Chilton Chine. (The term 'moor' was also sometimes used for flat, low-lying areas bounded by watercourse, capable of producing a heavy cut of grass - see Hockey 1970, 7.) Small areas of green-shaded land shown on the Ordnance Survey unpublished drawings of c.1793 in this coastal zone indicate meadow land or rough grazing. Close to watercourses there were withy beds containing willow trees that could be coppiced for basket making. Brook Green and Fernfield Common were areas of common grazing with associated cottages recorded in the early nineteenth century but now gone. (Brook Green was recorded on an enclosure map of 1834). An area of damp valley-floor pasture also ran between Shorwell and Brighstone, passing close to Wolverton Manor, Yafford, Thorncross and Waytes Court. The stream flowing through this valley powered water-mills at Yafford and Brighstone.

A string of villages, hamlets and arms occur along the Shorwell-Brook road, at the interface with the ***West Wight Downland Edge & Sandstone Ridge*** HLC Area and partly in that area. Medieval settlement at Shorwell lay on the chalk around the church and Northcourt Manor but outlying parts of the village and the manors of Wolverton and Westcourt fall within the South-West Wight Coastal Zone. Brighstone, which has a nucleated cluster around the church and outlying areas of settlement, straddles the two HLC Areas. Mottistone is of hamlet size but has a church and manor house whilst Hulverstone has a manor house but no church. Brook parish church lies at the base of the sandstone ridge but the settlement of Brook and Brook House (on the site of the manor house) lie within this HLC Area, Small hamlets subsidiary to the main settlements lie closer to the coast at Hoxall, Chilton Green and Yafford. Hoxall was larger in the nineteenth century (Currie 1999). Dispersed farmsteads lie between the Brook-Shorwell road and the coast e.g. Sutton Farm, Thorncross Farm. In the western part of the area trackways ran southward from the settlements at the base of the sandstone ridge to the coast. To the east of Brighstone minor roads and tracks ran both north-south and east-west. These roads and tracks may have given access to different areas of land use, including open-field, and to coastal resources such as seaweed, as well as leading to dispersed settlements.

In the Middle Ages there was an extensive open-field system around Brighstone which survived until post-medieval times and is very well documented in the Swainston Estate survey of 1630 (Jones 2003). The external boundaries of former open fields in the Brighstone area appear to be preserved by remaining hedgerows and road patterns.

Within this HLC Area older vernacular buildings utilise Lower Greensand, including Ferruginous Sandstone, and some buildings are thatched. Cottages and farm buildings built of chalk blocks also occur. There are manor houses within this HLC Area at West Court, Wolverton, Limerstone, Waytes Court, Shate, Mottistone and Hulverstone. Modern buildings in Brighstone and Shorwell are mainly bungalows.

Archaeological discoveries within this area have mainly come from the eroding gravel and brickearth deposits in the cliff face from Shippard's Chine to Grange Chine. Mesolithic flintwork and prehistoric hearths have been found in these deposits, also a Bronze Age burial urn and a preserved hurdle. Further to the south-east a late Bronze Age urn cemetery was recorded at Barnes High in the nineteenth century. A supposed Iron Age burial mound and hut sites were recorded at Sudmoor in the twentieth century. Away from the coast, a large Iron Age coin hoard has recently been recorded from this HLC area.

5.7 Atherfield Coastal Plain Character Area

This HLC Area is low-lying and flat with maximum altitude of 55m OD south of Samber Hill. It lies to the south-east of the *South-West Wight Coastal Zone* but is a much more open and exposed landscape with large fields, few field boundaries and an almost total lack of woodland.

Its low relief and coastal location distinguishes it from the generally hillier terrain and somewhat higher altitude of the *South Wight Sandstone Hills and Valleys with Gravel Ridges* HLC Area, which lies inland. The underlying geology is mainly Ferruginous Sands in the Lower Greensand series with superficial deposits of Alluvium and of Blown Sand Shingle. The soils are light and fertile, supporting intensive arable agriculture. Some of this HLC Area is Grade 2 on the Agricultural Land Classification Map, in contrast with most of the Isle of Wight's agricultural land which is Grade 3 or 4. The landscape is flat, open and exposed to south-westerly winds from the sea, with large arable fields and few hedgerows or trees. An eroding coastal slope which has produced prehistoric flintwork is punctuated by the dramatic landscape feature of Whale Chine.

Small clusters of farmsteads and cottages are strung out along Atherfield Lane, which was the only road through this area before the construction of the nineteenth century Military Road. One of these clusters is centred around 'Atherfield Green', a name which records a former green situated to the south of Atherfield Farm and shown on the OS 1793 map. Large fields shown on the 1793 OS map to the south of Atherfield Farm may represent former open fields that were enclosed at a fairly late date, not taking account of former furlong boundaries. Further to the west the 1793 map shows smaller interlocking fields. These may have been enclosed from former open field strips and furlongs at a somewhat earlier date. Close to the dispersed farmsteads and the main settlement cluster at Atherfield Green the 1793 map shows small irregular pasture fields.

This is one of the few areas of the Isle of Wight where it is difficult to relate existing field patterns to the 1793 OS map because of radical reorganisation of fields, partly in response to the C19 construction of the Military Road. The small pasture fields shown on the 1793 map have vanished. Atherfield Lane and the settlement along the lane provide the main link with the area's past historic landscape character.

The farmhouses and cottages within this HLC Area are mainly constructed out of local Greensand and some have thatched roofs. The use of regular dressed stone on some houses suggests a rebuilding phase, possibly connected with late eighteenth century prosperity from arable farming. Walpen Manor House and Downend Cottage are earlier, of seventeenth century date, and are built of local stone with mullioned windows, drip moulds and thatched roofs.

5.8 South Wight Sandstone Hills and Valleys with Gravel Character Area

This inland HLC Area stretches from the *Atherfield Coastal Plain* as far as Newport, lying on either side of the upper Medina Valley and also including the upper valley of the Eastern Yar. The geology mainly comprises Ferruginous Sands in the Lower Greensand Series but with ridges of Plateau Gravel at Bleak Down, Rookley and St George's Down, and with Gravel Terraces and Alluvium in the river valleys. To the south of Burnt House Lane the area also includes a narrow band of chalk which does not form a prominent ridge at this point but is subsidiary to the gravel ridge of St George's Down. This area has a similar geology to the *Atherfield Coastal Plain* and *Arreton Valley* HLC Areas but is on higher ground except within the river valleys. Slopes are generally moderate but with pronounced ridges on the Plateau Gravels as at Bleak Down and St George's Down. The highest points are 105m OD north of Bucks Farm & 106m OD south-east of Great East Standen Manor.

At the south-west edge of this area some streams flow towards the south-west coast but the main drainage is provided by the upper reaches of the River Medina flowing north-east from The Wilderness to Shide. The Eastern Yar also flows north through this area from Southford to Kennerley Farm. A tributary stream of the Medina flows north-west from the Pagham area to Blackwater.

The area has light, easily worked soils on Greensand but also includes acid unproductive soils on the gravel ridges. In general the landscape is open and exposed with large fields and few trees or hedgerows. There are extensive views from high points such as St George's Down. Very few woods exists within the area except for the ancient woodland of Kingston Copse, a secondary woodland south of Highwood Lane and some valley-floor woodland, particularly beside the River Medina to the east of Gatcombe. The river valleys provide a contrast with the higher ground, having areas of enclosed pastures, damp rough pasture and some former withy beds. The tract of marshy ground on either side of the Medina River between Chale Green and East Appleford is known as 'The Wilderness'.

Although now in intensive agricultural use there is only limited evidence for medieval open-field. Heathland was certainly an important part of the landscape in medieval times, with the OS 1793 map showing fairly large areas of heathland still occupying the gravel ridges of Bleak Down and St George's Down. In addition, straight field boundaries shown on the 1793 map suggest that there had formerly been much more heathland within the area which had been enclosed in post-medieval times. These heathlands may have originated from prehistoric cultivation of potentially infertile, drought susceptible soils

There is documentary evidence for large-scale early nineteenth century reorganisation of holdings and rationalisation of boundaries in the Appleford area described in a

parliamentary award of 1860 listed byAdams (1960, 221). In the twentieth century there was a widespread loss of boundaries throughout much of the area, creating large arable fields. Gravel working took place at Bleak Down in the early twentieth century and extensive active gravel works still occupy St Georges Down.

The area is fairly sparsely populated, with settlement mainly in the form of dispersed farmsteads. Kingston was a Domesday Manor and its chapel originates from the thirteenth century, later becoming a parish church. The settlement today consists only of the church and manor house. The seventeenth century building of Kingston Manor lies beside Kingston Copse, one of the very few woods in this area claasified as 'ancient woodland', although the presence of fishponds within the copse indicates its secondary character. However, there appears to have been some woodland in the Kingston area in Medieval times as 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 inclose 300 acres of wood and pasture there (Page ed. 1912, 250). Roud is a hamlet that may have been more significant in medieval times. Blackwater is shown as a small hamlet on the OS 1793 map. Rookley appears to have developed as a green-edge settlement shown on the OS 1793 map, with later twentieth residential development. There are no village-sized settlements of any antiquity within this HLC Area and few notable historic buildings apart from Kingston Manor, although there are some vernacular farm buildings and cottages.

Apart from the fishponds in Kingston Copse there are few recorded archaeological earthworks within this HLC area, possibly because of intensive arable agriculture. Crop-marks at Samber Hill, to the north of Pagham and east of Merston Red Barn suggest prehistoric activity in these areas. In the Medina Valley to the east of Gatcombe there is pollen evidence for arable farming in the Neolithic period, associated with substantial assemblages of worked flint (Tomalin and Scaife 1980). Flint assemblages have also been recorded from Whitecroft, St George's Down and Bucks Farm.

5.9 Using the HLC Character Area information to ascertain "time-depth"

The nature of the HLC data is defined by the methodology and sources used to gather the information about the development of the historic landscape. "Time-depth" is a concept which helps archaeologists to explain how the landscape developed through time. The ideal time depth analysis for a site would be able to explain how the land appeared and was used from the earliest Palaeolithic times, through the whole prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, Medieval, post medieval and modern periods. However, because all HLC data is gathered from historic sources such as old maps and charters, it can generally only take researchers back to the Medieval period when such charters and maps were first compiled. On the Isle of Wight, the HLC data is gathered from historic maps and landscape research, especially the Anglo-Saxon charters and can take the "time-depth" back to Medieval or Anglo-Saxon times. The gap between the historic sources and the earliest prehistoric periods must be filled by archaeological evidence which is recorded on the County Historic Environment Record and an assessment of each period is given in Chapter 6 below.

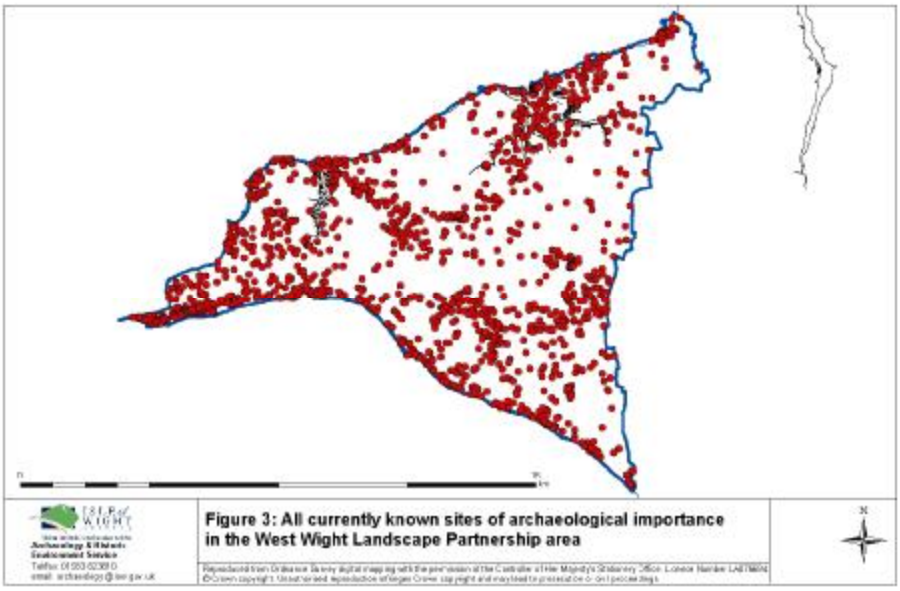


Figure 3: All currently known sites of archaeological importance in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record currently shows that sites of archaeological importance within the West Wight range from the earliest human remains in the Palaeolithic period through every period of archaeological development to the present day. This shows that human occupation of these Island landscapes has been unbroken from the earliest humans to our modern lives. That all of these remains still exist within the landscape means that the prehistoric Time Depth of the West Wight stretches back to our earliest human ancestors and that evidence of each change and development of society still exists around us. The West Wight local community should be encouraged to learn about and be proud of their unbroken archaeological heritage and educational and tourism initiatives should include this importance aspect of the West Wight's landscape.

6.0 Palaeolithic remains in the West Wight:

The Heritage audit revealed 32 sites at which flint tools have been recorded which can be dated to Palaeolithic period within the study area and these are listed in the tables in Appendix 1. Archaeologists use the word "Palaeolithic" to describe the oldest part of the Stone Age (Palaeo = old/ancient and lithic = stone) between 450,000 to 10,000 BC. Because this period was still part of the Ice Ages, there were a series of colder periods when ice sheets covered the land (called "glacials") when only animals like mammoth and woolly rhinoceros could survive. In between these, were warmer periods (called "interglacials") when woodland of hazel, oak, yew, ash and elm grew and animals such as deer, bison and horses wandered across the land, followed by early humans who hunted the animals using stone tools.

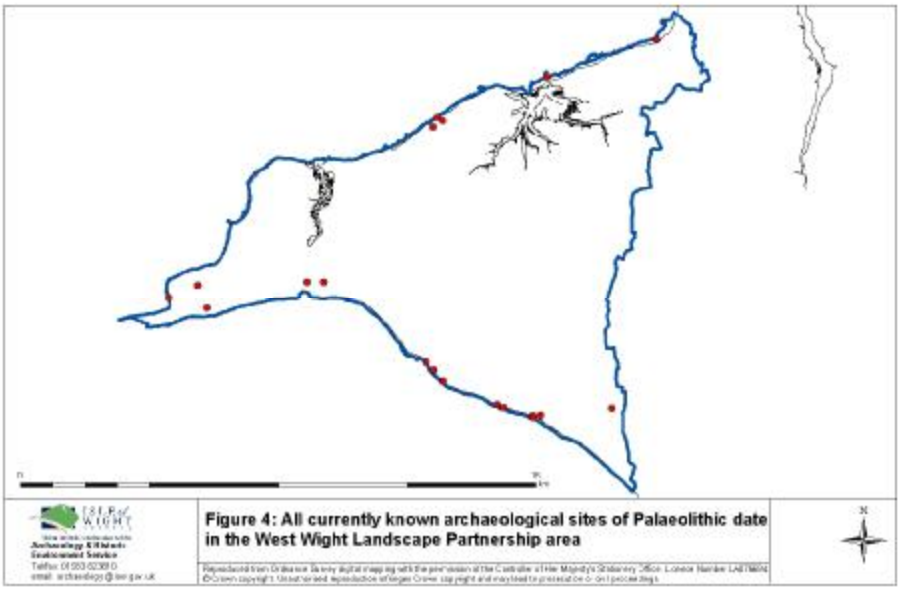


Figure 4: All currently known archaeological sites of Palaeolithic date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The land which became the Isle of Wight was still attached to Europe and mainland Britain at this time and the sea level was much lower, so that area which is now the English Channel and the North Sea was a huge plain. Early humans lived a nomadic existence in small family groups by following and hunting animal herds across the forested plains of what is now northern Europe and collecting and eating fruit, nuts, plants, fish and other resources.

The flint tools they left behind are the only evidence of their presence and are found in river gravels and plateau gravels showing how the first human activity was centred around the ancient system of rivers. What is now the Solent was an ancient river which ran north east from a larger river which is now covered by the waters of the English Channel. During this period, the Old Western Yar river also flowed north east and cut through the chalk ridge to join the Solent in the north and it was on the gravel terraces of this river valley in the West Wight that Palaeolithic people made and used the flint tools which have survived today. The gravel terraces are now exposed in the cliff face between Chale Bay and Compton Bay on the south west coast of the Island and there have been many finds of flint tools along this cliff face.

People have been finding and recording these tools of our earliest Island visitors for many years and the local Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society gathered and published some of the earliest Palaeolithic finds from the West Wight in their proceedings before the First World War. One of the most active members of the society was Hubert F Poole, a tailor and antique dealer from Sandown, who was in his late twenties in 1912 when he noticed that very little attention had been given to the Stone Ages on the Island. Luckily for our studies today, he proceeded to record flint tools that were being hand dug from the gravel workings on the Island and eventually donated a large collection to Carisbrooke Castle Museum. These included the tools below which were all recovered from the gravels of the Old Western Yar and the illustrations were done by Poole himself in the 1930's:

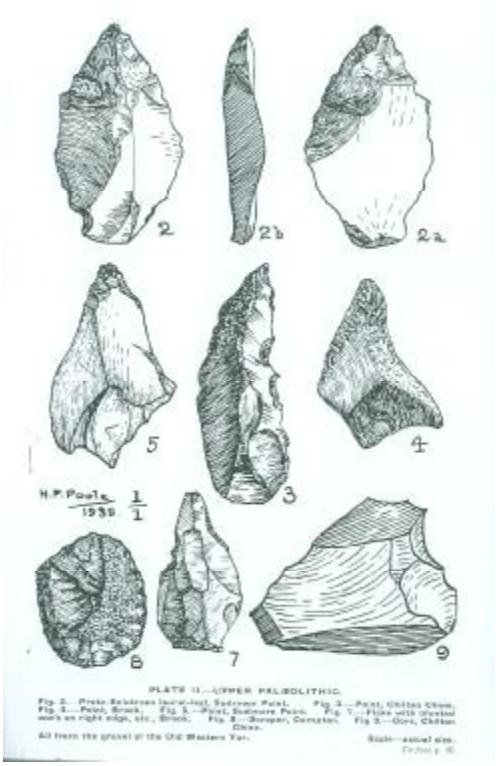


Figure 5: Poole's illustrations of Palaeolithic stone tools from the Old Western Yar

Another site within West Wight which has produced evidence of the ice age landscape and the animals which roamed over the land which became the Island is at Newtown on the north western coast. Here a group of animal bones was discovered in the late 19th century and further remains were discovered in the 20th century. These included bones from straight tusked elephants, mammoths, woolly rhino, hippopotamus, red deer and reindeer, bison and aurochs and date to both the Ipswichian Interglacial (125,000 to 70,000 BC) and to the Devensian Glacial (70,000 to 10,000 BC).

6.1 The importance and value of Palaeolithic sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	Very High	Unique assemblages of stratified flint tools can assist in the study of human development from earliest times, including the evolution of Modern humans (Home sapiens sapiens) from earlier ancestors such as Homo erectus and Homo Neanderthals).
Archaeological value	Very high	Stratified tools and deposits can help us to understand the pattern of the earliest human settlement and the development of changing landscapes during and between ice ages which have helped to produce our modern landscapes. Not only for the Island, but within Britain too.
Historical value	High	The development of our knowledge of this period from the first antiquarian 19th century findings, through the 20th century study to the new scientific techniques of the early 21st century shows how our investigative methods have progressed and the study of our earliest human evolution shows how technology has changed from the stone toll assemblages to today's modern tools.
Educational value	Medium and High	With nothing visible on site, the educational value of the site is medium, but the educational value of the stone tools them selves is high as they or replicas can be handled to show how they were used, made, technological changes and how life was in the Stone Age.
Curiosity value	Medium	Nothing visible at the sites, but stone tools themselves arouse curiosity as they are both alien to our modern technology (no longer used) and similar in shape and usage to it
Tourism and recreational value	Medium	Nothing visible at sites for visitors, but stone tools have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the way of life in the earliest of stone ages
Aesthetic and creative arts value	Low	Flint tools can be considered as beautiful objects, but are less likely to influence art, poetry and literature or music.

7.0 Mesolithic remains in the West Wight:

The Heritage audit revealed 46 flint tool sites, 1 hearth site and 2 occupation sites which can be dated to Mesolithic period within the study area and these are listed in the table in Appendix 2. The term “Mesolithic” means “middle stone age” and dates from around 10,000 BC to 4,500 BC.

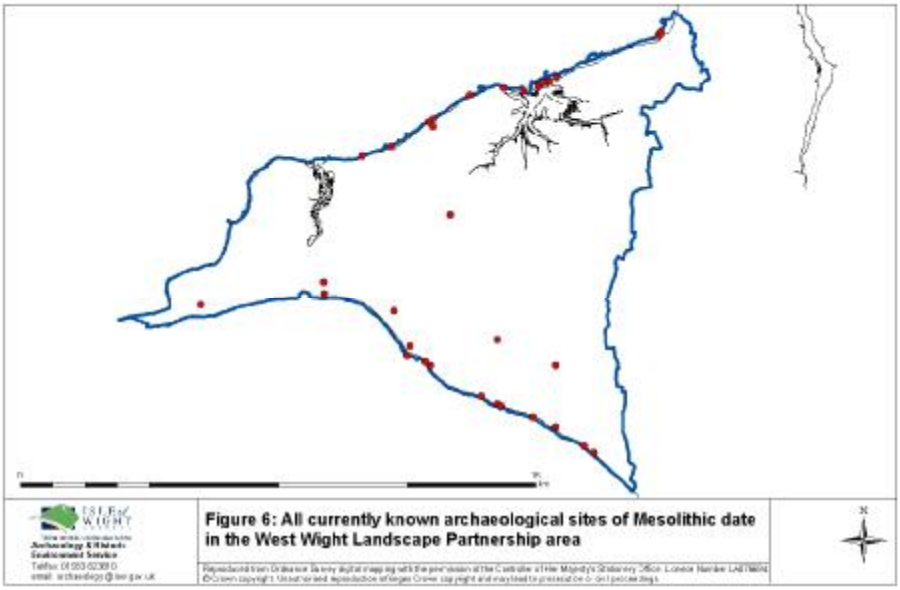


Figure 6: All currently known archaeological sites of Mesolithic date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The last Ice Age came to an end around 8,500 BC and the tundra landscapes were colonised by birch trees until the British landscape became covered with thick deciduous woodland with herds of red deer. Because of the sea level rise associated with melting ice sheets, Britain and the Island became cut off from the rest of Europe.

On the Island, many of the Mesolithic remains within West Wight are associated with the old river systems of the Medina and eastern and western Yar valleys and it is highly likely that a large number of surviving Mesolithic occupation sites were flooded when the Solent and other rivers were flooded.

The Mesolithic people who lived still lived by hunting and gathering slowly adapted their lifestyles and flint tools to the changing environment in which they lived. Whereas the earliest Palaeolithic humans who had visited the land which became the Isle of Wight hunted herds of large ice age animals, the Mesolithic people had to hunt individual animals from a wider variety of species because herds were much less frequent in the thickly wooded landscapes.

This is the first period of human history on the Island which provides us with occupation sites as well as the flint tools left behind by our prehistoric ancestors. Mesolithic groups seem to have moved around a particular territory and stayed at seasonal camps near to rivers which provided fish and other resources. Because these camps were temporary, even if they were returned to year after year, the archaeological remains left behind are very small and very difficult to spot. The

postholes from a temporary skin covered shelter are too small to be identified and it is rare for Mesolithic occupation sites to be found.

The most frequent remains of this period are, of course, the stone tools and the debris from their manufacture which have been left behind by Mesolithic communities.

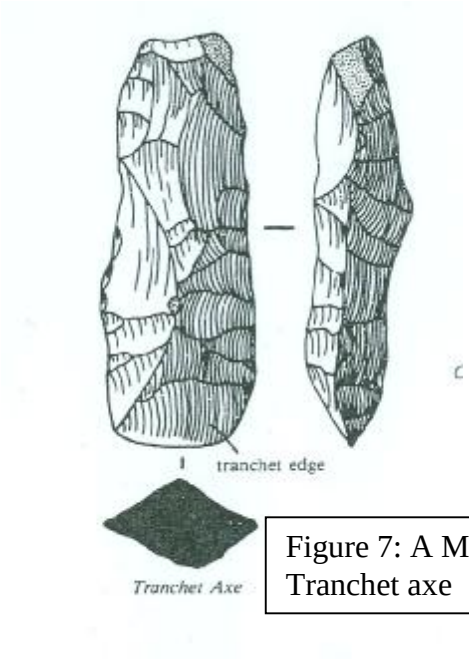


Figure 7: A Mesolithic Tranchet axe

There are some very distinctive shapes and types of flint tools which became common in the Mesolithic period.

One of these was the "Tranchet axe" which was a heavy flint axe sharpened to a point by the removal of a single flake from the side or "tranchet".

These tools were probably hafted onto a wooden or antler haft in order to be used.

Another typical type of Mesolithic flint tool is the "microlith", a very small worked flint blade which seem to get smaller in size as the Mesolithic period progresses.

These were probably used for arrows barbs and composite tools and weapons. Other types of flint tool include scrapers, burins and awls and it must be remembered that bone, antler, wood and other organic materials were used to make objects and tools, it is just very rare for them to survive as well as flint does. Although there is no evidence from the Island yet, the Mesolithic people were known to hunt red and roe deer, pig, aurochs and elk on the mainland.

Most of the recorded Mesolithic activity in the West Wight is concentrated on the downs, the sea cliffs and the chines around the coast. Tranchet axes found on High and Afton Downs, and microliths at Mottistone Down are evidence of Mesolithic people who would have hunted and gathered animals and plants in the thick forests which covered the now bare downland.

But it is the coastal cliffs and the sea bed itself which are currently revealing new sites of Mesolithic importance in the West Wight. Coastal erosion has been wearing away the cliff faces around the north and south coasts to reveal the remains of our Mesolithic ancestors for many years. The stretch of coastline between Brook and Chilton Chine has produced many Mesolithic flint tools including picks, scrapers, microliths and other tools since Hubert Poole published his article on the Mesolithic in the Proceedings of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society in

1936 and some of the tools which he found and illustrated are shown in the figure below:

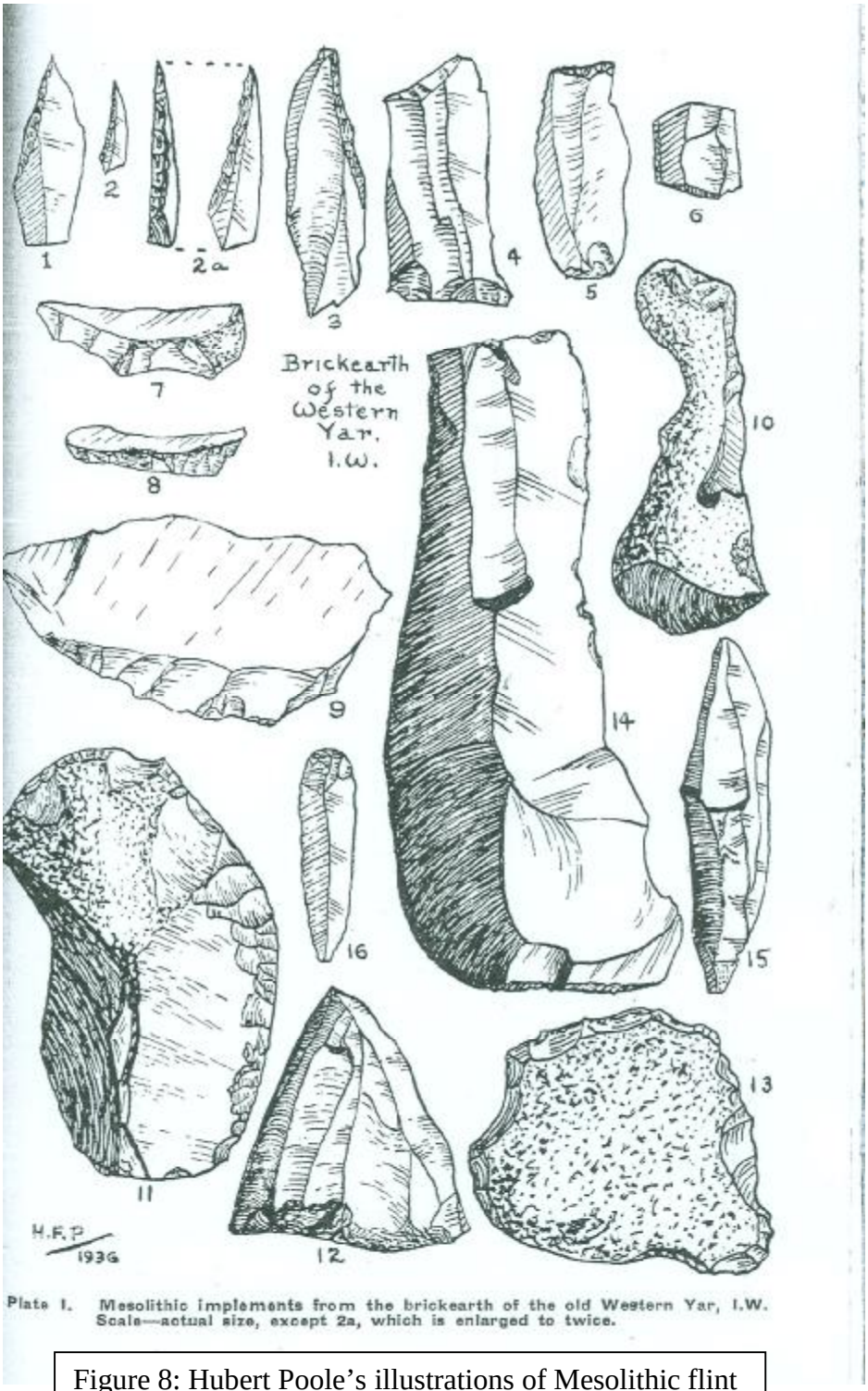


Figure 8: Hubert Poole's illustrations of Mesolithic flint tools from the Old Western Yar River gravels

The reason for the location of these remains along the coast is that as the cliff edges are being worn away by the sea to reveal the gravel terraces and the brickeath (a loamy soil which was laid down within the river's floodplain) of the Old Western

River Yar. This former river would have been flowing in Mesolithic times and it was along its sides that Mesolithic people would have lived and hunted.

But it is not only the flint tools that survive – Even in the first half of the 20th Century, archaeologists were discovering prehistoric hearths which we think dated to the Mesolithic period. Poole recorded two such sites around Chilton Chine in 1936 and described them as "a line of large burnt flints with fragments of charcoal, suggesting a scattered hearth" and although the two sites he recorded have now been destroyed by coastal erosion, similar sites were recorded in the Isle of Wight Coastal Audit in 1999.

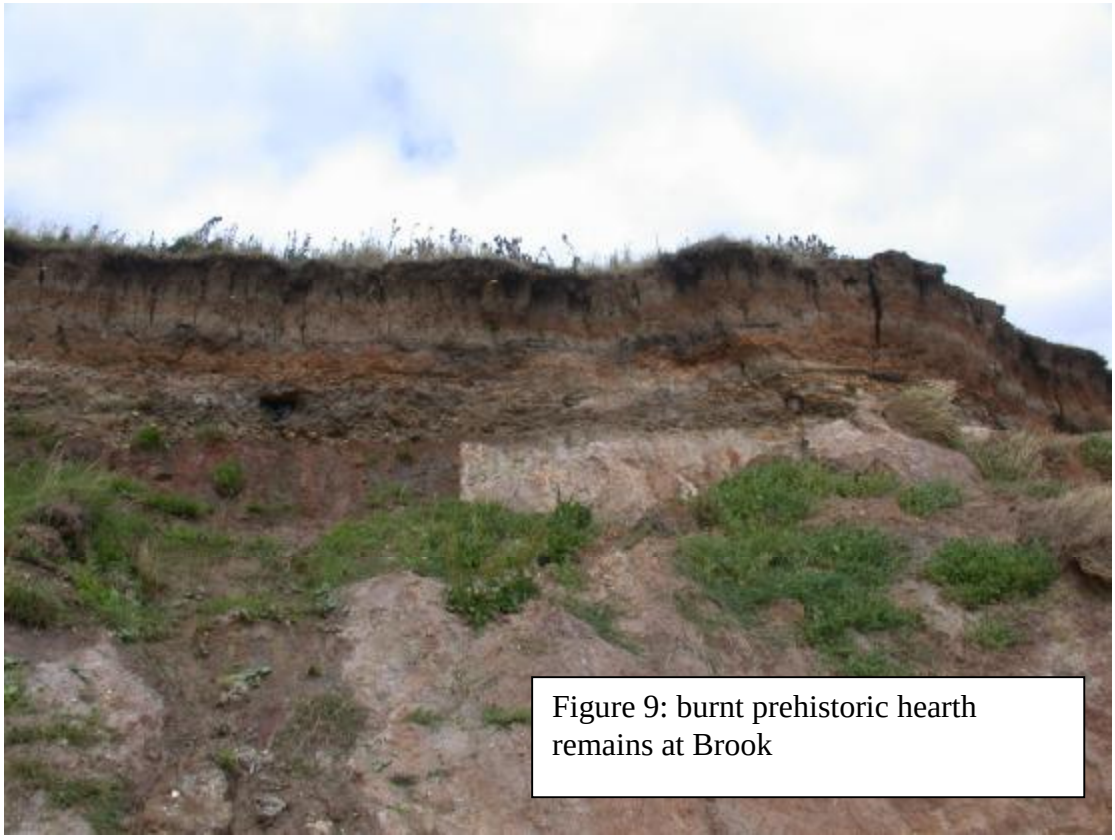


Figure 9: burnt prehistoric hearth remains at Brook

Archaeologists are not fully sure what these remains represent, are they simply the remains of a cooking fire in a temporary Mesolithic camp or were they used for ritual ceremonies? Scientific analysis is urgently needed to discover the date and use of these features.

The hearths are sometimes seen in association with an organic layer of preserved plant material which, because of the excellent survival of hazelnut shells is called the "nut bed". This layer survives in the cliff face between Shepherd's Chine and Compton Bay and contains the preserved remains of plants and trees including hazel, oak and alder. It lies on top and sometimes within of the gravels of the old river but underneath the brickearth and is thought to be Mesolithic in date.

It is very important for archaeologists to understand the environment in which Mesolithic people lived and this "nut bed" has preserved just such evidence. Scientific analysis of samples taken by Poole in the 1920's has shown that woodland including alder, hazel, yew, ash and oak trees covered the landscape with plants such as blackberries, elderberries, lettuce, mosses and thistles growing nearby.

One big failing in of the archaeological research into these hearth sites in the West Wight so far is that there has been no scientific dating of these hearths or the “nutbed” and urgent radiocarbon dating and palaeo-environmental analysis is required for us to know that date and environment in which the Mesolithic people lived and moved around the banks of the Old Western Yar River.

Other Mesolithic sites in the West Wight show how much the landscape has changed today as they have been inundated by the sea and now lie on the seabed underneath the Solent. In Mesolithic times, the Island and Britain was still attached to the rest of Europe and what is now the Solent was an ancient land surface on which Mesolithic life was carried out. One such site was at Newtown on the north west coast where Mesolithic tranchet axes have been found on the seabed and more have been found in-situ on the old land surface which has been covered with estuarine silts.

The most exciting new discoveries of Mesolithic remains however, lie just a little further west along the West Wight coast at Bouldnor. With several tranchet axes, picks and other Mesolithic flint tools being recorded here over many years, an underwater discovery has allowed us to see a drowned Mesolithic landscape more clearly.

The site was discovered in 1985 and consists of an underwater cliff with the remains of tree trunks from a Mesolithic oak forest preserved under it. A sample from an oak tree was sent for radiocarbon dating and has been dated firmly to the Mesolithic period at 6430 to 6120 cal BC.

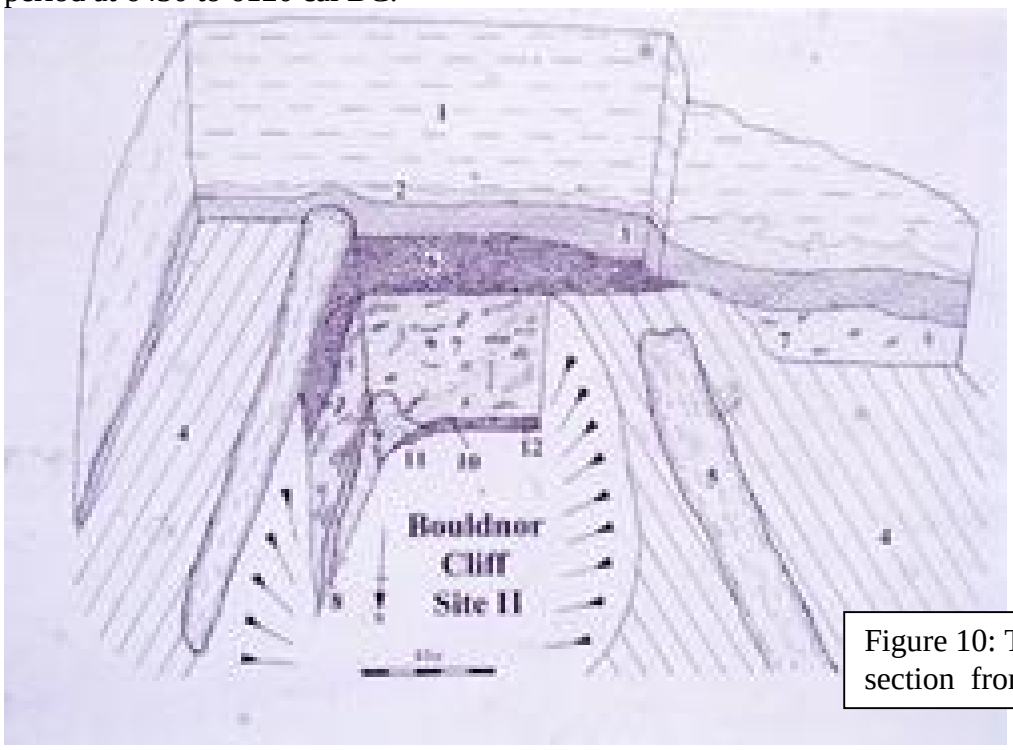


Figure 10: The excavated section from Bouldnor Cliff

More excitingly was the discovery of Mesolithic flint tools and a hearth at the bottom of the submerged cliff. The hearth contained burnt hazel nut fragments and is extremely rare as there are very few examples of Mesolithic food known from southern England. It is though the site was a semi-stable river bar in Mesolithic times and the ideal place for a seasonal camp which allowed humans to use all of the natural

resources from the river and the surrounding forests. The environmental evidence shows that, eventually, as sea levels rose gradually over the centuries, the Bouldnor cliff site became wetter until it became salt marsh or mudflats before being covered by the sea. With sea levels having risen up to 100 metres in some areas, the discovery of this well preserved Mesolithic site below the modern sea level could indicate that many more sites of our prehistoric past are preserved on the bed of the Solent.

7.1 The importance and value of Mesolithic sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	Findspots of flint tools can provide evidence for the development of technologies and thus for human development .
	Very High	Unique assemblages of stratified flint tools associated with occupation sites and environmental evidence can assist in the study of Mesolithic development as well as the changing landscapes of the environmental change associated with global warming and sea level rise.
Archaeological value	Very high	Stratified tools and environmental deposits can help us to understand the pattern of the Mesolithic human adaption and use to the changing landscapes during global warming and sea level rises The well preserved underwater sites are of extremely high archaeological value.
Historical value	High	The development of our knowledge of this period from the first antiquarian 19th century findings, through the early 20th century studies of Poole to the use of new scientific techniques of the early 21st century shows how our investigative methods have progressed and the study of our earliest human evolution shows how technology has changed from the stone tool assemblages to today's modern tools.
Educational value	Medium	For the isolated flint tools, the educational value of the site is medium, but the educational value of the stone tools them selves is high as they or replicas can be handled to show how they were used, made, technological changes and how life was in the Stone Age.
	High	The educational value of the underwater occupation sites, as well as the cliff face hearth sites and the nutbed deposits are of high educational value as they show just how much the environment and landscape have changed since Mesolithic times and give particular patterns of environmental change which may be of use for prediction and management of environmental change today.
Curiosity value	High	The stone tools themselves arouse curiosity as they are both alien to our modern technology (no longer used) and similar in shape and usage to it. The preserved sites arouse curiosity either because they are so well preserved and are on the present seabed or because they show human adaption to environmental change.
Tourism and recreational value	Medium	At sites with nothing visible, the stone tools have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment.
	High	For sites preserved on the seabed or in cliff faces, there is greater tourism interest partly in the scientific techniques required to study them (underwater archaeology) and specialist museums, such as the Centre for Underwater Archaeology at Fort Victoria provide interpretative material for visitors.
Aesthetic and creative arts value	Medium	Because most occupation sites are underwater or in cliff faces, they and flint tools are less likely to influence art, poetry and literature or music.

8.0 Neolithic remains in the West Wight:

The Heritage audit revealed 52 flint tool sites, 1 lithic working site, 1 occupation site, and 1 trackway. This is the earliest period where earthwork remains survive and these include a Mortuary enclosure and 2 long barrow sites within the West Wight study area and these are listed in the table in Appendix 3. The term "Neolithic" means "new stone age" and dates from around 4500 BC to 2000 BC.

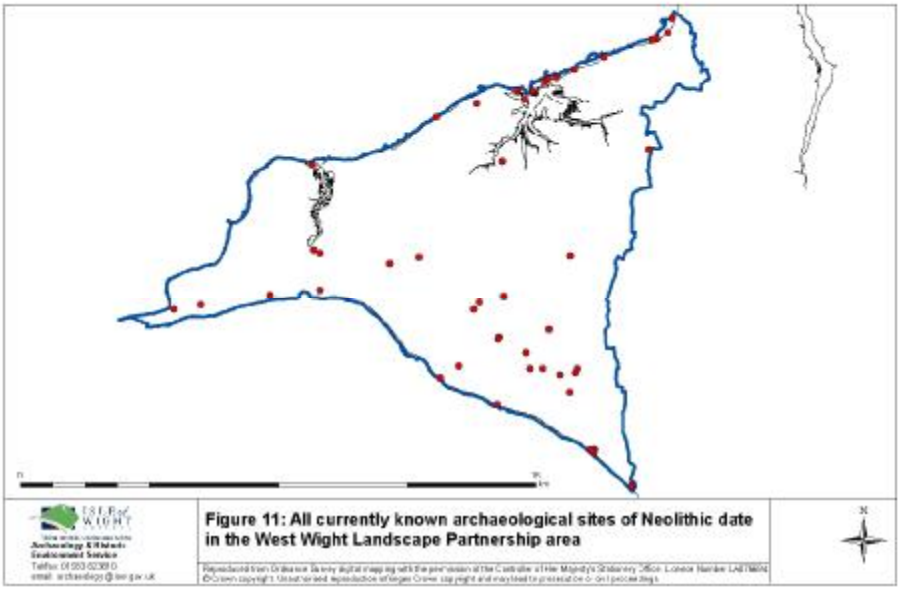


Figure 11: All currently known archaeological sites of Neolithic date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The Neolithic period saw the introduction of farming and a lifestyle of permanent settlements as agriculture slowly replaced hunting and gathering as a way of life. The clearance of the forests from the landscapes continued as more settlements grew up and gradually the landscape was transformed into a network of small agricultural settlements.

In coastal areas, the Neolithic people continued to collect fish and shellfish, birds and other resources and in the West Wight the coastal settlement at Newtown continued as archaeological remains including leaf- shaped and triangular arrowheads and scrapers, cores and flakes have been recovered from a bank of brickearth overlying the earlier Mesolithic remains. In addition, two wooden structures were discovered within the intertidal zone at Newtown as part of the Island's Coastal Audit carried out by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service in 1999. A Radiocarbon date was obtained from a hazel timber from one of these platforms which dated it to 2920-2500 cal BC which dates it firmly within the Neolithic period.

This is the first known permanent settlement in the West Wight and shows us how the earliest settlements grew up at places where the most food resources were available. The site at Newtown had probably been used for thousands of years during certain seasons by the Mesolithic ancestors, but may have only became permanent in Neolithic times.

Because they were now staying in one place, communities started to build large earthwork ceremonial and burial monuments which could serve their settlements and mark out the limits of their territory. This is the period in which Stonehenge was built and some of these earliest earthwork monuments still survive within the West Wight landscape today.

The Neolithic people had different burial customs to those we use today. Instead of individual graves, people were buried in large communal burial mounds called “long barrows”. These were often placed at the edges of their territory on high down land or hill tops and used to be part of a much bigger landscape of ceremonial monuments and structures. Two of these long barrow sites still survive within the West Wight landscape of today.

The Longstone on Mottistone Down is sometimes though of as a standing stone as that is all that survives of the earthwork today. But it was originally one of the upright stones which formed part of a Neolithic long barrow.

Figure 12: The Longstone at Mottistone

The Longstone is the name given to the two massive blocks of ferruginous sandstone of the Upper Greensand which survive on the site. To the west of the stones is a low earthen mound which is 31metres long and 9metres wide and less than 2 metres high today. But in Neolithic times a large mound of earth would have covered the standing stones and inside it would have been chambers in which the bones of the dead were buried. As the burial place of the first Island farmers, this site is of national importance and has been designated as a Scheduled Monument.

The Longstone has been a special place for many generations of Islanders and visitors and interest in its past uses have attracted archaeologists for a long time. The famous archaeologist Jaquetta Hawkes, who lived on the Island in the 1950’s, did some excavations at the site in 1956 and revealed part of the ditch which had run around the mound.

The West Wight also contains another Neolithic Long Barrow, probably the burial place of a community living around Freshwater Bay. This is the Afton Long barrow and it sits within a later cemetery of Bronze Age burial mounds showing that people buried their dead in this ceremonial place for many generations after the Neolithic period ended.

Nowadays, the Neolithic Long Barrow lies amongst the tees and greens of the Freshwater Bay Golf Course, but it is a reminder that an Island farming community have lived, died and been buried in this part of the West Wight over 6000 years ago.

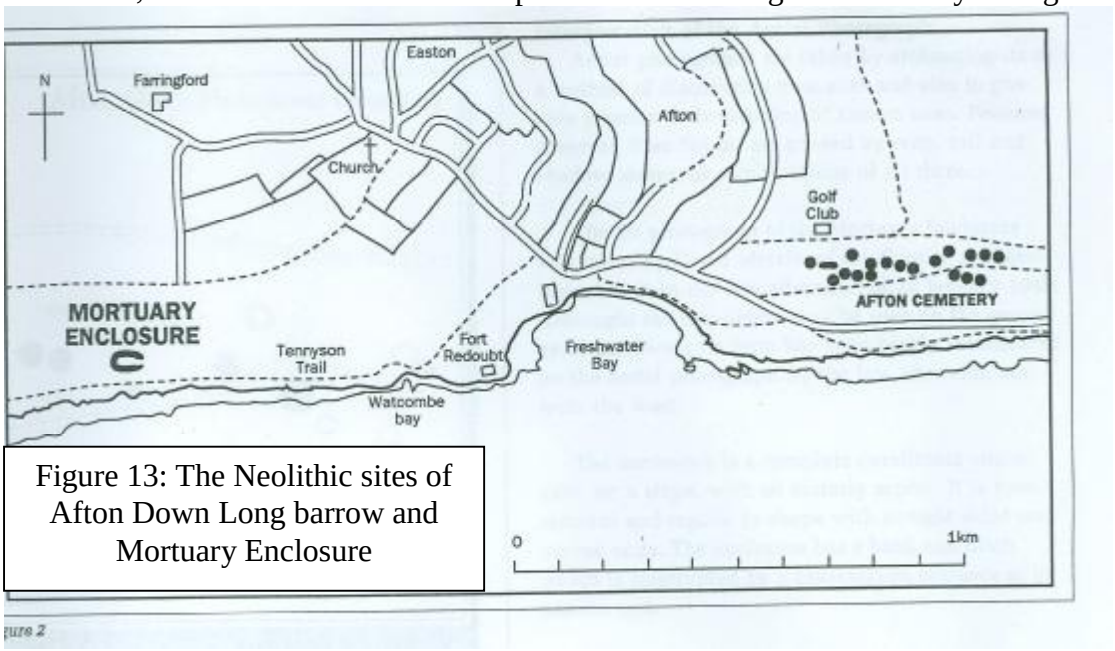


Figure 13: The Neolithic sites of Afton Down Long barrow and Mortuary Enclosure

Burying the dead was part of a host of rituals and ceremonies which linked the living Neolithic people with the natural elements and their landscape. Another very rare type of Neolithic earthwork site relating to the elaborate rituals surrounding death and burial lies further to the west on Tennyson Down.

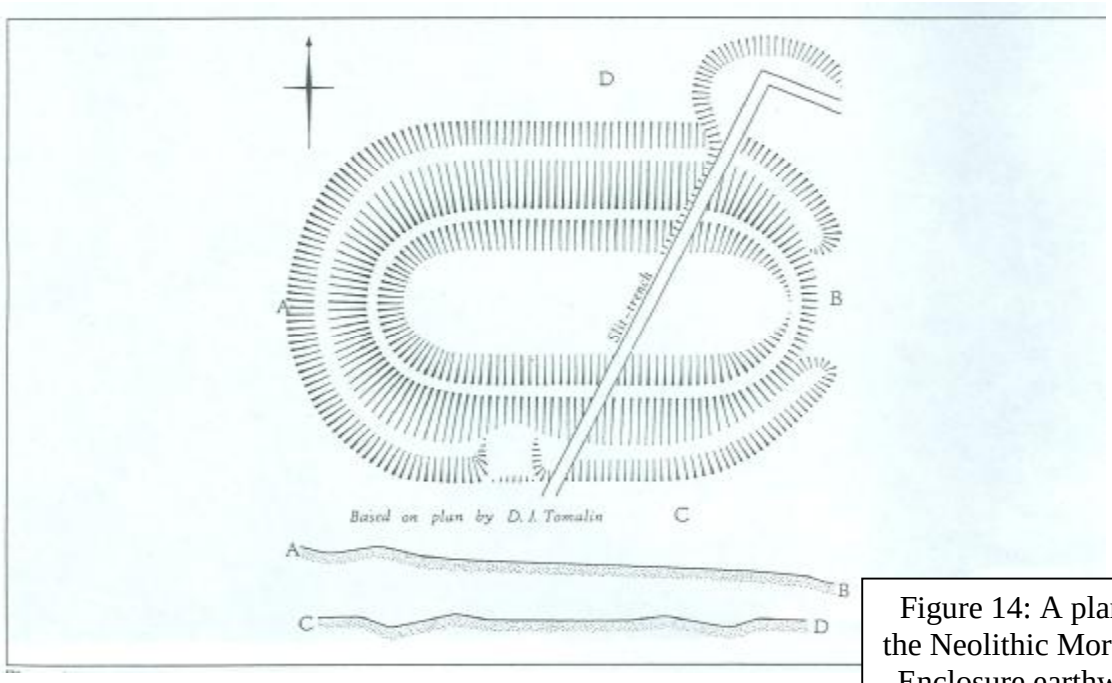


Figure 14: A plan of the Neolithic Mortuary Enclosure earthwork on Tennyson Down

This monument is an enclosure of 40 metres by 27 metres in size defined by a ditch and an internal bank. It is thought to have been used to lay out dead bodies before burial, so that birds and animals could gradually remove the flesh leaving only the skeleton for burial within the long barrows. This process involved an open space in a sacred place being fenced off as the Mortuary enclosure. Within this area, the dead were laid out, sometimes on a low platform until they were ready to be buried.

The tourism and recreational visitor potential for these three Neolithic sites is enormous as all three are on existing walking routes. Suitable information provision and visitor management at these sites could provide additional and unexpected tourist attractions for the West Wight. In Addition, it is recommended that this group of related sites be made accessible to all Island school children by the inclusion of these sites and more information about the Neolithic period on an educational Cd-Rom of the West Wight's archaeological heritage.

Flint was still used to make tools and weapons in the Neolithic period and many flint axes and other tools have been found in the Island. Most of the 52 sites of recovered artefacts recorded in the West Wight consist of small numbers of flint tools. Every Neolithic farmer would have had a toolkit containing the scrapers, blades, axes and other flint tools and when they broke beyond repair they were thrown away and replaced with a new one. Most of the recovered artefacts in the West Wight are single tools may be lost or discarded as they were being used to farm the crops and animals or hunt and gather, but sites one site in Brighstone is thought to have been a site where these tools were made which may possible indicate a nearby settlement or working site. Here waste flakes and cores were found to show that whoever was fashioning the flint tools had sat down and made a number of different tools from the raw flint cores.

8.1 The importance and value of Neolithic sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	The isolated finds of Neolithic flint tools and the lithic working site can provide evidence for the development of technologies and thus for human development .
	Very High	Unique occupation site with environmental evidence at Newtown can assist in the study of Neolithic development as well as the changing landscapes of the environmental change associated with global warming and sea level rise. Mortuary enclosure and two long barrows can assist in study of ceremonial and ritual
Archaeological value	Very high	Stratified tools and environmental deposits can help us to understand the pattern of the Neoliithic human adaption and use to the changing landscapes during global warming and sea level rises The well preserved underwater sites are of extremely high archaeological value as are the Mortuary enclosure and long barrows
Historical value	High	The development of our knowledge of this period from the first antiquarian 19th century findings, through the early 20th century studies of Hawkes to the use of new scientific techniques of the early 21st century shows how our investigative methods have progressed and the study of our earliest human evolution shows how technology has changed from the stone tool assemblages to today's modern tools.
Educational value	Medium	For the isolated flint tools, the educational value of the site is medium, but the educational value of the stone tools them selves is high as they or replicas can be handled to show how they were used, made, technological changes and how life was in the Stone Age.
	High	The educational value of the coastal occupation site, as well as the mortuary enclosure and long barrows are of high educational value as they show just how much the environment and landscape have changed since a settled farming lifestyle was introduced in Neolithic times and give particular patterns of environmental change which may be of use for prediction and management of environmental change today.
Curiosity value	High	The stone tools themselves arouse curiosity as they are both alien to our modern technology (no longer used) and similar in shape and usage to it. The preserved sites arouse curiosity either because they are so well preserved and are on the present seabed or because they show human adaption to environmental change.
Tourism and recreational value	Medium	At sites with nothing visible, the stone tools have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment.
	High	For sites preserved on the downs and golf course, there is greater tourism interest. Visitor information and walks/maps could be produced to encourage more visitors..
Aesthetic and creative arts value	High	Tennyson and Afton Downs already inspire and influence art, poetry and literature or music. An added time depth taking human activity back to the Neolithic and the type of funerary ritual practised on these sites can add more inspiration than at present.

9.0 Bronze Age remains in the West Wight:

The Heritage audit revealed 167 known sites dating to the Bronze Age and these are listed in the table in Appendix 4. The known sites include 139 barrow (or burial mound) sites, 2 cemeteries, 4 cremations, 2 hoards, 1 occupation site, 2 pit circles, 1 trackway and 16 findspots. The term "Bronze Age" refers to the introduction of metal working using bronze and it dates from around 2000 BC to 700 BC.

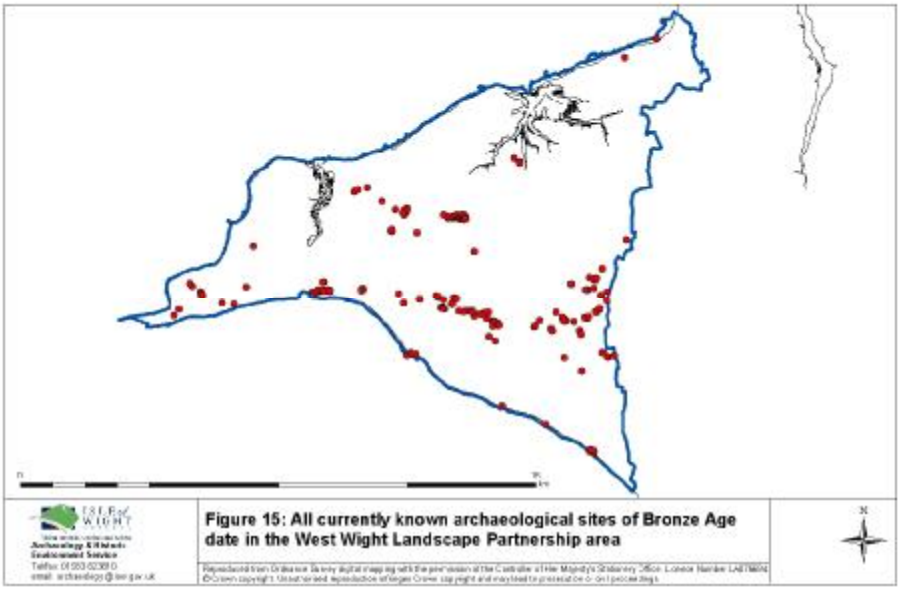


Figure 15: All currently known archaeological sites of Bronze Age date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The Bronze Age saw the introduction of metal for making tools and weapons, rather than the use of flint and stone and bronze objects were made and traded throughout the Atlantic sea trading countries. Some of the 16 individual findspots in West Wight include Bronze Age tools but the most exciting finds of these earliest metal objects have been the two hoards that have been found in the West Wight.

Archaeologists use the term "hoard" for a collection of metal objects which have been deliberately buried together. This may have been because a metal worker or smith wanted to hide or deposit old used objects which he later planned to melt down (called a founder's hoard) or they may have been buried as protection from seizure during a time of warfare, or even as ritual deposits to whatever gods or spirits were worshipped at the time. Whatever the reason for their burial, some of these hoards were never collected again and have survived to tell us about the manufacture and use of bronze tools and weapons over 3000 years ago.

One such Bronze Age hoard was found in 1942 in Totland when a local farmer's cattle were treading down an earthen bank in a marshy spot near a stream and uncovered an axe head. The farmer notified the Isle of Wight County Press and returned to the site with members of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society and another 12 objects were recovered. These included 3 spearheads, 3 daggers and 7 flanged axes and the find was reported to the world by G. A. Sherwin in the Antiquaries Journal of 1942. The finds are shown overleaf:

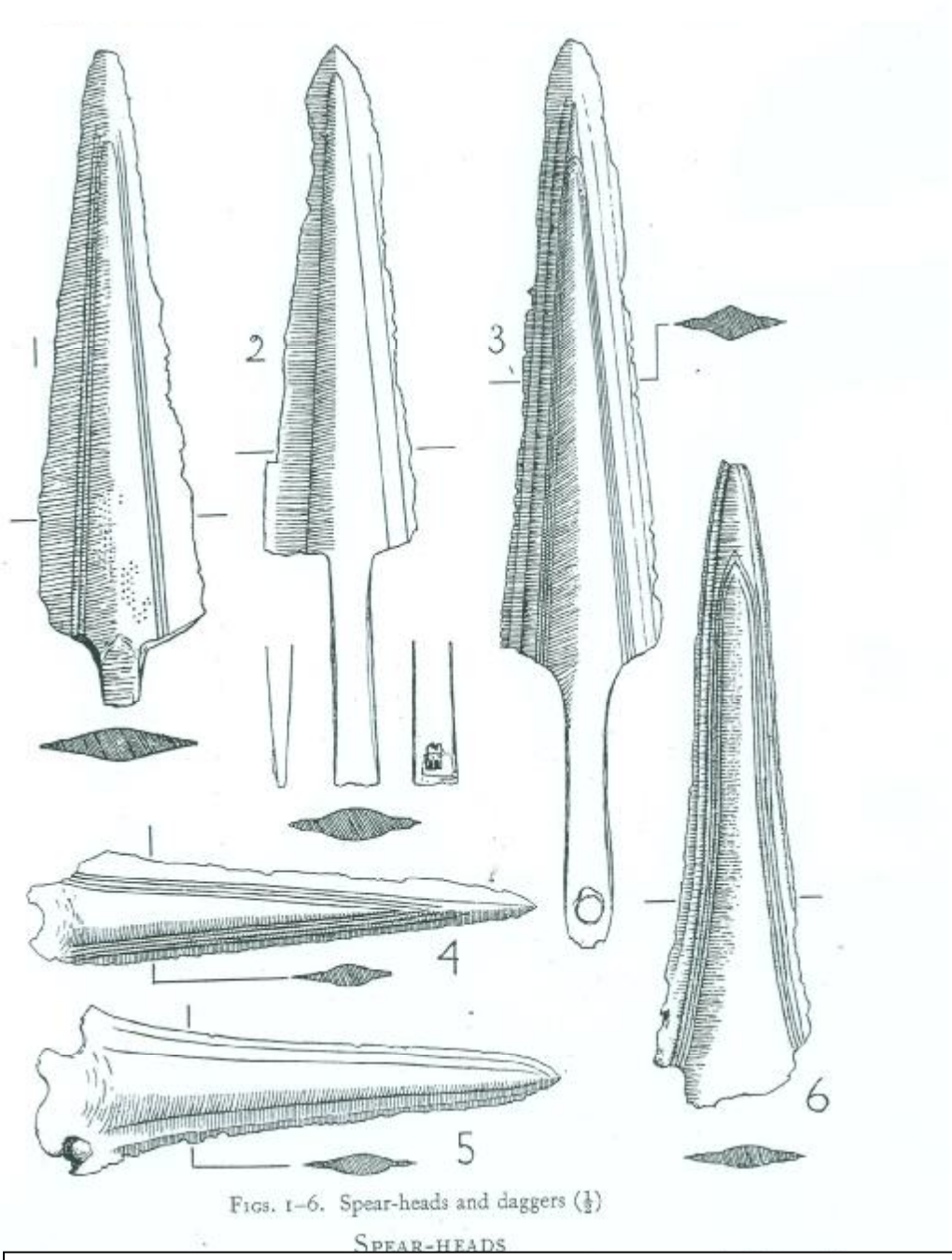


Figure 16: The spearheads from the Bronze Age hoard find at Moon's Hill

The spearheads and axes would have been mounted onto wooden shafts and probably glued and bound into place. One exciting thing about this hoard was revealed after specialists at the British Museum studied the objects in great detail and took scientific samples. They suggested that the hoard was not a founders hoard which had been buried by a metalworker, but may well have been a ritual deposit buried to appease or please the gods or whatever natural forces were worshipped by our Bronze Age ancestors.

The other hoard was discovered in a small ravine on Brixton Down in 1838 when a Mr. Bull, a local farmer, was ploughing his field and found 'a great many broken swords, spears and other weapons'.

The Bronze Age also saw the introduction of new styles of pottery such as Collared urns, Beakers and Food vessels. Several of these have been found in the West Wight including the pottery from Barnes High discovered by the Reverend E. Kell in February 1856 which was thought be mid 19th century antiquarians to have been Roman in date until it was identified as being of Bronze Age date in the 20th century. Other recent pottery finds from this period have included the Bronze Age cremation burial which was excavated from the cliff edge at Hanover Point below:

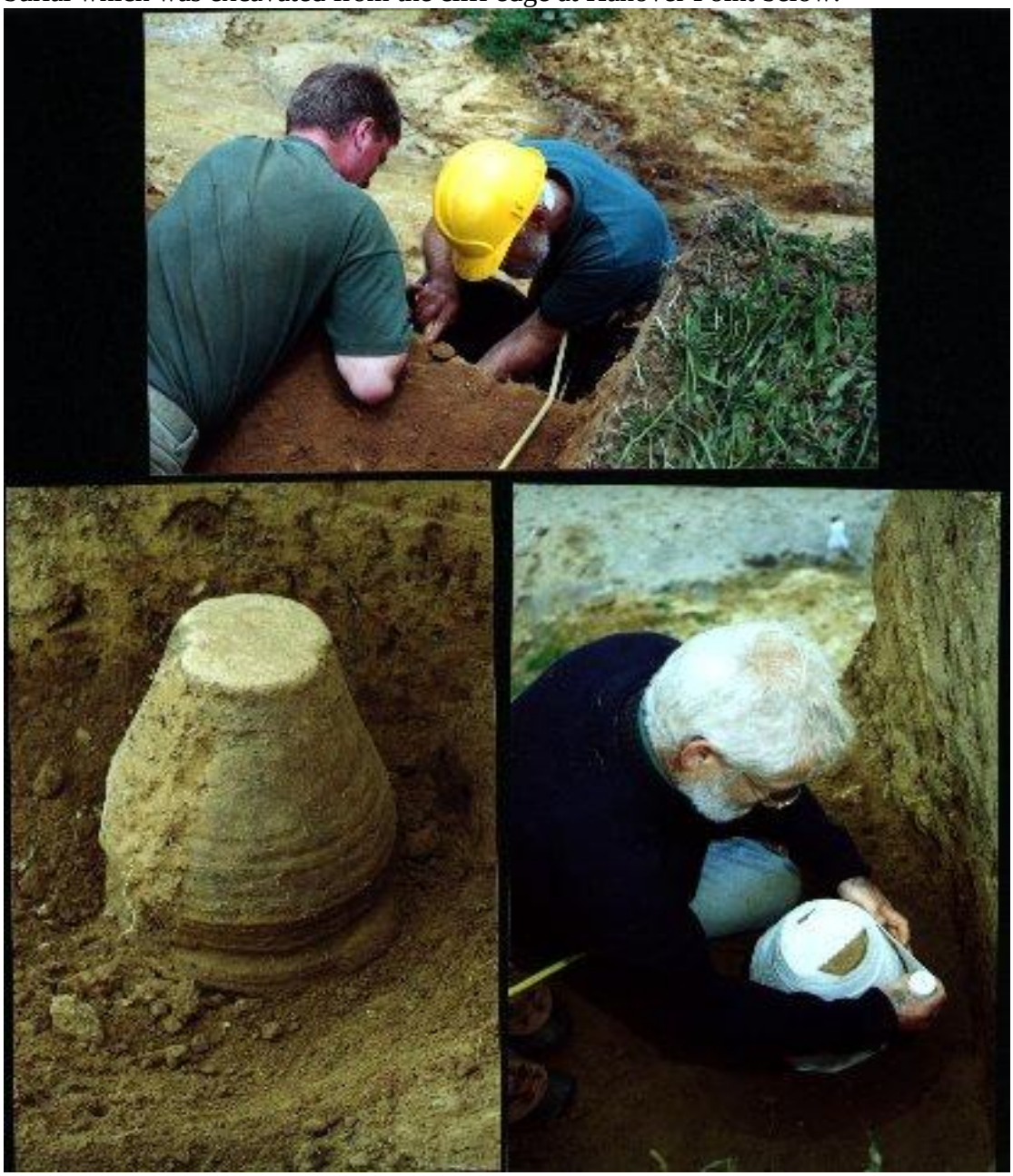


Figure 17: the stages of excavation of a Bronze Age Urn from Hanover point

Another change is that the large communal burial monuments in which many members of a family group were buried were replaced by round barrows. These were round mounds built from soil taken from an external ditch which were raised over a central burial of one person. These barrows were placed on the crests of hills and downland and could be seen from far away, probably as a show of prestige and territoriality.

Bronze Age burial mounds on the Island have interested antiquarians since 1237 when the optimistic Islanders were recorded as opening the barrows looking for treasure in the Close Rolls of Henry III. In the 17th Century, Sir John Oglander wrote "you may see divers buries on ye top of owre Island hills…as being places onlie weare men were buryed". Because of this interest and the activities of antiquarians in the 19th centuries, most of the burial mounds have already been disturbed and any burials and grave goods have been removed.

The barrows themselves have become part of the Island's heritage with some sites being used for other purposes during later periods and some being known by local names for centuries. The barrow cemetery which lies on the crest of the chalk ridge at Brook Down has been known as "Five barrows" for centuries even though there are actually nine barrows on site.

Figure 18: the Bronze Age barrows on Brook Down

One particular Bronze Age burial mound has been used as part of the Island's defences for many centuries. The Harborough Barrow on Mottistone Down commands a wide view of the Solent and English Channel and is mentioned as the site of a beacon in documents of 1324. A beacon was a site where warning fires could be lit to send messages to other beacon sites on the Island and the Mainland. The site is shown with a beacon symbol on John Speed's map of 1611 and a beacon is again mentioned at the site in documents of 1638.

Even in the 20th century, the Harborough barrow had its role to play in the Island's defence. If you visit the site today you will see that the top is flattened and that there are the remains of a World War II Observation Post building built on the top. At the beginning of the war the barrow was used by the LVD (later the Home Guard).

When the Channel Islands were occupied by the Germans, the Channel Island Regiment was evacuated to the Isle of Wight and it seems were deployed in this sector of the Island. They too used Harborough Barrow as an Observation Post and it was probably during their occupation that any structures were built. An Observation Post is shown at Mottistone Down on a trace map of August 1943 made by the 47th London Infantry Division who were garrisoning the Island at the time.

There are a particularly large number of Bronze Age burial mounds still surviving in the West Wight landscape and groups of these funerary monuments lie in Brighston Forest, on Brook Down, Mottistone Down, Newbarn Down, Afton Down, East Afton Down and Pay Downs. In particular the barrow cemetery on Mottistone Down is accessible via the Tennyson Trail and these monuments can be visited by tourists and local people alike.

Figure 19: Bronze Age burial mounds (barrows) along the Tennyson Trail, photographed from the air.

The burial mounds on the chalk downlands have survived because they have not not been ploughed, but many areas of the Island once contained burial mounds which cannot now be seen on the ground because they have been ploughed flat.

However, archaeologists can use techniques of aerial photographic analysis to discover what might lie beneath the ground surface. Because a buried ditch allows growing crops more moisture that a buried mound, the crops growing over a ditch grow and ripen faster than the surrounding crops. By flying over a site at the right time in the growing season, archaeologists can see where buried ditches are and thus plot where unknown remains may be.

A study of the aerial photographs of the West Wight area shows that two areas in particular around Thorley and Wellow, which are now arable land, have a large number of what archaeologists call “ring ditches” which show up in the crops. These are the ploughed out remains of Bronze Age round barrows and they show us that many more archaeological remains survive within the West Wight than we know about.

Further programmes of aerial photographic survey and excavation of the known ring ditches in this area could add more information to the picture of the Bronze Age in the West Wight.

The landscape of the Bronze Age would have been similar to that of the rural areas of West Wight today with agricultural field systems set out around small farmsteads with areas of woodland, pasture and wasteland. Wetlands and coastal areas were used to collect food and other resources and, standing in the West Wight landscape today, it is not hard to imagine the Bronze Age inhabitants doing the same.

9.1 The importance and value of Bronze Age sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	The isolated finds of Bronze Age, metal and flint objects can provide evidence for the development of technologies and thus for human development .
	Very High	Bronze Age burial mounds, hoards, cemeteries and occupation sites can assist in the study of the human taming of the rural landscapes, development of human society, technology, international trade, as well as ritual and funerary practices.
Archaeological value	Very high	Stratified objects, barrow burials, cemeteries and occupation sites can help us to understand the pattern of the Bronze Age human settlement and death on the Island as well as development of human society, technology, international trade, as well as ritual and funerary practices.
Historical value	High	The first antiquarian interest in the burial mounds is known from 1237 and continued through the 19th and 20th centuries to the use of new modern scientific techniques of the early 21st century shows how our investigative methods have progressed and the study of our earliest human evolution shows how technology has changed from the stone tool assemblages to today's modern tools. Later Saxon use of the sites for burials and the medieval use of barrows as Beacon sites shows the human continuity of use of prominent landscape features.
Educational value	Medium/High	For the isolated flint, metal and pottery finds, the educational value of the sites where they were found is medium, but the educational value of the objects them selves is high as they or replicas can be handled to show how they were used, made, and technological changes can show how life had changed from that of the Stone Age. And can be compared to the use of bronze metals today.
	High	The educational value of the Bronze Age burial mounds is high as they show just how much the environment and landscape have changed since the Bronze Age. The sites can be visited by school groups, especially on the Tennyson and other Trails and the study of how the mounds were used differently through time (burials in Bronze Age and Saxon times, medieval use as beacons and then antiquarians digging them for treasure since 1237 AD. And even today).
Curiosity value	High	Bronze Age objects arouse curiosity as they are both alien to our modern technology (no longer used) and similar in shape and usage to it. The burial mounds arouse curiosity because they are human burial places and because they are visible and obviously old..
Tourism and recreational value	High	Bronze Age burial mounds, particularly those along the Tennyson and other publicly accessible trails have high recreational and tourist valueAt sites with nothing visible, the stone tools have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment. For sites preserved on the downs and golf course, there is greater tourism interest. Visitor information and walks/maps could be produced to encourage more visitors..
Aesthetic and creative arts value	High	Tennyson and Afton Downs already inspire and influence art, poetry and literature or music. An added time depth taking human activity back to the Neolithic and the type of funerary ritual practised on these sites can add more inspiration than at present.

10.0 Iron Age remains in the West Wight:

The Iron Age is poorly represented by known sites within the West Wight. The audit revealed that only 26 known sites and 21 of these are findspots of either coins or pottery. The Iron Age is named after the metal which was first introduced to Britain during this period and dates between 700 BC and the arrival of the Romans in AD 43.

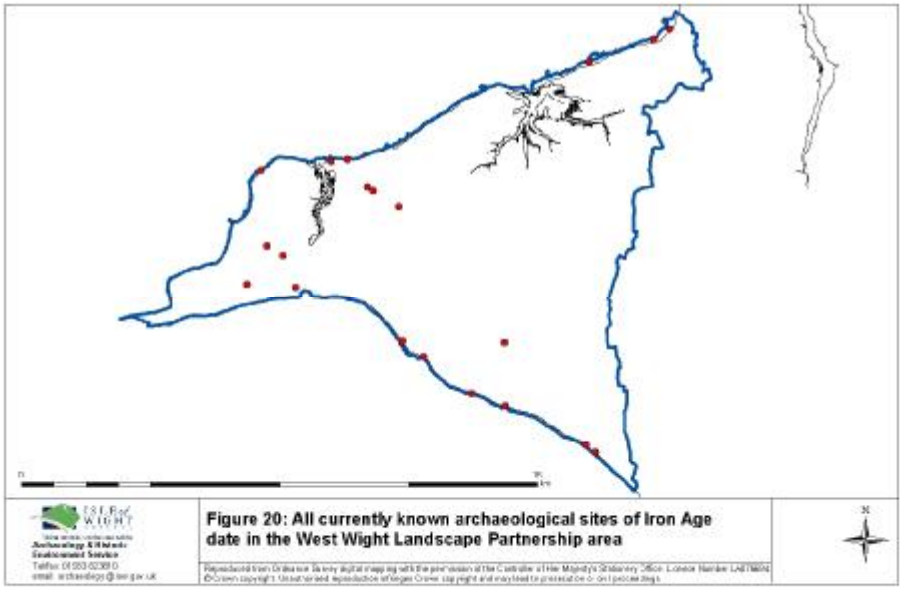


Figure 20: All currently known archaeological sites of Iron Age date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The Iron Age was the final prehistoric period before the Romans invaded Britain and the landscape would still have been made up of small farming settlements surrounded by a patchwork of fields and landscape boundaries with woodland and waste or pasture lands.

Pollen evidence from Island sites has shown that the north of the Island was probably still wooded as the Iron Age ploughs were not good enough to break up the heavy soils. The lighter soils of the chalk downland and Greensand plain in the south were best for farming, so by the late Iron Age agriculture was a successful mix of cereal and animal farming.

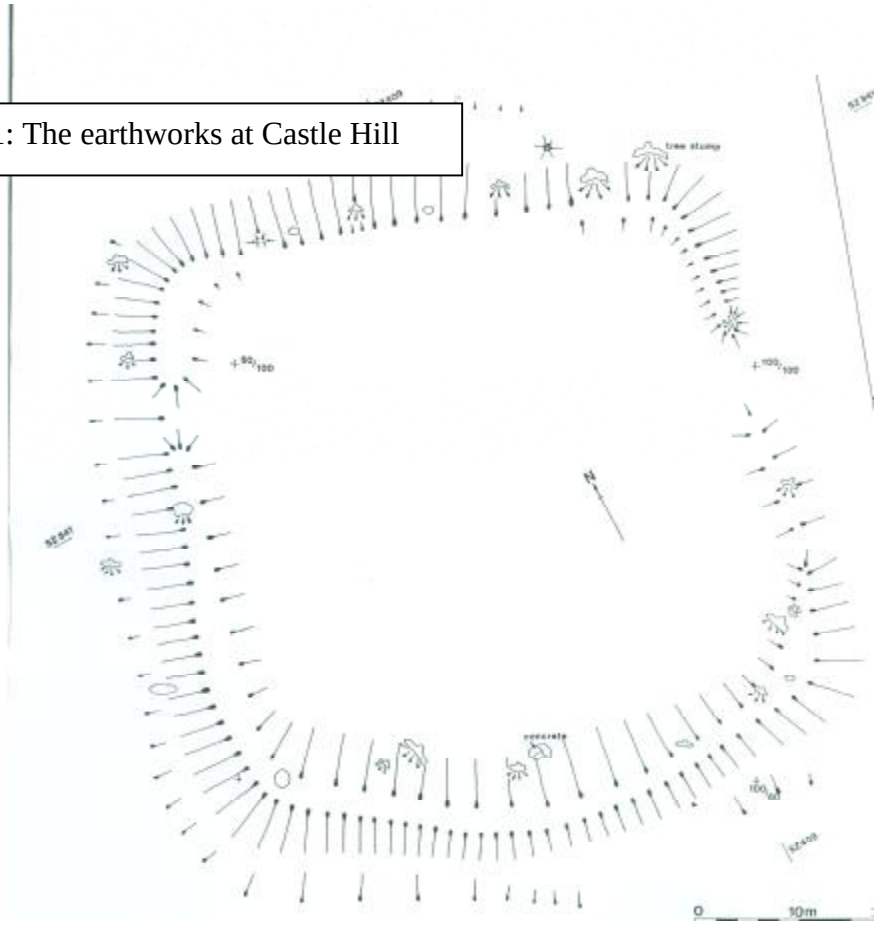
Most people in Iron Age society were peasant farmers, but there were also slaves and skilled craftsmen. These groups were ruled by nobles who included religious leaders and kings.

In some areas of England, these elite sections of society lived in hillforts which were protected central places for the local community. No hillforts have yet been discovered in the West Wight, but recent archaeological survey work at Yaverland in the east of the Island has shown that such sites do survive to the present day and may just be waiting to be uncovered.

Whilst we do not know the full range of types of settlement in the West Wight was in the Iron Age, the five known sites with Iron Age occupation do show us some of the ways in which our pre-roman ancestors were living.

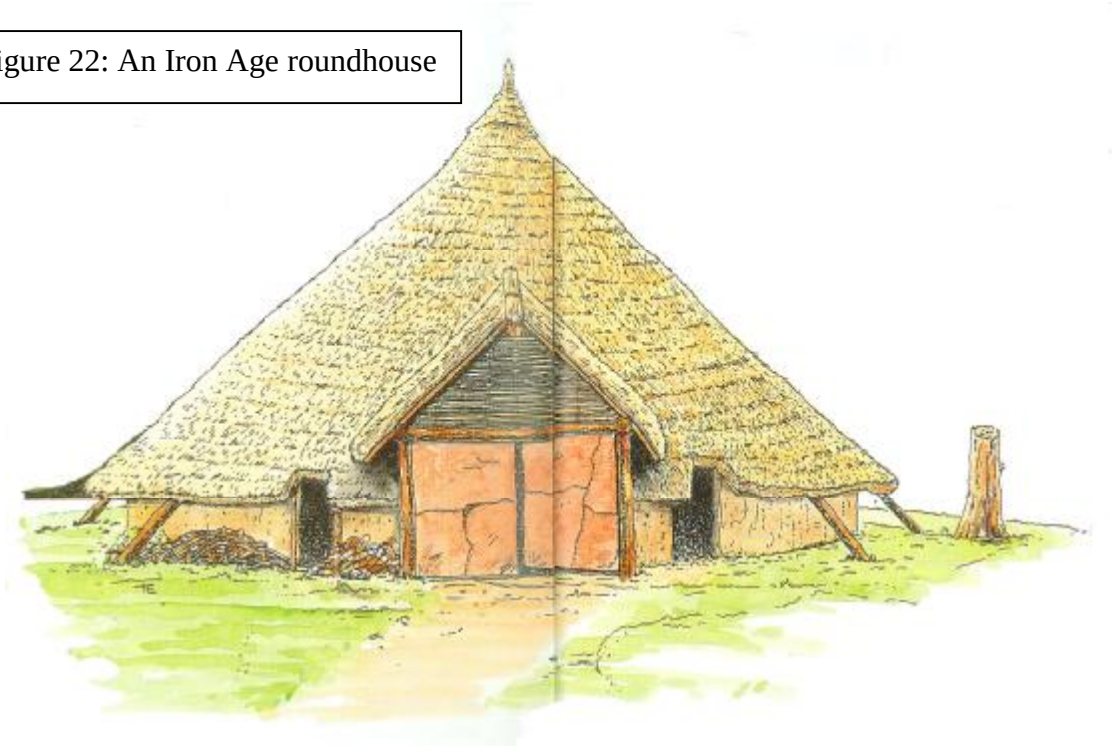
Castle Hill is an earthwork on Mottistone Down which sits on a hilltop on the south western part of the Isle of Wight with extensive views over the coastal plain and sea to the south, and the downs to the north. The earthwork forms an enclosure with an internal area of 55 metres long and 58metres wide which is enclosed by two banks and a ditch and has been interpreted as an Iron Age defended enclosure, either for animals or for human occupation.

Figure 21: The earthworks at Castle Hill



Other Iron Age settlement evidence has been excavated in Thorley as part of the archaeological work required in advance of the Seaclean Wight pipeline in 2001. This revealed the ditches, pits and postholes which were all that remained of the post built roundhouses, enclosures and structures of an Iron Age farm.

Figure 22: An Iron Age roundhouse



The roundhouses were built from a ring of strong upright wooden posts which slope into a peak in the centre. The walls were built up from a mixture of mud, straw and animal dung and then a thatched roof was added.

The families would have lived communally in the open space inside with certain areas set aside for sleeping, storage and every day living. The fire in the centre of the roundhouse would probably have been kept burning all day and night as the only source of heat for cooking.

Another site at which the remains of Iron Age houses have been excavated lies at Sudmoor, where T P Hookey recorded three huts and a stone lined well in the 1930s. The excavation of the site was reported briefly in the Proceedings of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society in 1951, but Mr. Hookey reported that the site had completely disappeared over the cliff by 1955.

It is not known what the role of the Iron Age tribes on the Island was in the pre-Roman maritime networks of trade in finished goods, but some clues can be given from the chance finds of Iron Age coins found within the West Wight area.

Most have been found on the coastal sites such as the hoard of 8 gold coins found in Yarmouth in 1867 which are so important they are held by the British Museum in London.

An Iron Age coin called a “stater” dated to King Verica was found at Saltmead and another gold stater was found at Chilton Chine. All these finds show that the Islanders

were trading with other British and European tribes and using their own coinage well before the Romans arrived on the Island in AD 43.

Figure 23: (left) A coin of the Roman Emperor Allectus found at Rock Roman Villa site

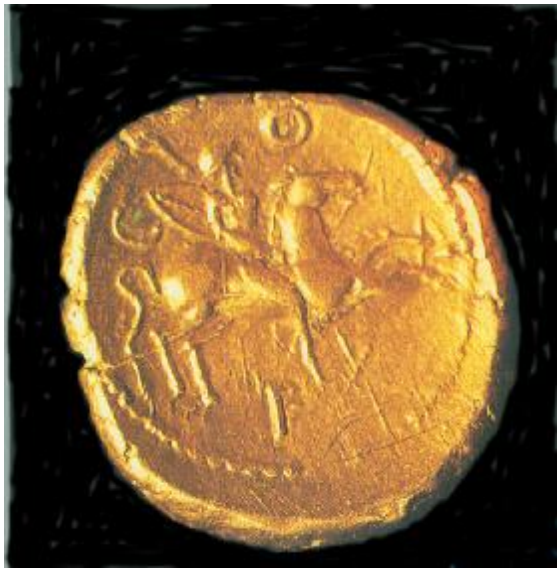


Figure 24: An Iron Age gold "stater" coin issued by Verica, King of the Atrebates in the early 1st century AD and found in the West Wight area

10.1 The importance and value of Iron Age sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	The isolated coin finds can provide evidence for the development of technologies and national and international trade.
	Very High	Iron Age settlement sites can assist in the study of the pre-Roman rural landscapes, development of human society and technology.
Archaeological value	Very high	Settlement sites can help us to understand the pattern of the pre-Roman human activity on the Island as well as the impact of the Roman invasion on the local Iron Age tribes.
Historical value	High	Archaeological interest in this period from the 1950's and with modern scientific techniques of the early 21st century shows how our investigative methods have progressed. This period shows how technology has changed from bronze and flint to the introduction of iron. Human continuity of use of rural prehistoric landscape with sharp contrast to succeeding Roman landscape uses.
Educational value	Medium/High	For the isolated Iron Age coin finds, the educational value of the sites where they were found is medium, but the educational value of the objects them selves is high as they or replicas can be handled to show how they were used, made, and technological changes can show how life had changed from that of other prehistoric periods and can be compared to the use of coinage today. For the settlement sites, the educational value of the actual site is medium as there is nothing visible to see on site, but the information from the sites is of high educational value as it can be included in teaching packs showing how the Iron Age people lived and how the structures and pottery they made differed and were similar to structures and pottery introduced by the Romans and those of today.
Curiosity value	High	Iron Age objects arouse curiosity as they are both alien to our modern technology (no longer used) and similar in shape and usage to it. Coin finds are viewed as of particular interest by collectors and many people hold familiar associations with the "celtic" tribes, including mystic, religious and pre-Roman traditions.
Tourism and recreational value	High	There are no sites within the West Wight at which Iron Age remains are visible at present. At sites with nothing visible, the coin finds and information about Iron Age settlement have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment.
Aesthetic and creative arts value	High	Celtic art and technology inspire and influence art, poetry and literature or music. It also inspires crafts, and building an Iron Age roundhouse for storytelling or other activities on the West Wight could have enormous impact.

11.0 Roman remains in the West Wight:

The audit revealed 76 sites of known Roman activity in the West Wight study area, although 60 of these are findspots of pottery or coins.

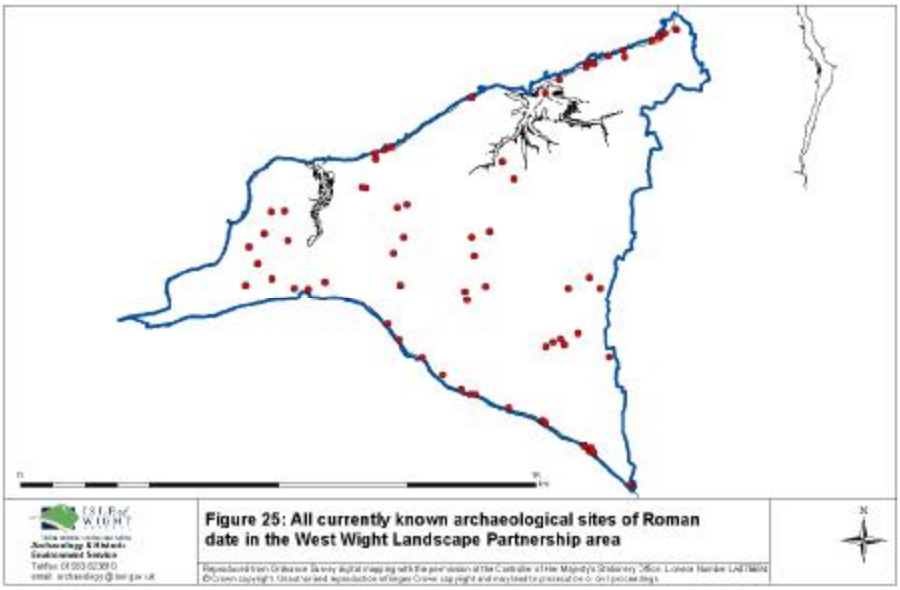


Figure 25: All currently known archaeological sites of Roman date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

When the Romans invaded Britain in AD43 under the Emperor Claudius, they seem to have done so by a combination of treaties with local tribes in some areas and by warfare in others and there is currently no archaeological evidence for warfare in the West Wight, so it is likely that the Island Celtic tribes came to an agreement with the Romans.

There were many reasons why the Romans invaded Britain including the large amount of agricultural land which could supply the Empire's armies with food, its valuable metal resources such as iron, lead and gold and the political advantage of having conquered another area of tribal enemies.

The biggest impact of the invasion was political as the country was divided into regions called "civitates" and agricultural production and mining operations were placed under Imperial control. But there was probably little change to the daily lives of ordinary Islanders as archaeological evidence shows that they still lived in the same places, and the local pottery industry which had begun in the Late Iron Age continued to produce the "Vectis ware" for local needs.

The first signs of social and economic change on the Island was the construction of villa farms which controlled all agricultural production for the Roman Empire. But these early villas were build on or near to late Iron Age settlements, showing that apart from a change of master, the agricultural way of life of the Iron Age farmers continued under the Romans.

There are 8 known Roman villas on the Isle of Wight, but only one of these, that at Rock Roman Villa, is within the West Wight study area. The word "villa" is the Latin term for a farm and most of them were the country homes of wealthy Roman-British farmers. Roman Villas introduced new buildings types to the Island as villas were rectangular in plan, rather than round like the native Iron Age houses. A villa also included a range of functional buildings, such as barns, granaries and workshops.

The villa buildings also introduced new methods of building construction which allowed them to be much bigger and complex than the Iron Age buildings.

Rock Roman villa was the first to be discovered on the Island when the Reverend Edmund Kell reported that a building was found in a ploughed field east of Buddlehole spring near Brighstone in 1840. The villa was a simple "cottage" type villa with a rectangular ground plan and five rooms which would have been entered for a hall which ran along the length of the house.

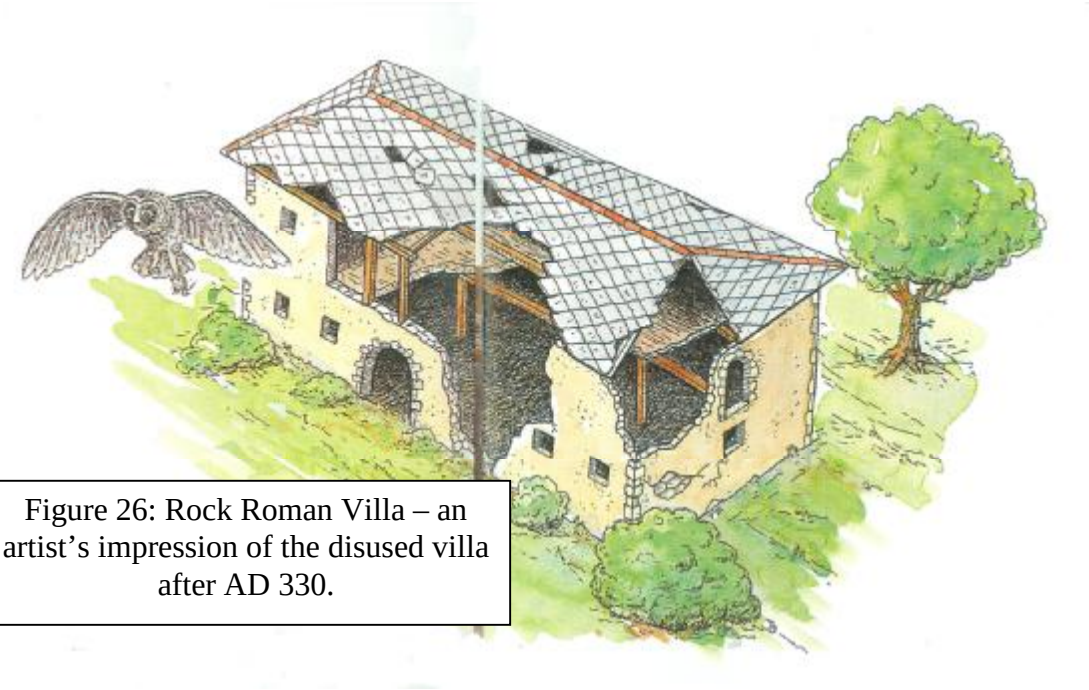


Figure 26: Rock Roman Villa – an artist's impression of the disused villa after AD 330.

Full excavation of the site was carried out in the 1970's and revealed that the villa was probably built between AD 275 and 300 and because it was on a steep hillside, a building platform had been prepared by cutting into the hillside and then building a hard floor of chalk sealed with mortar. The walls were built mainly of flint with local Bembridge limestone and many fragments of painted plaster showed that some rooms were decorated with painted pictures and scenes.

Rock Roman villa was only in use until around AD 330, when the archaeological evidence shows that it was starting to fall down and soon the central part of the house was dismantled and a T-shaped corndryer was built in one of the central rooms. Animals were being slaughtered and butchered in the western part of the hall for a small local community.

Some time between AD 350 and 400, the west and north walls collapsed, crushing the corndryer and the building went out of use. But the excavation of the Rock Roman villa and of the other villa sites on the Island has revealed much about the daily life of the villa owners and about life in the Island's Roman villas. Although there is no sign of the villa now on site at Rock, there is still enough archaeological evidence to produce educational material for local schools.

Many of the 60 individual findspots of pottery, coins and other objects from the West Wight reveal much about the Roman way of life on the Island. Pottery, coins and luxury items from different parts of England and the Roman Empire show how the Island was involved in trade. Small objects show much about daily life, dress, recreation and foods eaten. In particular they show how new materials, customs, foods and technologies were introduced to the Island by the Romans.

Apart from the villas, other sites within the West Wight show how ordinary Islanders lived. The site at Sudmoor at which Mr Hookey discovered the remains of Iron Age houses continued into the Roman period and showed that the lifestyle of ordinary Islanders did not change much despite the presence of the Roman masters. Roman pottery, including the expensive "samian ware", building material and glass were excavated at the site, but since it fell into the sea in the 1950's, other Roman finds, including a quern stone for grinding corn, have been found in cliff falls and on the beach below.

Another site on Limerstone Down shows possible Roman occupation inside an earlier Bronze Age earthwork bank. Here in 1932, gravel digging revealed many Roman finds, including hoard of Roman coins and a post-hole and stones alignment which were all that remained of a wooden hut sheltered by the bank.

Other West Wight sites show tantalising evidence of Roman occupation, but no structures or buildings. One such site is in Shalfleet where an archaeological investigation in advance of a building development revealed four pits containing Roman pottery and building materials from nearby occupation site as well as evidence for metal working.

Some Roman sites are only known through cropmark evidence, such as the two rectangular features near Thorley which are only visible from the air at certain times during the growing season.

As well as the occupation sites, it is important to remember that most of the agricultural land in the West Wight would have been parcelled into field systems in Roman times and several examples of these survive. On Pitts Down, the remains of a once extensive field system lies on the south and west facing slopes. The fields are based on a system of well defined, regular and substantial cross slope lynchets (earthwork banks) up to 2.5m in height. These, together with regular down slope banks, form a layout of rectangular fields of varying size. Similar remains survive on Little Down and Newbarn Down and show just how different the Roman landscape of the West Wight would have been.

11.1 The importance and value of Roman sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	Isolated finds of Roman pottery and other objects provide evidence for the development of technologies and the introduction of change in human development through invasion .
	Very High	Roman settlement sites and field systems can assist in the study of the human landscape development, Romano-British society, technology, international trade and funerary practices.
Archaeological value	Very high	Stratified objects, settlements and earthworks can help us to understand the pattern of the Roman settlement and activity on the Island .
Historical value	High	Early antiquarian interest in the Roman period was stimulated by classical education and the development of new modern scientific techniques of the early 21st century shows how our investigative methods have progressed. The study of introduced Roman technologies and materials shows the evolution of many o f the tenets of modern society.
Educational value	Medium/High	For the isolated Roman coins, pottery and other finds, the educational value of the sites where they were found is medium, but the educational value of the objects them selves is high as they or replicas can be handled to show how they were used, made, and technological changes can show how life had changed from that of the prehistoric periods. They can also be compared to the use of bronze metals today.
	High	The educational value of the Rock Roman Villa, other occupation sites and field systems is high as they show just how much the environment and landscape have changed since Roman times and how much the Roman sites differed from what went before. There is very little to see on the actual sites, but the excavation data from Rock Roman villa in particular can be added to various areas of the National Curriculum in the classroom
Curiosity value	High	Roman objects and sites arouse curiosity as most people learn about them at school and retain that sense of knowing just how different life was in Roman times to what had gone before as well as to today. Roman objects are both alien to our modern technology (no longer used) and similar in shape and usage to it.
Tourism and recreational value	High	With nothing visible at Rock Roman villa, this site has less tourism value than the information provided by the excavation. This information should be included in walks and information provided to tourists. The field systems should be assessed to see if they can be included in publicly accessible trails with high recreational and tourist value. At sites with nothing visible, the Roman objects have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment.
Aesthetic and creative arts value	High	Roman art, architecture, literature and poetry survive and already inspire and influence art, poetry and literature or music.

12.0 Anglo-Saxon remains in the West Wight:

The audit revealed 18 sites of known Anglo-Saxon activity in the West Wight study area. Very little is known about the West Wight in Anglo-Saxon times with most of the recorded sites being either findspots or burials.

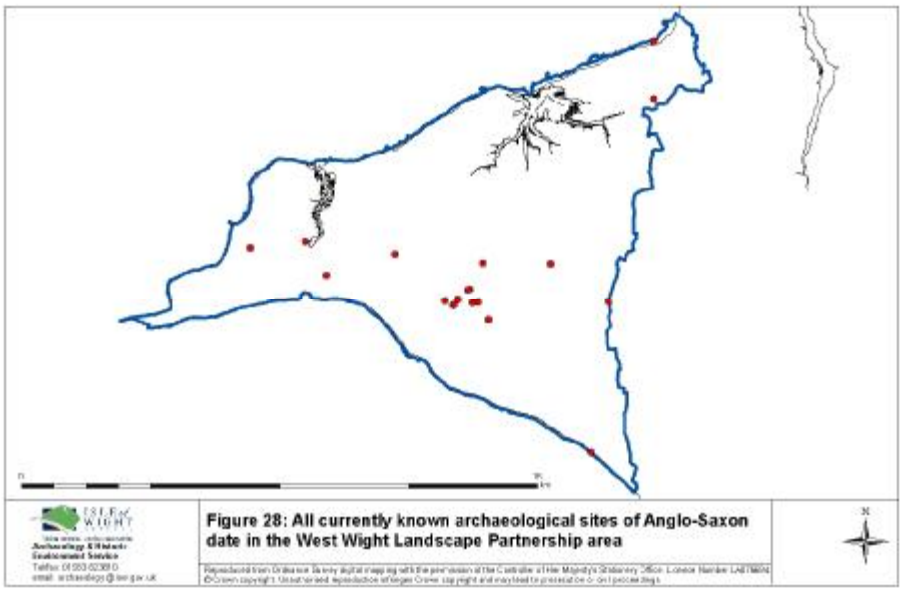


Figure 28: All currently known archaeological sites of Anglo-Saxon date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The Roman army left Britain in the 4th Century AD when the Roman Empire began to come under attack from neighbouring tribes and had to shrink its borders in order to be able to defend them. Britain was too far north and consequently was left to fend for itself around AD 410 as documentary sources show. With the political and economic power base removed, several warring groups led by chieftans began to fight for control of certain areas until a number of larger kingdoms emerged in the 7th century and these were to become the basis of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of England which were eventually unified under King Alfred and his descendants of the West Saxon kingdom south of the Thames in the 10th century.

There were several migrations of European peoples from various areas of what is now modern Germany in the early Anglo-Saxon period and documentary sources give us some idea of where they settled.

Bede, a monk writing at the monastery of Jarrow in Northumberland around AD 620, tells us that the settlers came from three tribes in Germany – the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. Bede also goes onto say that the Jutes conquered the Isle of Wight. However as Bede was writing over 200 years after the events, we must be careful of accepting what he says as fact.

There are no known early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites on the Isle of Wight, so evidence for where there were villages and other settlements must be taken from the Domesday Book which was written in AD1066 for Norman King William the Conqueror, but lists the places that were in existence in the previous later Anglo-Saxon times.

Freshwater is the only settlement in the West Wight with surviving Anglo-Saxon architecture in its church and is listed as one of the settlements with Anglo-Saxon origins in the Domesday Book, along with Calbourne and Shalfleet. It is Freshwater which is thought to have been an important Anglo-Saxon settlement and possibly an Estate centre, but there is currently no archaeological evidence to show this.

It is also thought that the modern parish boundaries may date back to Anglo-Saxon times as 11 Anglo-Saxon charters referring to the Island still survive.

However, the most important Anglo-Saxon site on the Island is located in the West Wight. This is the Chessell Down cemetery which was originally discovered by marl-diggers and subsequently excavated by J. Dennett in 1816 and by J. Skinner in 1818, and rediscovered and further excavated by G. Hillier in 1855.

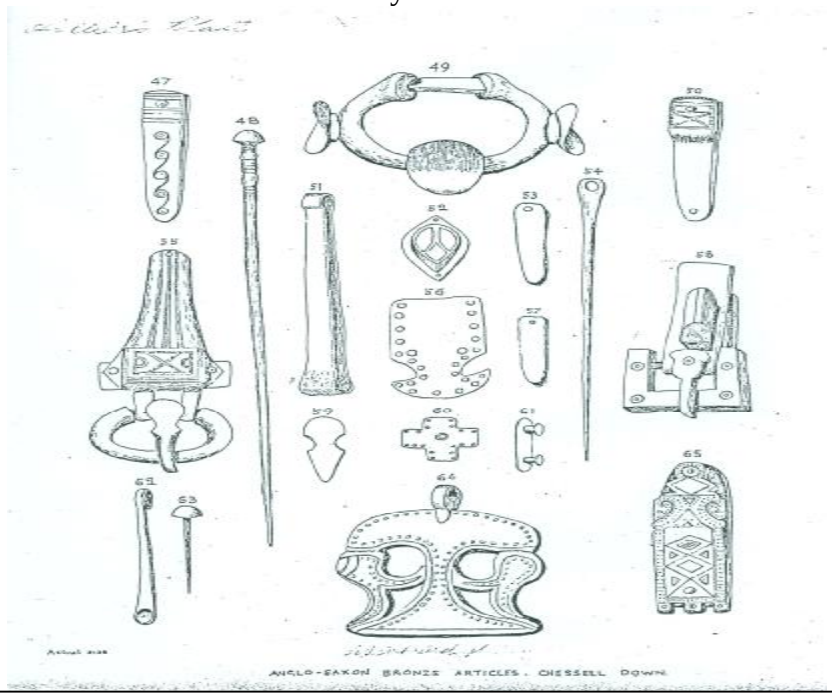


Figure 29: Sherwin's drawings of some of the Anglo-Saxon jewellery from Chessell Down

The cemetery revealed over 130 graves with the later burials being accompanied by a rich array of grave goods, including fibulae, brooches, belt buckles, finger rings, beads and strap ends, swords, spear heads, arrowheads, knives and an axe, buckets of silver and wood, a bronze pail, a bronze hanging bowl, household pottery and a weaving batten.

Some of the finds are considered to be of such national and international importance that they are displayed in the British Museum.

12.1 The importance and value of Saxon sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	Very High	Isolated finds of Saxon pottery and other objects provide evidence for the development of technologies and the introduction of change in human development through invasion . Because very little is known about this period, any Saxon remains discovered can assist in the study of this period of human development, technology, international trade and funerary practices.
Archaeological value	Very high	Stratified objects, settlements and earthworks can help us to understand the pattern of the Saxon settlement on the Island, including the origin and date of incomers, development of the rural landscape, technology and trade, as well as funerary and religious practices. More archaeological research should be undertaken around Freshwater because of its known Saxon origins and the survival of settlement from Saxon to modern times. The national importance of the Chessel Down Anglo-Saxon cemetery objects exhibited by the British Museum.
Historical value	High	The early 19th century discovery of the Chessell Down Anglo-Saxon cemetery can be compared to modern scientific techniques of the early 21st century shows how our investigative methods have progressed. That the great importance of this cemetery has been recognised enough to house the finds in the British Museum should be made widely known in the West Wight and local community pride in this fact should be fostered and encouraged.
Educational value	Medium/High	For the isolated Saxon finds, the educational value of the sites where they were found is medium, but that of the objects them selves is high as they or replicas can be handled to show how they were used, made, and technological changes can show how life had changed from that of the prehistoric and roman periods, as well as today.
	Very High	The educational value of the archaeological information recovered from the Saxon cemetery at Chessell Down is enormous. There is very little to see on the actual sites but the excavated data can be added to many areas of the National Curriculum in the classroom, including studies of funerary practices, art, geography, technology and many more. Schools could even visit the British Museum to see the objects and replicas could be included in loan boxes available to local schools.
Curiosity value	High	Anglo-Saxon objects and sites arouse curiosity as they are representative of the start of the what many people consider to be the development of English identity. They show how the introductions of a previous Imperial force can be swept away with arrivals from another part of Europe.
Tourism and recreational value	Medium	With nothing visible at any site on the Island, this period has less tourism value than most. Information should be included in walks and information provided to tourists. Saxon objects have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment.
Aesthetic/ creative arts	High	Anglo-Saxon art and objects already inspire and influence art, poetry and literature or music.

13.0 Medieval remains in the West Wight:

The audit revealed 102 sites of known medieval date in the West Wight study area.

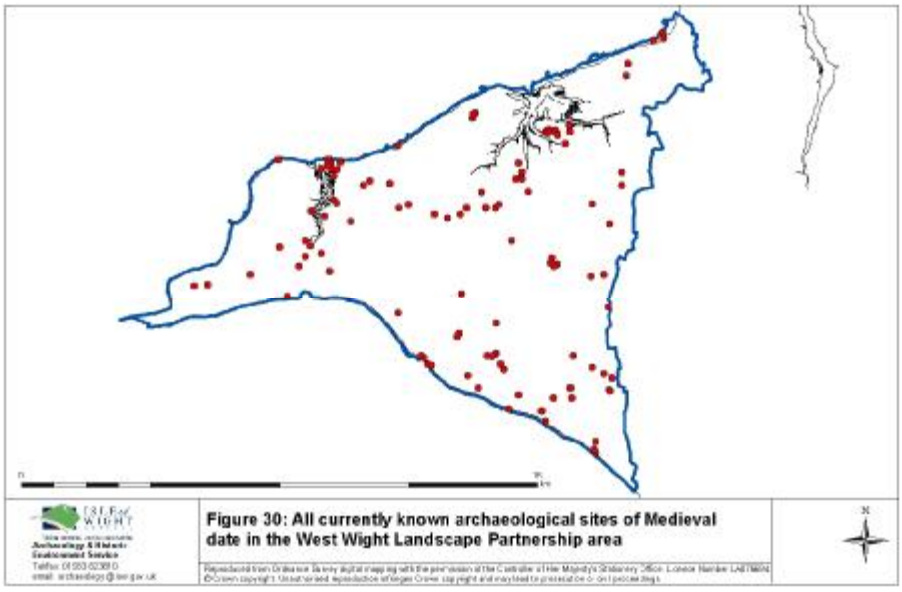


Figure 30: All currently known archaeological sites of Medieval date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The Medieval period started with the Norman Conquest in 1066 when William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. King William built a network of castles from which to defend his new lands and replaced the English Lords with his Norman allies by handing over their lands and titles to the manors from which they ruled.

King William also commissioned the Domesday Book which was a list for taxation purposes of all the land held by all of his nobles with details of who had held what land and how many villagers and resources they had before the Conquest. Once again, life may not have changed much for the ordinary people as they were obliged by the medieval feudal system to work for their masters and to pay tithes to the church.

During the Medieval and Post medieval periods, the Isle of Wight was fairly isolated with a not very prosperous, rural community.

But its geographical situation gave it political and military significance and shortly after the Norman Conquest, King William granted the lordship of the Island to his kinsman William Fitz Osbern and the building of Carisbrooke Castle began. Since then, the Island has played an important part in English Royal defence policies.

Between 1100 and 1293 the lordship of the Island was held by the de Redvers family, but then became a Crown appointment and even today the present Governors are appointed by the Queen.

The period between the Norman Conquest and AD 1300 in England saw the development of towns and the countryside as the population grew until a series of environmental and economic crises, together with the Black Death plague saw the population fall and rural settlements were abandoned during a gradual move of the

population from rural areas to the towns. From AD 1350 to AD 1500 towns developed into thriving business and trading centres until the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 brought an end to the medieval period with the accession of King Henry VII and the start of the Tudor dynasty.

The picture of medieval West Wight begins with the Domesday Book which lists 17 settlements as having existed in Late Saxon times before the Norman Conquest. These were governed in administrative areas called manors in the rural areas and are listed in the table below:

Modern Settlement	Domesday Book name
Afton	"Affetune"
Brighstone	"Weristetone"
Brook	"Broc"
Calbourne	"Cauborne"
Chilton	"Celatune"
Compton	"Cantune"
Coombe	"Seutecombe"
Freshwater	
Hampstead	"Hamestede"
Mottistone	"Modrestan"
Ningwood	"Lenimcode"
Shalcombe	"Eseldecome"
Shate	"Soete."
Shalfleet	"Seldeflet"
Wellow	"Welige"
Wilmingham	"Wilmingeham"

Most medieval (or earlier) archaeological remains from these rural settlements are now covered by the modern houses and roads of the modern settlements but several of the surviving churches date to this period, showing how settlements have continued in the same places since at least medieval times.

St. Swithin's church in Thorley was built in late 13th century by Amieitia, wife of Baldwin de Redvers IV, Earl of Devon. The 13th century church was demolished in 1871 when the modern church of St. Swithin was built at Thorley Street, but the porch of belfry were reused as a mortuary chapel.

St. Mary's Church in Brighstone has a surviving 12th Century north arcade with 14th Century south arcade and lower parts of the tower.

The church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Mottistone still contains the fragmentary remains of a 12th Century church built by Brian de Insula. It was enlarged in the mid 15th Century and the whole building was restored in 1863.

All Saints' Parish Church in Calbourne dates mainly to the 13th Century apart from the south west tower rebuilt in 1752 and the North or Barrington Chapel which was added in 1842 by A.F. Livesay who began restoring the church in 1836.

St. Mary's Parish Church in Brook was originally a 13th century structure until external parts of the building were destroyed in a fire in 1863 and were then rebuilt.

All Saints Church at Freshwater, thought to contain the remains of a Saxon 2 cell church, has substantial parts dating to the 12th and 13th centuries with the tower dating to the 15th century, although the whole much restored 1872-4.

St. Michael's Parish Church in Shalfleet has a tower dating to around AD 1070, a north doorway dating to around AD 1150 and arcades, aisles and a chancel dating to the 13th century.

Medieval rural settlement was organised into administrative units called “manors” and the Lord of the Manor moved between several Manor houses to give legal judgements, collect taxes and to fulfil his responsibilities to the Crown, Church and his people.

Eight medieval manors within the West Wight are listed in the Domesday Book including Mottistone, Limerstone, Waytes Court in Brighstone, Shalfleet, Ningwood, Kings Manor at Freshwater, Swainston and Thorley.

As well as the rural settlements, the West Wight also contains two very different medieval towns or “boroughs” as they were called, which were built at the same time as the County Town of Newport which lies outside the West Wight area.

At the time of the Norman Conquest in AD 1066, there were no urban centres on the Island, but in the 12th Century planned towns were laid out at Newport and Yarmouth by the Redvers family and in the 13th century, the Bishop of Winchester granted a charter to Newtown.

The planned towns were laid out all over England and Wales by the Medieval Kings and their nobles to act as centres for trade, markets and administration. But the three Island towns did not flourish in medieval times.

At the time of the Domesday Book in AD 1086, Yarmouth was called “Ermud” and was held by Aelfric and Wihtlac with seven villagers. The importance of its position as a port for the Normans is shown by the fact that a street plan of Yarmouth was set out as one of the formal planned medieval towns with houses and shops surrounding the High Street and Market Place.

The town received its first charter allowing it to have a market and fair around AD 1170. The town has a wealth of old buildings which represent the development of the town, as well as the 16th Century Yarmouth Castle which was built by Henry VIII as part of his coastal defence system against French attacks. This was much needed as the town was burnt by the French in 1377 and it never really recovered, with a survey of the town in 1559 showing that its size and importance has been reduced to only a dozen houses. There are many charters and documents relating to Yarmouth which could provide local schools with educational material to study the Medieval town with the modern.

Figure 31: The medieval town plan at Yarmouth from the air

Some medieval rural settlements did not survive as modern settlements as the economic, environmental and Black Death factors caused the residents to move to nearby towns. These sites are known as “Deserted Medieval Villages or towns” and can survive as earthworks in the landscape, as snapshots of what a medieval settlement looked like when it was abandoned.

Newtown is one of these deserted medieval settlements. As the second medieval borough within the West Wight area, it was known as “Francheville” (meaning “free town”) in a Court document of AD 1254 and it was awarded its charter for a market and fair in the same year.

When it was created, the town had 73 plots for buildings with a simple grid pattern of streets with a quay and chapel, as well as a town hall situated at the entrance to the town.

It is probable that the town began to experience economic decline in the 14th century with the competition from other Solent ports and the depopulation of the rural areas as a result of the conversion from arable to pastoral farming, and raids by the French in 1377 adding to its decline.

Figure 32: An aerial view of the shrunken medieval town of Newtown

Consequently the town was abandoned and today only a few houses remain with the rest of the town surviving as earthworks. This is an excellent site to visit to learn about life in a deserted medieval town with the streets, house platforms and field still laid out as they were created in the 13th century.

13.1 The importance and value of Medieval sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	Surviving architecture, structures and settlements are given more value by the documentary sources which survive for the Medieval period. This is the period during which our rural landscape was created and HLC information can help us see how the landscapes have survived and influenced those of today.
Archaeological value	High	Existing settlement has developed on the same sites so a valuable store of information about how they developed into what we see today is still held within the deposits and structures covered by our modern remains. More archaeological research should be undertaken around Freshwater because of its known Saxon origins and the survival of settlement from Saxon to modern times. More archaeological work should also be undertaken around Yarmouth to answer may of the questions about its origins, development and medieval maritime trade.
Historical value	High	The survival of the Domesday Book of 1086AD and other documentary sources allow us to link the archaeological remains with the historical sources. Medieval documentary sources about the ports and towns of Yarmouth and Newtown can be used to piece together the social elements of Medieval life
Educational value	Very High	This is the first period for which many sites that can be visited still survive in the landscape. Schools can visit local churches, manor houses and other structures. Classes can walk around Medieval street plans and map them out in geography, populate them with medieval people for history studies, look at demographics and many other elements of medieval life. Charters and other documentary sources, as well as excavated and replica Medieval objects which relate to Yarmouth and Newtown can be used to study life in towns and lots of geography and maths based site visit activities are possible. Newtown is particularly useful for site visits. Classroom sessions can compare architecture of known medieval and modern buildings. The educational value of the archaeological information recovered from medieval sites in the West Wight is enormous. Information from the excavated data can be added to many areas of the National Curriculum in the classroom, including studies of religion, medieval lifestyles, art, geography, technology and many more.
Curiosity value	High	Medieval objects and sites arouse curiosity as they show how much modern life, social organisation and technology have moved on from what we now consider to have been a less advanced period.
Tourism and recreational value	High	With medieval structures and buildings, rural settlements and the two formal medieval planned towns, the West Wight has an enormous potential for inclusion in walks and tourist trails. Medieval objects have great tourism interest if housed in a local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment.
Aesthetic and creative arts value	High	Medieval objects, architecture and buildings already inspire and influence art, poetry , literature and buildings.

14.0 Post Medieval remains in the West Wight:

During the post medieval period, towns grew up at several locations on the Isle of Wight, but none within the West Wight area, although Yarmouth was developed to some extent. Indeed the 19th century attraction of the Island as a holiday resort tended to exclude the West Wight which was predominantly a rural area, although piers were constructed at Yarmouth in 1876, at Totland Bay in 1870 and at Alum Bay for landing tourists from passenger and excursion steamers.

The audit revealed 397 sites of known post medieval date in the West Wight study area.

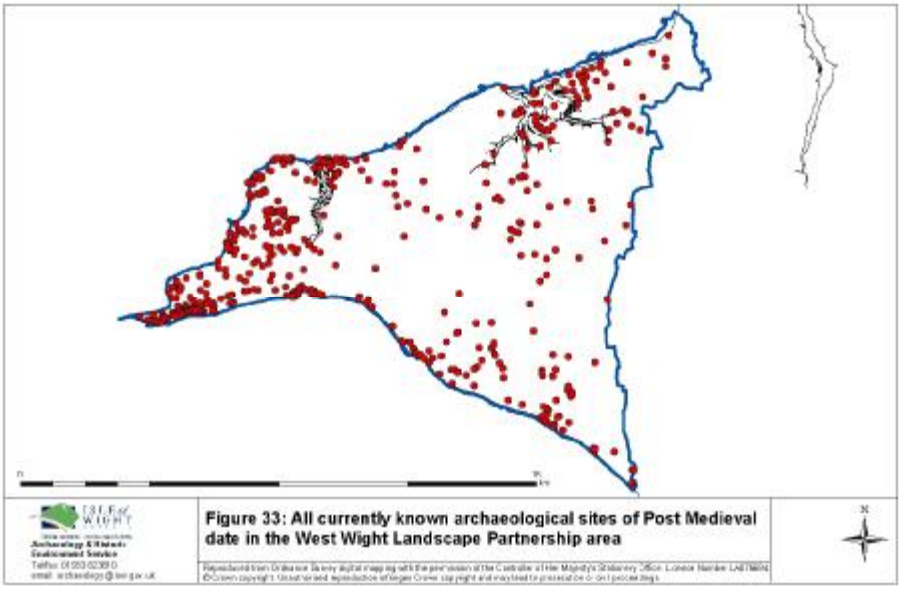


Figure 33: All currently known archaeological sites of Post Medieval date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

A large number of the sites recorded for this period are boundary marker stones or chapels or buildings of more specialist interest, however the West Wight's important role in the defence of the south coast of England is apparent in the number of defensive military sites in this area.

Two 16th century fortifications were erected in the West Wight . About 1525, Sir James Worsley, Captain of the Island built Worsley's Tower halfway between Sconce Point and Cliff End. It was an octagonal stone structure resembling other contemporary gun-towers at Portsmouth and Dover and was probably a single-storey building with guns mounted on the roof. In March 1539, the Earl of Southampton wrote to Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, that the tower was `one of the worst devised things that I have ever seen and therefore we have thought necessary to have the same transformed'. Improvements were made in 1541 but the tower was vulnerable from the high ground at the rear and was probably demolished between 1624 and 1631

About 1547 Sharpnode Blockhouse was built at royal expense west of Yarmouth where Fort Victoria now stands. The 1559 survey mentions an iron demi-culverin and an iron "saker" (5-pounder), presumably on the seaward face, as well as 15 handguns and 23 longbows, although the only member of the garrison was Walter Basse, master

gunner. By 1559 the platform was starting to collapse, although nothing was done until the Armada threatened in 1588, when Sharpnode was rebuilt as Carey's Sconce.

Fortifications at Sconce Point were erected in answer to another major invasion threat when Napoleon threatened to invade Britain between 1803 and 1805. Emergency earthen batteries or redoubts were thrown up to cover the most likely landing places.

Sconce Point Battery probably contained two or three guns and would have been too weak to have resisted determined assault for long. It was, however, intended to act in conjunction with both Yarmouth and Hurst Castles in defending the Needles Passage.

A map of 1852 suggests that the redoubt was an oval shaped earthwork of about half an acre (about 2000sq. m), built on the site of Carey's Sconce. After the war ended in 1815, the battery became a coastguard station.

Figure 34: Fort Albert

Fort Albert, built between 1854 and 1856 was converted to Brennan torpedo launching station in 1886-88.

Fort Victoria was built between 1852 and 1855 as a result of the invasion scares of the 1840s as a triangular fort with two seaward batteries meeting at a right angle. Fort Victoria is now a country park with educational facilities for schools.

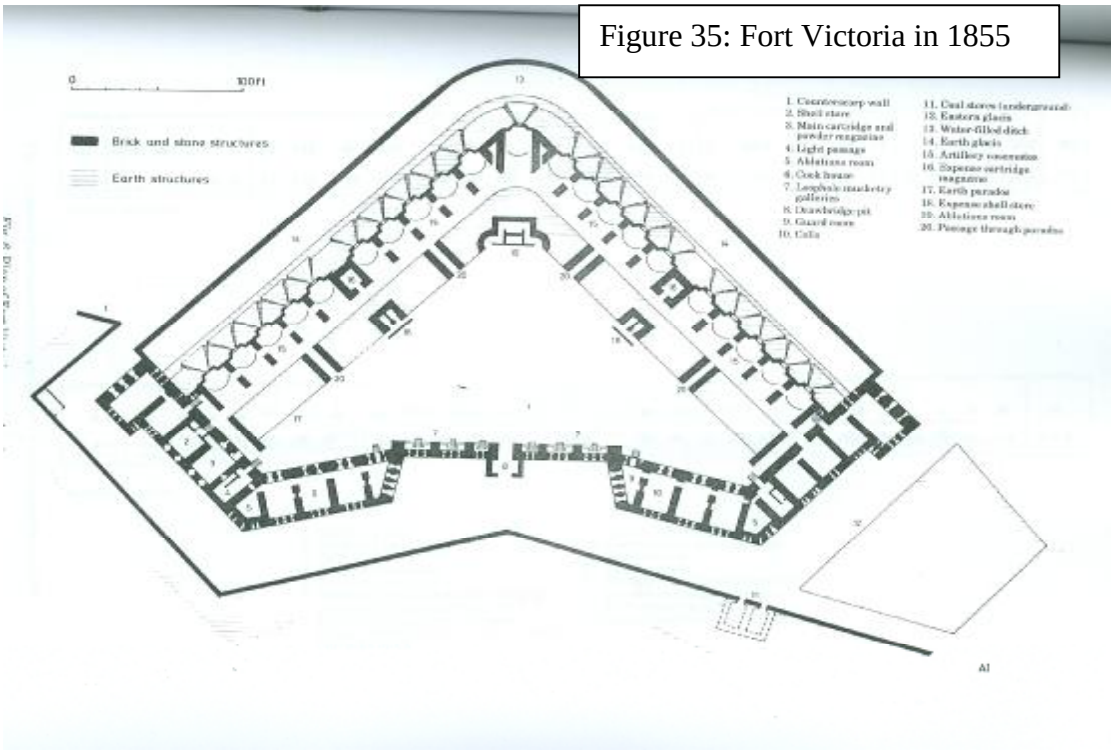


Figure 35: Fort Victoria in 1855

Other smaller defences were erected along the coast of the West Wight at an early date. At Cliff End Battery, a three-gun earthen battery was thrown up against the Napoleonic invasion threat of 1798. This earthwork soon decayed in peacetime and in 1854-56 a defensible guard house was built on the cliff top to protect Fort Albert below from musketry fire from the slopes.

As a result of a Royal Commission Report on the defences of the United Kingdom in 1860, a series of forts were built to guard the Needles Passage, Spithead and Sandown Bay on the Island. The West Wight is particularly rich in these sites with the audit showing several military sites from this period.

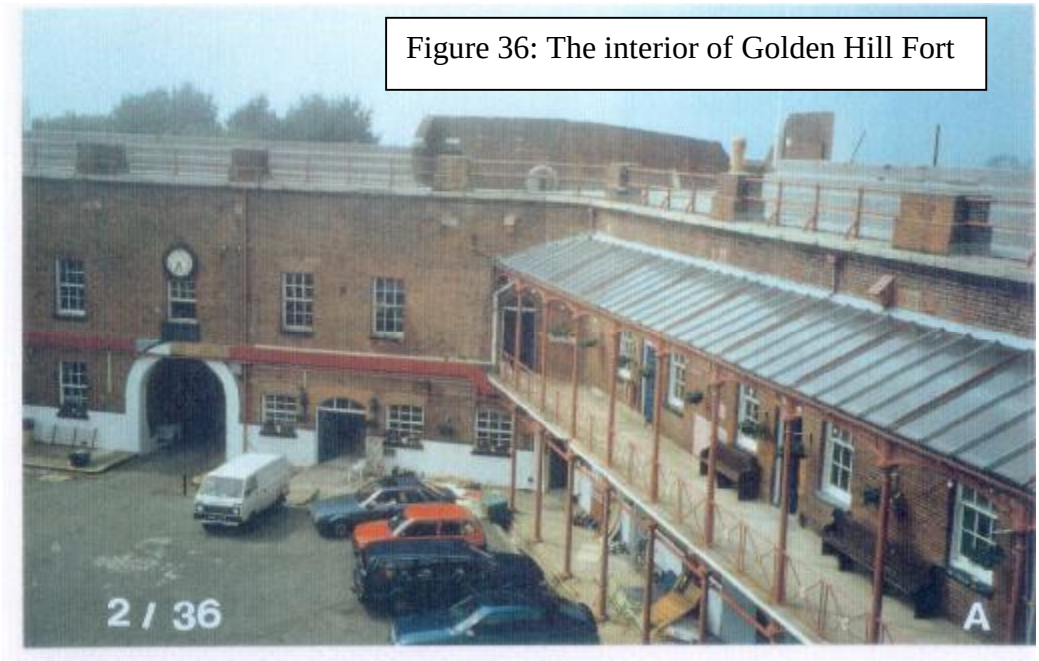


Figure 36: The interior of Golden Hill Fort

Golden Hill Fort, Freshwater Redoubt, Warden Point Battery and Hatherwood Point Battery were all erected as a result of this Royal Commission Report, as was the site at the Old Needles Battery, (Lower Needles Point Battery) which was built between 1861 and 1863.

Figure 37: The Battery at Lower Needles Point

The site includes a battery and associated structures on and beneath the projecting point of the chalk ridge above the Needles Rocks at the south western end of the Isle of Wight.

The battery, entered via a road bridge which was previously a rolling drawbridge across a moat, has six gun emplacements, a parade ground and various service and store rooms.

It was replaced in the early 1890's by the New Needles Battery which was higher and further inland than the original. By the turn of the century it was armed with 9.2in guns on barbette carriages and these remained in place until the 1950's. In addition to its defensive role it became an instructional battery for Golden Hill and it was here that the first anti-aircraft gun in British service was tested in 1913.

The site was also used for rocket development and tethered testing from 1956 to 1972. About 30 Black Knight high altitude research rockets are believed to have been built and launched and this was followed by the Black Arrow programme to develop a much larger satellite launch vehicle. On 28 October 1971 the third Black Arrow successfully launched the UK technology satellite - Prospero - into low polar orbit. This satellite remains the only satellite launched with British rocket technology and is believed to have continued in orbit for at least the following 25 years. Plans to use subsequent Black Arrow rockets to launch satellites to test experimental ion thrusters were abandoned when Britain's space programme was cancelled soon after the successful launch of Prospero.

Post medieval industrial sites are also frequent within the West Wight area as natural resources such as clay and alum were utilised as industrial processes improved. Limekilns, used to produce the raw materials for building mortar are recorded from First Edition Ordnance Survey maps at Newbarn, West Ashey, Westover, Brook, Sheepwash, Ningwood and Copse Lane and partial excavation has been undertaken by the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society of some lime kilns at Moon's Hill. Brickworks are known from Elmsworth in Newtown. Brickmaking commenced at Elmsworth some time between 1864 and 1871 and continued to at least 1939. Throughout the period the brickworks were owned by the Pragnell family

Salt making was also prevalent in the post medieval period with salterns at Newtown quay and marsh, Lower Hamstead, Saltmead, Elmsworth, Shalfleet and other sites.

The post medieval period was also when formal landscaped parks and gardens were created and several of these lie in the West Wight. A late 18th century landscape park and woodland was laid out at Swainston which covered over c.650ha. Another at Brook House, the home of the Bowerman family from 1450 to 1792, became the first island house of Charles Seeley from 1850. Farringford Park. A 'newly erected edifice' was recorded by W. Cooke in 1808 at Farringford which was the home of poet Alfred Lord Tennyson from 1853 until his death in 1864.

Another famous user of the West Wight operated in Alum Bay between 6th of December 1897 and 26th May 1900. Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) was raised in Bologna, Italy. When his interest in transmitting and receiving information using radio waves outstripped the interest of the Italian authorities, he came to Britain.

Here he worked with William Preece of the Post Office, George Kemp and other scientists and technicians attempting to make the spark transmitter circuit, invented by Hertz in the 1880s but confined to the laboratory, into a practical piece of technology.

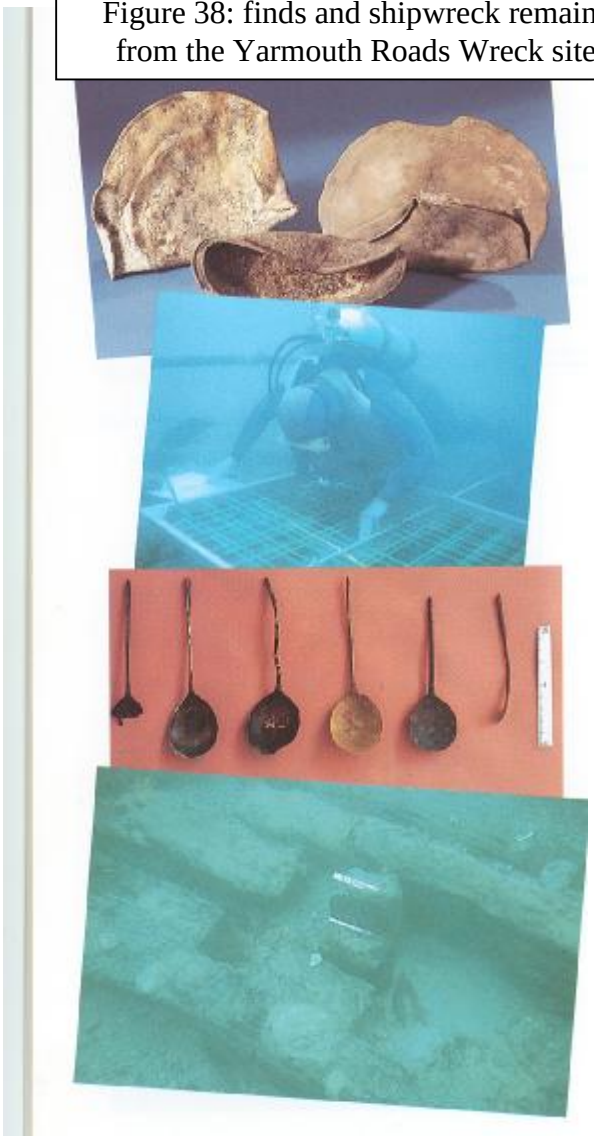
Up to this time all transmissions had to be carried out on telegraph wires, being tapped out at the receiving end on a morse code printer. In 1896, with the backing of London financiers he set up a wireless and telegraph company and in 1897 he moved

his equipment to the Royal Needles Hotel on the cliffs above Alum Bay. In addition to the machinery in the billiard room, a huge mast, 168 feet high was hauled up the face of the cliff.

The early experiments sent signals to the old coastguard cottages on the Headland, and Totland Post Office. Marconi then began successfully transmitting to a tug in Alum Bay. In 1898 further transmissions were successfully received in Bournmouth and Poole, at Osborne House and on the Royal Yacht. The distances grew until they could reach ships in the Channel up to 40 miles away.The last transmission was made on the 26th of May 1900.

Two rather different sites of archaeological importance from this period lie beneath the sea off the north west coast of the West Wight. The Yarmouth Roads Wreck site is probably the remains of the ship "Santa Lucia" which sank in 1567.

Figure 38: finds and shipwreck remains from the Yarmouth Roads Wreck site



In 1984, archaeologists discovered a sunken wreck of a ship on the seabed outside Yarmouth Harbour. The three pewter plates in the top picture were found on board and date to the 17th Century and the ship was assumed to be of this date.

In the 2nd picture archaeologists are drawing a scale plan which revealed a 30m long ship lying in the silts and muds.

In 1987 a small trench excavated in the ship revealed several spoons which date to about AD 1500. They are shown in the 3rd picture down and meant that the ship was probably 16th century in date.

Now the archaeologists had to play detective, as the hunt was on to find the name of the ship and to record as much as possible of the structure which remained. In the final picture you can see the heavy timbers of the stern as they lie on the seabed.

Eventually research revealed that the ship was probably the Santa Lucia, a Spanish ship which sank in 1567 whilst carrying wool to Flanders for Sir Edward Horsey, the Captain of the Isle of Wight. More information about this site is on display at the Centre for Maritime Archaeology at Fort Victoria.

The second is the remains of H.M.S Pomone, which sank on October 14th 1811. Both wrecks are Protected Wreck sites and interpretation and exhibition material about both sites are available in the Underwater Archaeology Centre run by the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology in Fort Victoria.

14.1 The importance and value of Post Medieval sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	Surviving architecture and technology of defensive sites around the West Wight show the swift progress of national defence programmes and of the advancing technology to support it. Industrial development is also important as it shows how the industrial revolution affected the Island and its products. Off shore shipwreck sites are also valuable as they show how marine technology and international trade has changed.
Archaeological value	High	The defensive sites, underwater and industrial sites can show us the important role of the West Wight in national defence programmes, its role in maritime trade and industries and its role in the industrial development of the Island.
Historical value	High	With the survival of lots of documentary sources for the Post Medieval period, many people can start linking their own family trees and generational stories with the archaeological remains. Many local people carry out family history research and many more can be encouraged to do so and to link into the developments happening in the West Wight which link the Island to forefront of England's defence and technological advances.
Educational value	Very High	Many sites from this period can be visited as they survive in the landscape. Schools can visit forts and battery sites to teach pupils to be proud of their industrial and technological heritage. Classes can walk around towns and villages and map the buildings from different periods. They can do graveyard surveys and compare the statistics of life, birth and death to the modern communities. Copies of documentary sources can be studied in the classroom followed by site visits to gather data, followed by more classroom studies. Detailed studies of the defensive structures and technology can be included into classroom sessions, followed by site visits to some of the sites from different periods. The educational value of the archaeological information recovered from post medieval sites in the West Wight is enormous. Information from the excavated data can be added to many areas of the National Curriculum in the classroom, including studies of religion, post medieval lifestyles, art, geography, technology and many more.
Curiosity value	Medium	Post Medieval objects and structures arouse curiosity as "olde fashioned", sometimes viewed as quaint and valuable as antiques.
Tourism and recreational	High	With many post medieval defensive structures, the West Wight could host specialist holidays and has enormous potential for inclusion in walks and tourist trails.

value		
Aesthetic and creative arts value	Medium	Post Medieval objects, architecture and buildings already inspire and influence art, poetry , literature and buildings, but could be marketed more effectively.

15.0 Modern remains in the West Wight:

The audit revealed 114 sites of known modern date in the West Wight study area.

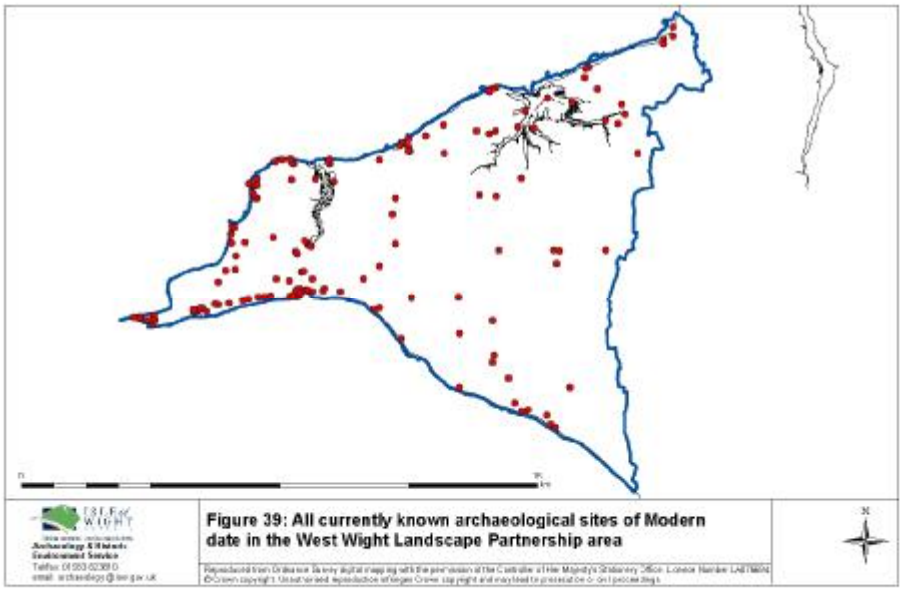


Figure 39: All currently known archaeological sites of Modern date in the West Wight Landscape Partnership area

The West Wight played a large role in the defence of the southern English coast in modern times during both World Wars as military structures were built as part of national defence schemes.

Existing fortification sites such as the Warden Point Battery were reused with garrisons of soldiers and new coastal artillery batteries were built. The battery was built in the 1890's above Bouldnor Cliff and remodelled in 1937-38 for two 6in guns to cover a new Examination Anchorage east of Yarmouth.

Light anti-aircraft batteries were in place at Cliff End and the Needles, whilst heavy anti-aircraft batteries were located at Hamstead, Nettlestone, Porchfield, Freshwater Redoubt and other West Wight sites.

Numerous Royal Observer Corps sites were located around the West Wight and pillboxes sites survive at Freshwater Bay, Blackbridge Road, Bouldnor, Fort Warden, including a rare square type made of pre cast concrete panels and bolted together at Chilton. Fort Warden itself became a Prisoner of War camp for Italian prisoners in 1941 with another at Lower Hamstead.

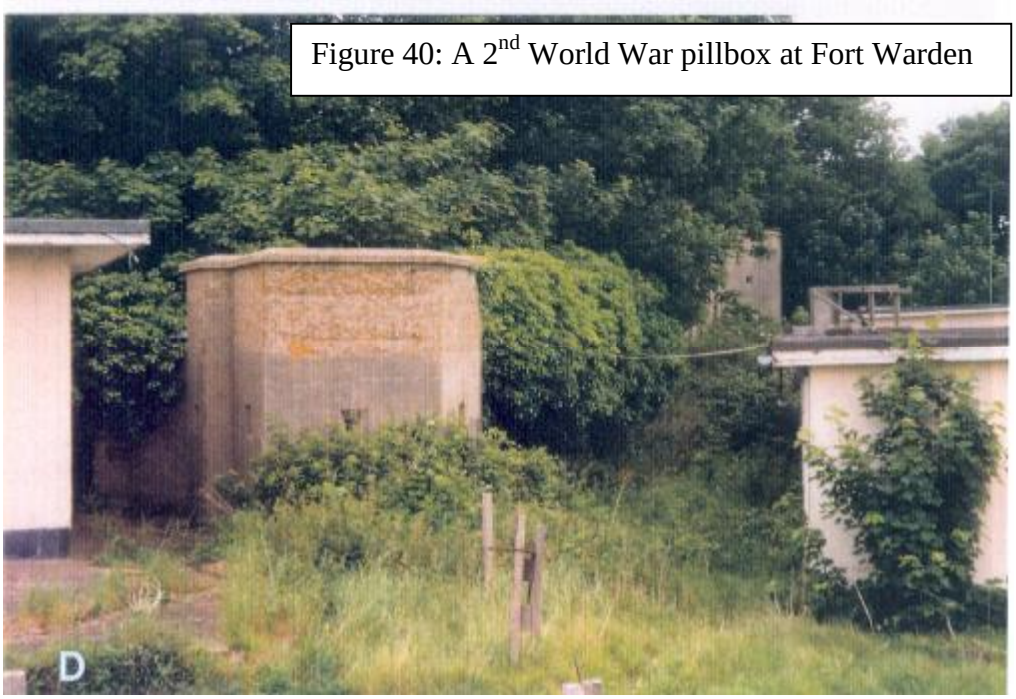


Figure 40: A 2nd World War pillbox at Fort Warden

Several aircraft crash sites were also in the West Wight area. There are peace time accidents such as that on 17th August 1926 when one of 3 Blackburn Darts on a training flight over the Island, piloted by 26 year old Lt. John Leslie Llewellyn-Rees crashed at Hulverstone in thick fog. War time crashes include those at Mottistone, and Calbourne.

One of the most recent sites of archaeological interest within the West Wight is the World famous Isle of Wight Pop festival site which took place at East Afton in 1970.

15.1 The importance and value of Modern sites within the West Wight:

Scientific value	High	Surviving architecture and technology of defensive sites around the West Wight show the swift progress of modern national defence programmes and of the advancing technology to support it.
Archaeological value	High	The defensive sites can show us the important role of the West Wight in national defence programmes. Other evidence from the modern period can show the changes in maritime trade and industries of the Island.
Historical value	High	With the survival of lots of documentary sources from the Modern period, especially the World Wars, many people can start linking their own family trees and generational stories with the archaeological remains. Many local people carry out family history research and many more can be encouraged to do so and to link into the developments happening in the West Wight which link the Island to forefront of England's defence and technological advances.
Educational value	Very High	Many sites from this period can be visited as they survive in the landscape. Schools can visit forts and battery sites, teach pupils to be proud of their defensive and technological heritage. Classes can walk around towns and villages and map the buildings form different periods. They can do graveyard surveys and compare the statistics of life, birth and death to the modern communities. Copies of documentary sources can be studied in the classroom followed by site visits to gather data, followed by more classroom studies. Detailed studies of the defensive structures and technology can be included into classroom sessions, followed by site visits to some of the sites from different periods. The educational value of the archaeological information recovered from modern sites in the West Wight is high and would contribute to many areas of the National Curriculum in the classroom, including studies of social change, technology, and many more.
Curiosity value	Medium	Modern objects and structures arouse less curiosity than more obviously older periods, but are as important to record for future generations as the archaeological remains of all other periods.

Tourism and recreational value	High	With many defensive structures, the West Wight could host specialist holidays and has enormous potential for inclusion in walks and tourist trails.
Aesthetic and creative arts value	Medium	Modern objects, architecture and buildings already inspire and influence art, poetry , literature and buildings, but could be marketed more effectively.

16.0 Identifying opportunities for further community archaeological work:

The archaeological remains which are recorded on the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record can be protected through the operation of national and local government policies, the local government planning process and the operation of Environmental Stewardship programmes. Most of the remains recorded on the Isle of Wight HER are known about for two reasons. Some, like Bronze Age barrows perched high on the downs, are visible and have been the subject of enquiry for many centuries. Others have been identified during systematic archaeological surveys which have shown that buried remains survive in certain areas.

But the known and recorded remains are not the complete picture, because many more unknown archaeological sites and remains still survive within the West Wight and if we are to build a more complete picture of how the historic environment developed from earliest times to today, we need to find out more about these areas.

The West Wight has many areas in which no archaeological survey has ever taken place and consequently we do not know whether remains survive in these areas. The only way in which these blank areas may reveal their hidden archaeological story is for systematic future archaeological surveys.

The Isle of Wight has a long tradition of antiquarian and archaeological activity and has two long established and specialist archaeological societies who have always been involved in the recording, research and publication of information about its archaeological sites – the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society and the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society. Because of the presence of these groups and other experienced local individuals, community archaeology projects have been possible in the past 10 years in which local society members are trained in techniques and go on to supervise other volunteers so that large areas can be fieldwalked, for example the two seasons of fieldwalking at Yaverland which revealed a previously unknown Iron Age hillfort.

It is recommended that future community archaeology projects could be carried out in the West Wight area by using this valuable resource of local community archaeology groups. It is also recommended that the following archaeological methods are used for such systematic surveys:

Fieldwalking – this is a technique which requires trained participants to walk over a recently ploughed field on a regular grid system and to record any archaeological finds which may have been brought to the surface by the plough. This technique requires participants to be trained in the recognition of archaeological remains from

every period and in recording and analysis techniques. It is only useful for period which have a large number of finds such as flint tools or pottery, but can allow archaeologists to discover the date and nature of unseen remains that are buried beneath the modern ground surface. The technique requires arable land which has just been ploughed and the requirements of the farmers planting regimes may restrict use of this technique to certain times in the year.

Field Survey – this is a technique which requires trained participants to walk pasture, downland or heathland and identify earthworks (humps and bumps) in the landscape, they then record these using contour survey techniques. This technique can rarely date features through morphology but is ideal for areas which have remained undisturbed for many centuries as has some areas of the West Wight.

Geophysical survey – this is a scientific technique which uses a variety of methods to measure below ground resistance (and thus presence of archaeological remains) to electrical or other stimuli. This technique must be carried out by skilled operators and interpreters of geophysical equipment and the cost of this can restrict the areas of land which can be surveyed. Some geological conditions and modern powerlines can distort the survey results.

It is important that metal detecting survey is not carried out as part of the study as some areas in the West Wight are sensitive in respect of Scheduled Monuments on which it is a criminal offence to metal detect under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and in respect of the Treasure Act 1996. Metal detecting issues within the West Wight are currently being co-ordinated by the Isle of Wight Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The Heritage Audit has revealed the areas in which no archaeological remains have been recorded due to no systematic survey ever having been carried out in them. These areas are marked on the accompanying maps.

Priorities for future Community Archaeology survey project have been prioritised into classes of highest and medium importance. The lowest importance areas have not been included in this study:

16.1 Highest priority:

16.1.1 Coastal cliff face survey.

The Heritage Audit has shown that many sites and remains of prehistoric periods are being revealed by coastal erosion and it is essential that systematic survey and recording is carried out, particularly after the recent cliff falls caused by the wet winter weather. For health and safety reasons, this type of survey may be too dangerous for community participants to take part in on the areas where the chalk rises and the cliffs become too steep. Consequently, it is recommended that any future survey must prioritise the coastal cliffs between St Catherine's Point to the south and Freshwater Bay in the north.

It is recommended that the archaeologists supervising the community archaeology survey should take a copy of the Historic Environment Record map out into the field and should record any change to existing remains already recorded and should record new sites with scale photography and drawn record. Sampling of any organic materials or other deposits should only take place if sufficient funding is in place to pay for the scientific analysis and after the site has been recorded and assessed by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service.

16.1.2 Freshwater Isle Survey - Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

The area to the east and west of the River Yar (Area 1) has never been surveyed and is likely to be a prime location for potential prehistoric settlement activity of all periods. The area between the church and Kings Manor may also reveal remains relating to the Anglo-Saxon period, as it is thought that Kings Manor was a late Anglo-Saxon manor which may have been a significant Anglo-Saxon estate centre.

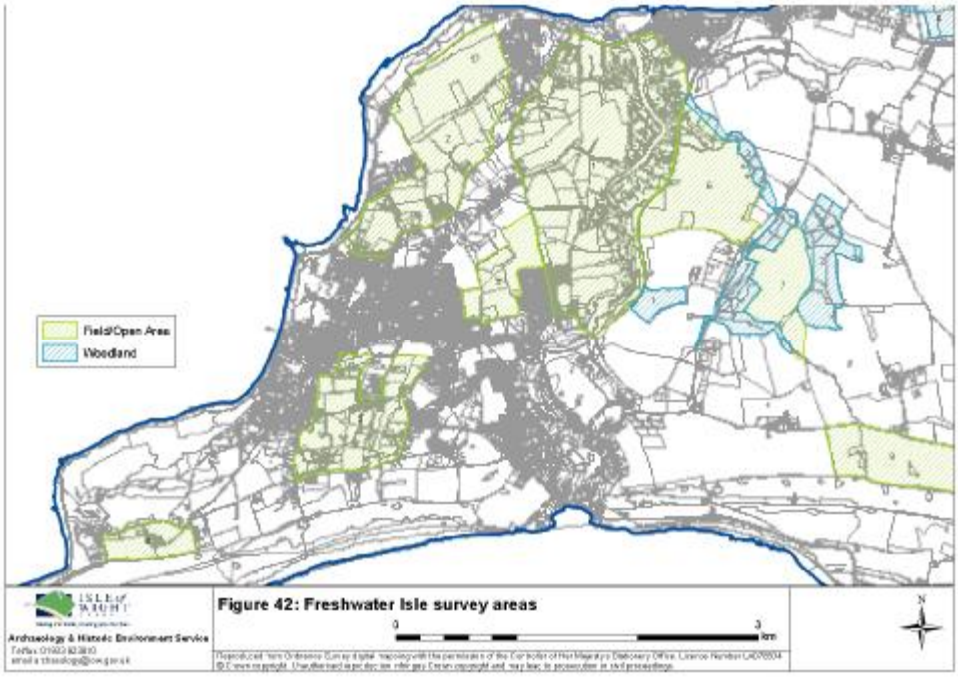


Figure 42: Freshwater Isle survey areas

The IOW HLC data shows that area between Norton and Freshwater (Area 2) was open fields and strip meadows with heathland to the south in medieval times. However the potential for earlier remains of every period is high due to the low disturbance of buried remains from medieval times to today.

The area to the east of Golden Hill Fort and Country Park (Area 3) is known from the HLC data to have been part of Golden Common. Again the lack of disturbance of the landscape in this area gives it the potential for Saxon and earlier remains.

The area around Warren Farm (Area 4) lies below and to the south of Headon Warren and the HLC data shows that it was probably land taken from heath and rough land in

the 16th or 17th century. This low disturbance increases the potential for survival of unknown archaeological remains of all periods.

The area south of Freshwater (Area 5) was an area of open fields in medieval times and vestigial field boundaries are still visible in the landscape patterns today. The relationships between small settlement and routeways is of particular interest in this area.

16.2 Medium Priority:

16.2.1 – woodland surveys (marked in blue on map)

The areas of woodland marked blue on the accompanying maps have never been archaeologically surveyed. Other woodland areas within the West Wight have shown a remarkable survival of earthwork remains, for example the prehistoric field systems and Bronze Age barrows discovered during recent surveys in Brighstone Forest. There are very few areas of ancient woodland on the Island and all of the woodland areas marked on the map are later plantations which have preserved earlier landscape features.

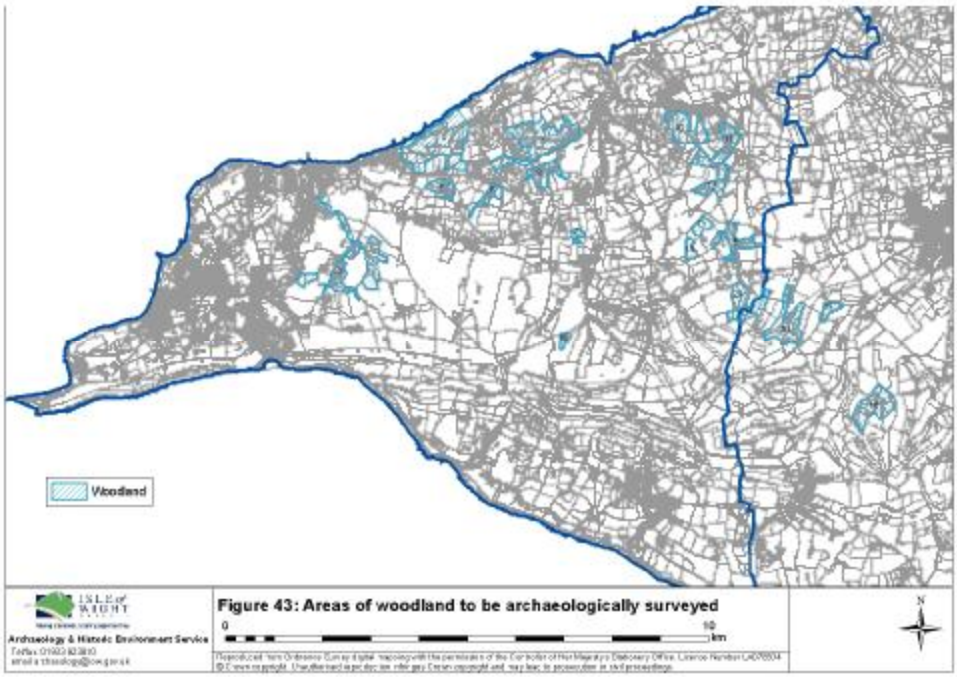


Figure 43: Areas of woodland to be archaeologically surveyed

16.2.2 – remaining areas of landscape:

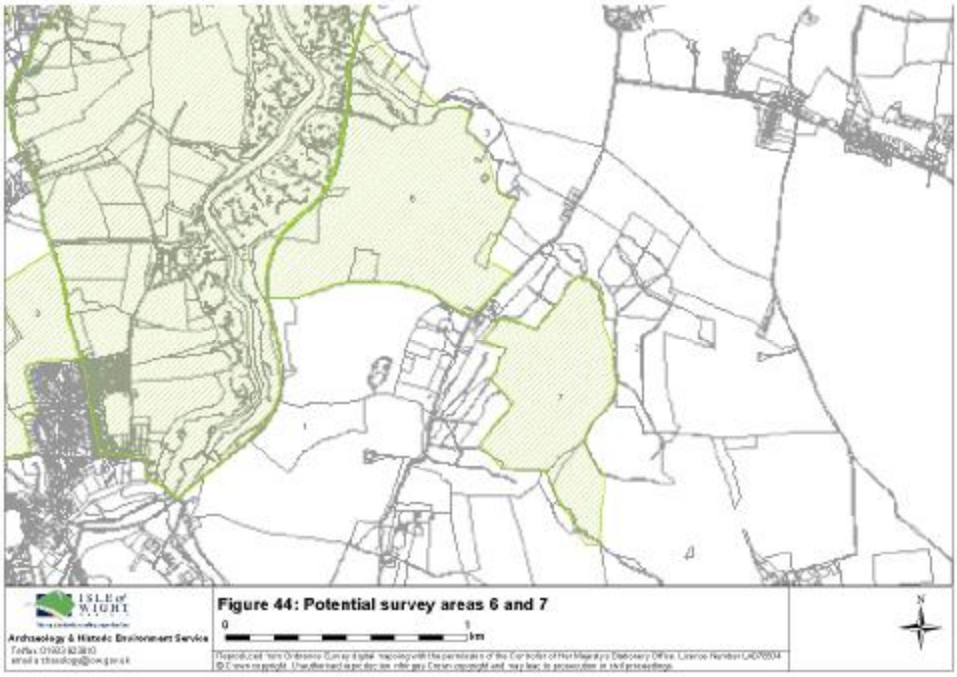
Area 6 is to the West of Thorley and was heath land in the post medieval period and there are documentary references to part of the area being a rabbit warren in medieval times.
Maps of these areas

Area 7 is at Wilmingham and was an area of undisturbed heathland and may have potential for prehistoric or Saxon remains.

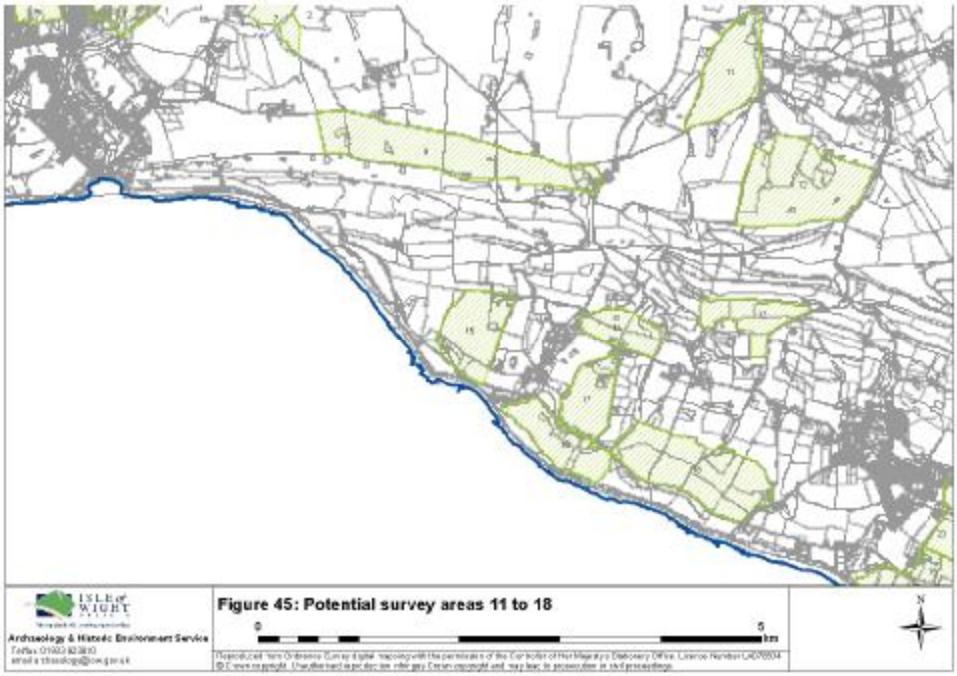
Area 8 has been removed from the list of potential survey areas due to sensitivity relating to the Treasure Act.

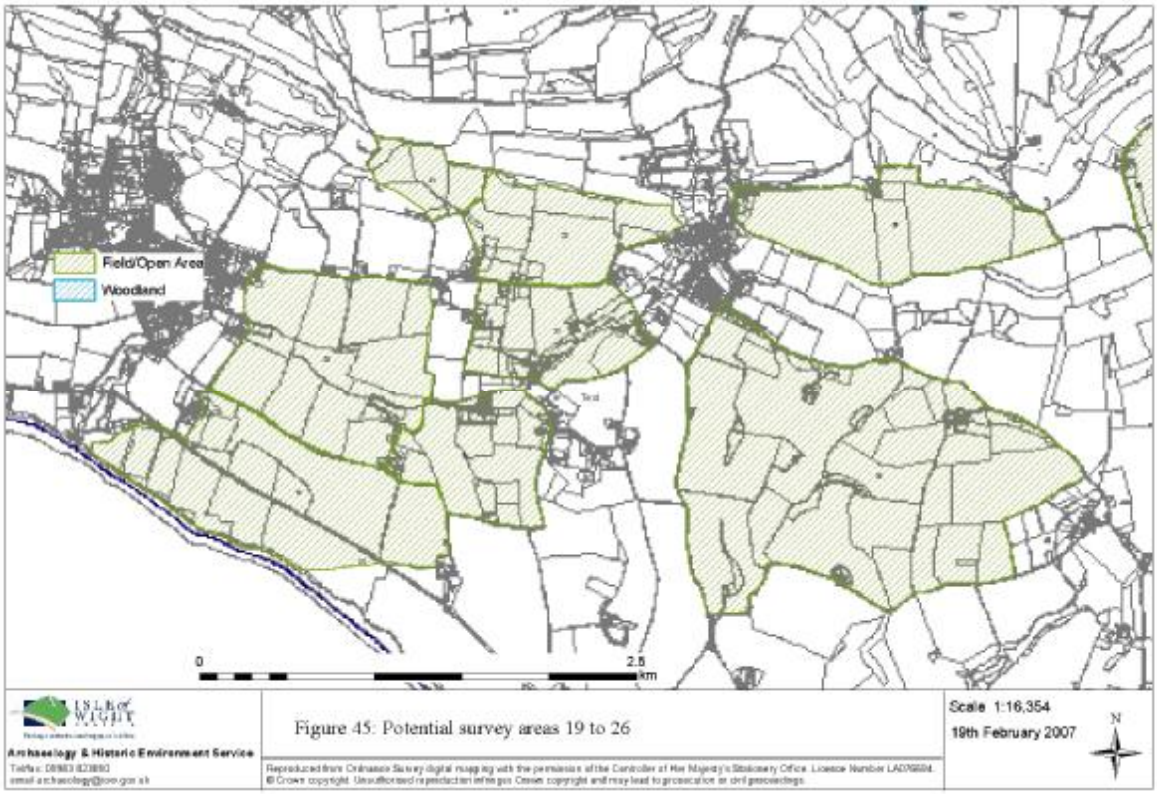
Area 9 lies to the north of East Afton Down and has the potential for undisturbed prehistoric remains.

Area 10 has been removed from the list of potential survey areas due to sensitivity relating to the Treasure Act.

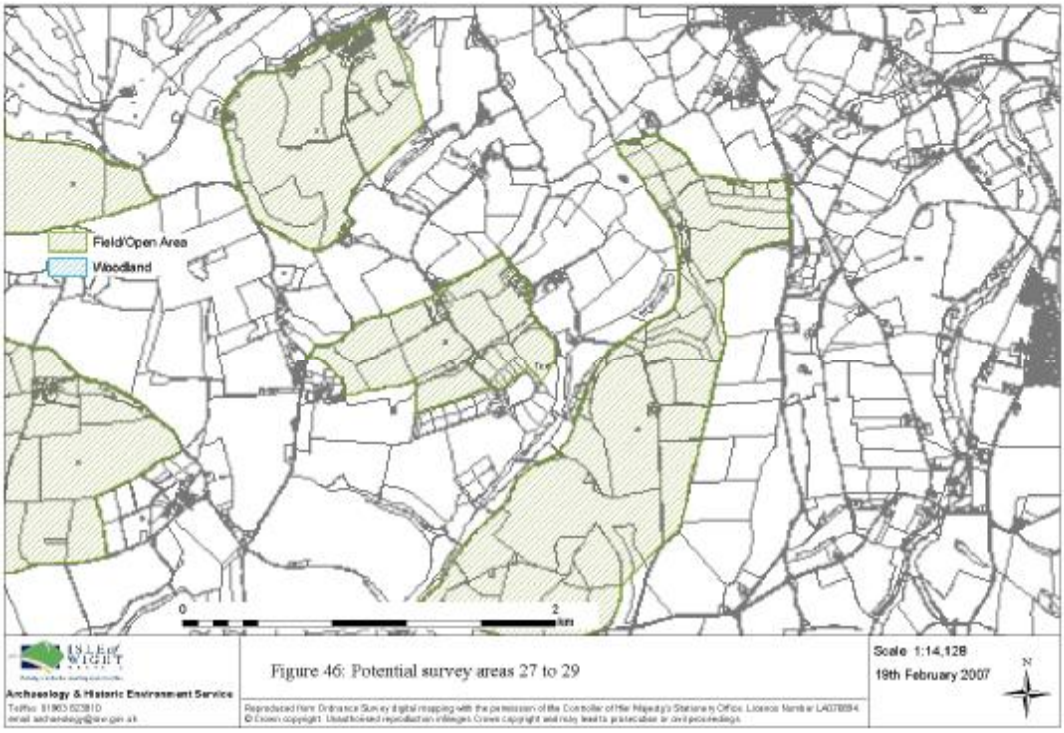


Area 11 lies to the south of Newbridge ; Area 12 lies south of Westover Farm; Area 13 lies to the west of Strawberry Lane; Area 14 lies to the north of Hulverstone; Area 15 lies to the lies to the west of Dunsbury; Area 16 lies at Brook Green and Sudmoor; Area 17 lies south of Hulverstone; Area 18 lies west of Chilton Chine.





Area 19 lies south of Thorncross; Area 20 lies south of Limerstone Road; Area 21 lies south of Limerstone Down; Area 22 lies west of Shorewell; Area 23 lies north of Yafford; Area 24 lies south of Yafford; Area 25 lies south of Presford Farm; Area 26 lies south of Newbarn Farm.



Area 27 lies east of Chillerton Farm; Area 28 lies at Roslin; Area 29 lies east of the River Medina; Area 30 lies around Chale Farm.

17.0 Archaeological Education opportunities in the West Wight:

Both the archaeological remains which still lie within the West Wight landscape and those which have been excavated or which lie in the County Museum Service's storerooms have enormous potential for education within schools, family learning, and adult education of the local community and visitors alike. Please see the "Importance and Value" tables at the end of each period for details of specific sites and themes relevant to educational use.

Archaeology is very relevant to the school curriculum as it provides a physical means of connecting with the past. The data and information from archaeological sites and investigations can be used as primary data for a wide range of Curriculum subjects:

History: archaeological sites or objects can bring the study of history to life as pupils can touch and see artefacts and on-site remains so therefore relate the written class-work to the real context of the life of people in history. They are particularly relevant to Key Stage 1, 2 and 3. Visits to sites can reinforce the teaching of a particular period by giving the students a first hand experience of the information about that period.
Art and Drama - Archaeological finds can provide inspiration for artwork, such as ceramics, painting, textile working and design. Imaginative drama projects can involve reconstructions of events or activities of the past following a visit to a site within the landscape.
Geography - In addition to learning about other cultures and their locations, archaeology provides a link to other themes within the subject such as soils, erosion, agriculture, sustainability and climatic change such as occurred in the ice age.

Science – There are links within this subject to environmental archaeology, biology, chemistry and the new range of scientific techniques used in archaeological investigation.
Mathematics – the techniques used to measure, record and analyse archaeological sites and remains can demonstrate how theoretical mathematical methods are used within the real world.
Technology – Displays of archaeological artefacts in museums and exhibitions can show pupils of all ages how the technological developments and improvements in tools, crafts, clothing, weapons, objects and structures have resulted in the technology which we use today. In particular experimental archaeology projects such as the construction of an Iron Age roundhouse, making of prehistoric pottery, metal working and other technologies can be undertaken as part of the study of changing technologies and materials. Older pupils studying projects at Key Stage 3 would find these particularly useful.

At a higher level archaeology provides and educational resource for those studying the subject and others at university;

The community at large can benefit from the educational aspects which archaeology provides. Through community archaeology schemes adults and children alike gain knowledge and awareness. Interpretation of features adds an educational aspect to recreational experiences which educate the casual walker or visitor to sites too.

17.1 Visiting sites within the landscape:

The West Wight's Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic landscapes can be used for educational purposes despite very few of the sites still surviving. Educational projects should be developed which take students and visitors out into the landscapes and describe the appearance, flora and fauna which would have existed in the Ice ages and later prehistoric periods and the changes to the landscapes and way of life as sea level rise separated the Island from Britain and Europe and end with the introduction of farming and a sedentary way of life in the Neolithic. Environmental information from the preserved underwater Mesolithic sites can be provided by a visit to the Underwater Archaeology Centre at Fort Victoria. The Neolithic sites of the Afton Long barrow, the Longstone and the Tennyson Down Mortuary enclosure can all be visited within the landscape. The Medieval and post medieval sites within West Wight can also be visited especially those highlighted in the Heritage Audit. Information packs and education packs should be provided through schools and tourism outlets.

17.2 Education packs for schools and colleges

Replica and real but unstratified archaeological objects such as stone tools and medieval could be compiled into teaching collections available to all Island schools, colleges and adult education institutions. Handling objects and replicas can vividly demonstrate how they were used, made, technological changes and how life was in the distant past.

17.3 Museum

A museum of the West Wight's archaeology and heritage would provide an invaluable resource for this area. A local museum with interesting interpretative material on the evolution of humans and the landscape/environment can add to the pride a community has in its own environment.

17.3 Educational CD rom

It is recommended that an education CD rom should be produced by a collaboration between specialist archaeological education advisers, the Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service and specialist digital reconstruction artists. This could focus on the landscape, flora and fauna and human activities and structures of certain sites within the West Wight using prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age), Roman (Rock Roman villa), Medieval (Yarmouth and Newtown) and post medieval sites and structures.

18.0 Tourism potential for the West Wight

Leaflets for themed archaeology walks could be produced for areas such as the Old Western Yar and Freshwater areas. Newer technology could provide information for sites on circular walks.

Please see to individual sites described in the text for each period and the "Importance and Value" tables within the Historic Environment Audit for suggestions for tourism activities within the West Wight.

19.0 Sustainable capacity of archaeological sites

A sustainable capacity assessment should undertaken for every archaeological site which is proposed for visitor access.

The impact of visitors on a site should be assessed and a long term visitor management plan should be agreed with the owner, English Heritage if the site is scheduled and the Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service.

20.0 Archaeological contacts

The Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service,
61 Clatterford Road, Caribrooke,
Near Newport,
Isle of Wight,

Isle of Wight Conservation Team,
Seaclose Offices,
Fairlee Road,
Newport,

PO 30 1NZ

Isle of Wight,
PO30 2QS

Isle of Wight Planning Archaeologist,
Region,
Development Team,
Seaclose Offices,
Fairlee Road,
Newport,
Isle of Wight,
PO30 2QS

English Heritage South East

195-205 High Street,
Guildford,
Surrey,
GU1 3EH

Isle of Wight County Records Office,
Service,
26 Hillside,
Newport,
Isle of Wight,
PO30 2EB

Isle of Wight County Museums

The Guildhall,
High Street,
Newport,
Isle of Wight,
PO30 1TY.

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Abbreviations:

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