An introduction to the
HEAP
The Isle of Wight
Historic Environment
Action Plan
The historic environment is all around us. It is what generations of people have made of the places in which they have lived.

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

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

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

The Island’s historic environment is an invaluable community, recreational and educational asset which contributes to local distinctiveness and local identity.
The Island’s archaeological monuments include the Stone Age ‘Longstone’ (above), many Early Bronze Age Barrows such as those on Brook Down (top) and the medieval St Catherine’s Lighthouse (right).
The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) is about the future of the Island’s historic environment.

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

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

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

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

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

Our historic environment is under pressure from development, agricultural change, coastal erosion, climate change and many other forces. Like people, places have to evolve, react and grow but we must manage change to conserve the character of place. The HEAP has been prepared to help us look after the historic environment all around us.
Left: Newport, a medieval planned town with a historic street plan and fine 18th and 19th century buildings, is now undergoing rapid change.

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

Bottom: Extract from HLC map showing historic landscape types around Newtown.

For details of the Isle of Wight HLC visit the Isle of Wight Council website www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/Archaeology/Projects/Historic_Landscape_Characterisation/
Acting in partnership to manage change

The Isle of Wight HEAP has been prepared by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service in partnership with organisations involved in conserving, managing and studying the Island’s historic and natural environment.

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

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

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

The Historic Environment Action Plan includes the following documents:

- Isle of Wight Historic Environment Overview
- HEAP aims, objectives and actions
- 15 HEAP area plans

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

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

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

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

Views taken within some of the Island’s varied HEAP areas
Taking the HEAP forward

Over the next five years the HEAP Steering Group will oversee delivery of the HEAP actions.

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

The Historic Environment Action Plan will:

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

Pictured: Old and new are mixed together in the village of Carisbrooke
Looking after the Island’s historic environment

The Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record (HER) is a key tool for the management of the historic environment, consulted in connection with all planning applications and by many public and private bodies in connection with development or management proposals. This record contains over 11,000 entries and includes archaeology, historic buildings and maritime sites. It comprises a computerised database with links to a Geographic Information System (GIS), documentary archives, historic maps, an extensive collection of aerial photographs and an archaeological library. The HER is updated almost daily as new information is discovered. It may be consulted by developers, researchers, students and members of the public (by appointment).
The county archaeology and historic environment service:
- identifies and records archaeological sites and finds, and historic buildings;
- maintains and develops the Historic Environment Record (HER);
- advises on strategic plans and management plans;
- advises on management of archaeological sites and historic landscapes;
- responds to enquiries from professional bodies, students and the public;
- delivers the Portable Antiquities Scheme locally;
- carries out projects with external funding e.g. HLC, HEAP.

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

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

You can read more about the work of the conservation and design team on the Isle of Wight Council website: www.iwight.com/living_here/conservation_and_design
Enjoy and learn about the Island’s historic environment

- Join an archaeological or historical society:
  - Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society http://www.iwnhas.org/
  - Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society http://www.btinternet.com/~rob.martin1/iwias/home.htm
  - Young Archaeologists Club Isle of Wight Branch. iwyac@aol.com
  - Local historical societies are listed on the Isle of Wight Council website. www.iwight.com/living_here/voluntary/voluntary_type.asp

- Visit historic properties: Carisbrooke Castle, Yarmouth Castle, Osborne House and Appuldurcombe House (English Heritage), Brading Roman Villa (Oglander Trust), Newport Roman Villa (Isle of Wight Council).

- Visit the Guildhall Museum in Newport, Carisbrooke Castle Museum and the Underwater Archaeology Centre (Fort Victoria).

- Join a Local Conservation Organisation e.g. Isle of Wight Society, Isle of Wight Buildings Preservation Trust, Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, Green Gym. Other conservation organisations are listed on the Council’s website.

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

Help With Sustainable Management
Some schemes can assist with the management of heritage assets.

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

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

Below: Finds Identification Day in the grounds of the 17th century manor house at Northcourt.
Further information

The county archaeology and historic environment service is located at:
61 Clatterford Road, Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight PO31 7L
Tel: 01983 823810. Web: www.iwight.com/archaeology
Further information about the Isle of Wight HEAP can be found at
www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/archaeology/historic.asp

HEAP Steering Group Members

Isle of Wight Council departments:
- Archaeology and historic environment service
  www.iwight.com/archaeology
- Conservation and design team
  www.iwight.com/living_here/conservation_and_design
- Countryside section
  www.iwight.com/countryside
- Planning services development team
  www.iwight.com/living_here/planning/development_control
- Rights of way section
  www.iwight.com/living_here/environment/rights_of_way
- Isle of Wight record office
  www.iwight.com/library/record_office
- Dinosaur Isle
  www.dinosaurisle.com

Eco Island www.eco-island.org.uk
Isle of Wight AONB Partnership www.wightaonb.org.uk
Country Land and Business Association www.cla.org.uk
Department of Food and Rural Affairs www.defra.gov.uk
English Heritage Characterisation Team
  www.english-heritage.org.uk
English Heritage Historic Environment Field Adviser
  (Hampshire and IW) www.english-heritage.org.uk
Environment Agency www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Forestry Commission www.forestry.gov.uk
Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology
  www.hwtma.org.uk
Island History Forum c/o sheilacaws@iow.gov.uk
Isle of Wight Economic Partnership www.iwep.com
Isle of Wight Gardens Trust www.gardenstrusts.org.uk
Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society
  www.iwnhas.org
Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society
  www.btinternet.com/~rob.martin1/iwias/home.htm
National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk
Wight Conservation www.wightconservation.co.uk
Wight Wildlife www.hwt.org.uk

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