

THE NEW FOREST HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE

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TIME CHART

Period name	General date range	Subdivisions	Detail date range	Climatic period	Geological epoch	Geological Period
Modern	1800-present		20th century	Sub-Atlantic	Holocene	Quaternary
			19th century			
Post-medieval	1500-1799		18th century			
			17th century			
			16th century			
Medieval	1066-1499	Later medieval	15th century			
		later medieval	14th century			
		earlier medieval	13th century			
		earlier medieval	12th century			
		early medieval	11th century			
Saxon	410-1066	Late Saxon	850-1066			
		Mid Saxon	650-850			
		Early Saxon	410-650			
Post-Roman	410-650					
Roman	AD 43-410	Late Roman	AD 250-410			
		Mid Roman	AD 150-250			
		Early Roman	AD 43-150			
Iron Age	700 BC- AD 43	Late Iron Age	100 BC - AD 43			
		Middle Iron Age	400-100 BC			
		Early Iron Age	700-400 BC			
Bronze Age	2400-700 BC	Late Bronze Age	1100-700 BC	Sub-Boreal		
		Middle Bronze Age	1500-1100 BC			
		Early Bronze Age	2400-1500 BC			
Beaker	2600-1800 BC	-	-			
Neolithic	4000-2400 BC	Later Neolithic	3000-2400 BC			
		Earlier Neolithic	4000-3000 BC			
Mesolithic	8500-4000	Mesolithic	8500-4000 BC	Atlantic Boreal Pre-Boreal		
		Early Post-Glacial	10,000-8500 BC	Loch Lomond Younger Dryas		
Palaeolithic	500,000-10,000 BC	Late Glacial (Late Upper Palaeolithic)	12,000-10,000 BC	Windermere (Allerød) Interstadial	Late Pleistocene	
		Upper Palaeolithic	30,000-10,000 BC	Late - Main Devensian		
		Middle Palaeolithic	150,000-30,000 BC	Upton Warren Interstadial		
		Lower Palaeolithic	500,000-150,000 BC		Middle Pleistocene	

GLOSSARY

The New Forest Heritage Area - Land within the boundary as agreed by the New Forest Committee at its meeting on 6 February 1996. Referred to in the text as the New Forest or the Forest.

Crown Land - Land owned by the Crown and managed by the Forestry Commission.

Open Forest - Common land within the perambulation, including Crown Land and adjacent commons, in various ownerships.

Enclosed Lands - Privately-owned and fenced lands within the New Forest.

All the above definitions are taken from *A Strategy for the New Forest: Full Working Document* produced by the New Forest Committee (1996).

THE NEW FOREST HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The New Forest has a unique traditional character. Its sense of place and character are a function of its history combined with its natural physical characteristics, which together form its cultural landscape. 'Traditional character' is a phrase frequently used in management and policy documents relating to the New Forest, but a definition of that character and the archaeological and historical elements which constitute it are less well stated.

One issue in such a study is that there is no generally agreed definition of 'historic landscape', and the word 'landscape' has different meanings to different people. It can, for example, mean a generalised or composite visual scene, an actual scenic view or a tract of owned and inhabited land. It can also be used to describe past landscapes interpreted by archaeologists or historians from incomplete datasets – all archaeology is about understanding the way in which people have interacted with and inhabited their own particular landscapes. But generally landscape is taken to relate to appearance and is highly experiential and personal. Recent work on archaeological and historical landscapes takes account of these difficulties of definition and perception, and has affected the way in which this specific study was undertaken.

The study of historical landscapes has developed extensively over the past six years, and a greater emphasis has been placed on the importance of landscapes as opposed to isolated archaeological monuments or features in both national policies and planning guidance (for example PPG 15 *Planning and the Historic Environment*) and research priorities. English Heritage, following the publication of the Government White Paper *This Common Inheritance* (1990), has commissioned extensive pilot studies and developed methodologies for landscape assessment which consider not only the component features, but also place importance on social processes and themes behind the individual monuments (Fairclough *et al* 1996).

In parallel the Countryside Agency has been developing its policies and approaches to landscape, adopting an integrated approach that sees landscape character in historical terms, as

well as ecological, scenic and cultural terms. It values the contribution of historical events and processes in shaping the present landscape and its character, and adopts a similar approach to that of English Heritage in terms of assessing landscapes (Countryside Commission 1996, 3). Its policies also place importance on the diversity and long evolution of English landscapes, acknowledging the complexity of their creation and human influences on the environment, flora and fauna.

Both the Countryside Agency and English Heritage acknowledge that historical landscape character is founded on both visible physical remains (monuments, buildings, field patterns), and on less visible sub-surface features (buried sites, crop marks and palaeo-environmental deposits). Less tangible historical links (such as battlefields), and influences of social, ideological and land management decisions, and the perceptions of past and present populations are also considered important (Countryside Commission 1996, 8).

There is little in the New Forest which could strictly be said to be natural, though nature has modified man's impact. Most of its visible characteristics are the result of human activity, whether heathland developing as a result of prehistoric clearance, the settlement pattern or relics of past industry. An assessment of the New Forest's archaeological and historical landscapes is therefore critical in understanding and managing the area. Therefore the principal purpose of this study was to attempt to examine what social and economic processes in the past have impacted on the area to produce its current unique traditional working landscape, and to assist in the clearer articulation of the historical and archaeological elements that combine to characterise the present New Forest cultural landscape.

Specific aims and objectives defined for the study were:

- to identify the key archaeological and historic landscape elements that characterise the historic and cultural development of the New Forest, and
- to develop a methodology against which areas within or close to the New Forest could be evaluated for their archaeological/historical associations with the New Forest.

In order to meet the aims set out above, a series of specific objectives were defined:

- to collate and examine the known archaeological resource and to collate information on geology, landform and hydrology in relation to the archaeology

- to describe the component elements, recurring components and recurring activities, in particular those which affect the physical nature of the land and which result in the landscape as it is seen today

- to examine the distribution of the components through time and spatially

- to assess the reliability of the present information for defining character

- to evaluate the nature of the archaeological and historical components in the New Forest and Avon Valley, and to compare or contrast the evidence in order to establish whether there are demonstrable links.

The work was commissioned by the New Forest Committee, a non-statutory co-ordinating body with representatives of organisations and authorities which have responsibilities and interests in the management of the New Forest. The physical scope was defined as the boundaries of the New Forest Heritage Area, which encompasses some 58,000 hectares. Its boundaries (**Figure 1**), agreed in February 1996 after a landscape study commissioned from LUC, were identified on the basis of two criteria: (i) the incorporation of land of outstanding national importance for its natural beauty and elements arising from human influences, and (ii) the incorporation of essential grazing land for backup to enable the continuing functioning of the dispersed pastoral regime of commoning.

The New Forest Committee is committed to the conservation of the traditional character of the Forest, and among its published strategic objectives are:

- To conserve and maintain archaeological features and their landscape settings [S03.5i]

- To interpret sites of archaeological and historic significance, where appropriate [S03.5ii] (New Forest Committee 1996, 24).

The original work was carried out by Wessex Archaeology between October and December 1996, and a technical report produced, with full methodologies, gazetteers and other supporting appendices (Wessex Archaeology 1996). This

abridged version was compiled in December 1998.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 General introduction

This present study follows guidance and methodologies developed in recent years, developed under the aegis of English Heritage. The study assumes that landscape character is a function of the combination of particular components - an amalgam of inter-relating elements created and used by past societies combined with physical land characteristics. The categorisation of archaeological and historical artefacts, monuments and events is a means to an end which explores the architecture of the whole landscape and the ways in which people designed and inhabited that landscape.

'Historic landscape' is therefore defined as the result of past interaction between people and the natural environment, reflecting social and economic practices as well as political and ideological beliefs. This present assessment study examines the key events, processes and themes which impacted on the New Forest and which are reflected in its present landscape.

2.2 Previous studies of the New Forest

A number of studies in the 1990s have described the physical and ecological characteristics of the New Forest, and the landscape types identified are summarised in Map 2 of *A Strategy for the New Forest* (New Forest Committee 1996). Such studies (for example, Land Use Consultants 1991; Peterken *et al.* 1996) have used standard forms of analysis - geology, landform, landcover and historical and ecological associations, using maps and aerial photographs with field survey to describe the physical character of the landscape. Re-mapping at a detailed scale was therefore not considered necessary for this assessment.

Previous studies, in particular that by Land Use Consultants, have placed a strong emphasis on scenic and topographic elements, in line with landscape assessment methodologies prevalent at the time. But they have placed relatively low importance on archaeological or historical components and themes which have brought about the present landscape. Demonstrable archaeological and historical associations have not had a high profile and in particular the iterative connections through time between areas have been diminished, particularly those for earlier periods of land use.

The present assessment therefore attempts to redress this balance by examining the archaeological and historical evidence and processes of change. This assessment also takes as a basic principle the concept that a gradient of human impact is more relevant than distinguishing between natural and cultural landscapes (Aålen 1996).

2.3 Stage 1: Data Acquisition

In compiling this assessment, much use was made of existing surveys, including the *New Forest Heritage Area: Proposed Boundary* (Land Use Consultants 1991), *Historic Rural Settlement in the New Forest District* (Edwards 1996) and other published documentation. This assessment did not repeat work undertaken in those projects, but considers in more detail the relationship of the archaeological and historical evidence to the development of the present landscape.

The survey considered only readily-accessible, publicly-available information (mainly the County and National Monuments records and published sources); documents were not studied in detail and no details were sought from groups active in exploring the archaeology of the New Forest. However, a number of individual experts were consulted (see acknowledgements).

Whilst no new detailed field survey was undertaken, visits were made to most areas of the New Forest, both the Open Forest and the Enclosed Lands.

The following sources were consulted:

- County Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) for Hampshire and Wiltshire
- National Monuments Record (NMR, RCHME, Swindon)
- Cartographic sources
- Published secondary sources (listed in bibliography)
- Published reports, journals and papers (listed in bibliography)
- Unpublished information supplied by individuals

The base information is summarised here on the small scale illustrative maps (**Figures 1-8**).

The nature of the archaeological and historical elements was then described, relatively

summarily, and tabulated by period to produce the background (**Sections 3 and 4** below).

2.4 Stage 2: Analysis and Landscape Character Assessment

This assessment uses a variation of an approach tried in Cornwall for a county-wide assessment (CAU 1994 and 1996), and an approach recommended in a study by English Heritage (McNab and Lambrick 1996). Individual elements in the public record, both visible and less visible in the present landscape, represent a series of social and economic activities, changing through time but with recurring common factors. The individual elements (for example, barrows, artefact finds, structures, enclosures) were grouped into the activities or functions that they appear to represent, and their chronological and spatial distribution examined.

Particular impacts of the various human activities on the physical landscape were assessed to determine which appear to have had the most fundamental effects, and which continue to impact on the present character of the New Forest. This allows for the definition of themes which characterise the present landscape and which may be used, when combined with time and topographic factors, to determine traditional character. Character, and hence the character areas, is therefore defined in both general terms (themes) and by specific actions or events (activities/functions), related to time-depth and physical form (**Figures 7 and 8**).

3 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND LANDUSE

The New Forest Heritage Area (as defined in 'A Strategy For the New Forest', New Forest Committee 1996) covers some 58,000 hectares, of which some 50% is owned by the Crown and subject to the Verderers' bylaws for the common grazing of stock; the remainder is held in private ownership. The landscape varies from the coastal fringe along the Solent to the Chalklands of South Wiltshire, incorporating enclosed farmland with generally small fields and meadows, parkland, ancient and ornamental woodland, forestry plantations and relict heathland. The proximity of the major conurbations of Southampton and Bournemouth impacts on the New Forest through, amongst other elements, leisure activities and communications routes and consequently, noise and pollution.

The area lies within the Hampshire Basin, where the underlying chalk formation 'dips beneath the

Tertiary strata, which are mostly soft sands and clays' (Figure 1; Chatwin 1960, 93). The Hampshire Basin Syncline comprises the Hamble region and the New Forest region, and is bounded by a submerged ria coastline. In earlier times this gave access to the now drowned valleys of the Solent and Southampton Water and to former coastal lowlands now occupied by the harbours of Portsmouth, Langstone and Hayling (Tomalin 1996, 13). The present day Open Forest 'is characterised by a network of broad valleys with river terraces separated by low plateaux and a series of flat-topped ridges, descending southwards from c. 125 to 60m O.D., with many small rivers and streams giving rise to marshy land and open heath' (Allen 1996, 57).

The soils of the Open Forest have been described as infertile Eocene and Oligocene sand, gravel and clay soils which had limited agricultural potential (Bond 1994, 119). The first two were largely cleared of their woodland by the Bronze Age, and have since supported only heathland with birch and gorse (Tubbs 1986). The heavy clays remain bog land with sedge, cotton grass and alder thickets, but the clay loams support woodland, dominated by oak, beech, yew, holly and thorn. In Tubbs's opinion some of this may represent a continuity of woodland that has remained 'unbroken from the primeval forest' (Tubbs 1986). Indeed some unenclosed woods in the Open Forest overlie undisturbed acid forest brown earths, indicating that they have never been cleared and farmed (Colebourne 1983, 24). Soils in the Avon and adjacent valleys comprise poorly-drained soils subject to periodic flooding, overlying valley gravels, with areas of shallow calcareous and non-calcareous soils over chalky gravel and alluvium.

The earliest perambulation of the New Forest appears to have been defined largely by topographic features. These include water - 'The limits of the Forest defined by the perambulation of William the First extended to the River Avon on the west, to the sea on the south, and to Southampton Water and the River Blackwater on the east' (Taverner 1957, 77). In later perambulations too, water, river and sea occur frequently. They also include other physical features for example at Godshill Inclosure/Castle Hill where 'the River Avon butts up against a plateau of high ground that marks the edge of the Forest' (Brown and Skelton 1996, 16).

4 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORD

4.1 Introduction

Nearly 2000 archaeological sites and findspots have been recorded on the Sites and Monuments Records of the Counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire for this area (**Figure 2**). Further survey by local groups has located many other sites, probably substantially increasing that number but not affecting the overall picture of the archaeology (A. H. Pasmore pers. comm.). Another field survey recently undertaken in selected areas of the New Forest by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) (RCHME) concentrated on enhancing information on archaeological sites recorded in the NMR and records held by the Hampshire Field Club. The RCHME survey was completed in 1997 and selected results are due to be published in the *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club* (N. Smith pers. comm.).

The area presently designated as the New Forest Heritage Area has been utilised by man from the earliest periods to the present day. Some of the remains are visible in the present landscape, others are buried or show as artefact scatters in ploughed land. Many earlier prehistoric remains also lie in the Solent where the muds and sediments have buried both artefacts and old (previously-dry) land surfaces.

Some of the monuments, in particular many of the Bronze Age round barrows, the hillforts and others are scheduled monuments, with statutory protection under *The Ancient Monuments and Areas Act 1979* (as amended).

4.2 Lower and Middle Palaeolithic (c. 500,000 - 30,000 BC)

During the Palaeolithic occupation was sporadic during the warmer interglacial periods, which varied in their environmental character, and in the faunal population (Jones and Keen 1993; Ingrouille 1995). The earliest human occupants of Britain were largely hunters, utilising the rich plant and animal resources. Sea level was about 50m lower than at present and southern England was still joined to the European Continent. Although there are some rare sites, such as Boxgove in West Sussex, where occupation and specific activities such as flint knapping and butchery can be identified, the majority of the Palaeolithic 'sites' in Britain comprise isolated finds of flint implements. Most of these are found in

Pleistocene river terrace gravels which represent braided courses of rivers during the periglacial stages caused by greater precipitation, melt waters and lowered sea level. Discarded Palaeoliths (worked flints - axes, chopping tools, waste flakes *et al.*), swept by flood waters off adjacent river beaches or land surfaces, have become constituent parts of the gravel (Wymer 1996, 3). Although such finds do not form part of the visible landscape, they are useful indicators of areas of favoured occupation or activity areas by the people who made them (Wymer 1996, 3). The Late Pleistocene is also the period during which the morphology of the region is set.

Concentrations of Palaeolithic flint implements have been noted in the 'Solent Gravels'. These include the southernmost gravels of the Open Forest (especially those of Beaulieu Heath), which relate to the ancestral Solent River. A few Palaeolithic implements have also been recovered in the New Forest from the high level gravels, and Wood Green is a particularly important area, with the potential for yielding information other than just artefacts (Wessex Archaeology 1993a, 143-5; P. Harding pers. comm.). A scatter of isolated finds has also been recorded along the valley of the Avon (Wessex Archaeology 1993a, 96), mainly artefacts collected during gravel extraction.

4.3 Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic (c. 12,000-10,000 & 8,500 - 4000 BC)

There are no recorded remains of hunter-gatherer activity in the immediate post-glacial period or Late Upper Palaeolithic, though it is likely that the area was being used. Such sites are in any case rare in England, and are often only found 'accidentally' during other works, so the gap is unsurprising.

During the Mesolithic the English Channel was formed separating Britain from the Continent, and the present coastline was established, although rising sea levels since have produced the submerged/ria coastline. In this period when there was extensive woodland cover (tundra conditions having given way to woodland of oak, hazel and alder, plus lime, elm and other species; see **Table 1**) hunter-gatherers again exploited a wide range of food resources including those from coastal and estuarine areas, some of which

are now below water. In this period as with the previous one, most of the evidence so far recovered is in the form of characteristic flint implements and flint knapping waste products. Particular concentrations of these may be taken as evidence of occupation (though its nature and permanence is uncertain). In the later Mesolithic of Hampshire, as elsewhere, 'there is evidence from pollen and other sources of small scale clearance and soil degradation of the sand areas which saw heavy usage. There is evidence for a move onto the chalk, into areas capped by deposits such as plateau gravel....' (Gardiner 1996, 10).

The majority of flint artefacts, including axes, flakes, knives and scrapers have been recovered as isolated finds and scatters, on the open heath between Godshill in the west, across Fritham Plain to Matley Heath and Denny Lodge. Further concentrations lie to the north of Lymington on the heathland south of Brockenhurst, and material has also been dredged from the Solent (sea level would have been approximately -5m O.D.). Two surface scatters, were concentrated enough to be defined as evidence of occupation.

Fewer artefacts have been found in the farmed valleys, though this may be the effect of later agricultural processes as much as a true lack of activity. Recent pollen evidence from the Blackwater Valley at Testwood Lakes also indicates localised clearance of woodland at this time, though the nature of the related activity is unclear; it may indicate small scale agricultural or settlement activity. Such localised clearance and burning is also likely to have occurred in the Open Forest, given the number of Mesolithic finds.

The period is important because in some places - such as the open heath noted above, and possibly the Blackwater Valley - occupation was sufficiently intensive to have affected the later settled landscape. As suggested by Barrett for the Cranborne Chase area (in Barrett *et al.* 1991, 29-30), the Mesolithic hunter-gatherer activity is significant because it sets in motion the oscillation between upland exploitation and lowland settlement which continued (in Cranborne) throughout prehistory, and which continues today in the New Forest.

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Changes and Archaeological Periods – Open Forest (after Tubbs 1986, fig. 6, and Ingrouille 1995, table 2.4, with amendments)

Approximate Date	Climatic Period	Forest Open Land	Forest species	Heath Development	Archaeological Period
2000 AD	Sub-Atlantic (wetter)	Heath and Grassland (c. 80%); some woodland	Oak, holly and beech	Woodland conservation ↑ ↑ ↑	Modern
					Medieval
					Roman
					Iron Age
1100 BC			↑	Increasing	Late Bronze Age
	Sub-Boreal (drier and cooler)		↑ ↑	woodland clearance; heath expansion	Mid Bronze Age; Early Bronze Age
4000 BC					
5000 BC	Atlantic (warm and wet - climatic optimum)	Woodland with c. 20% heath	Oak, hazel, elm alder, lime and willow ↑ Oak and	↑ Woodland clearance ↑	Mesolithic
7500 BC	Boreal (warm and dry)		hazel ↑ Birch and	Persistence some heath and grassland	
8500 BC	Pre-Boreal (warm and moist)		Pine ↑		
12,000 BC	Windermere Interstadial	Tundra, some woodland	Spread of birch	Ericaceae present	Late Upper Palaeolithic

4.4 Neolithic (c. 4000 - 2400 BC)

Although much of the evidence for this period also comprises isolated finds of stone and flint implements, the Neolithic period was one in which the hunter-gathering way of life of earlier periods was gradually superseded by small-scale farming, probably necessitating a less migratory lifestyle and some woodland clearance. However, it is likely that hunting and foraging still played an important role in subsistence. In addition pottery was made and large monuments (including communal burial mounds - long barrows) were constructed.

In the study area (but outside the New Forest boundary) a single long barrow, 'Giants Grave', is recorded on a hillside at Breamore Down on the north-west edge of the New Forest. Neolithic implements, particularly axes (including examples

imported from Cornwall and Graig Lwyd, Caernarfonshire), have been recovered throughout the New Forest, but generally as random scatters of implements on the fringes of the Open Forest and Enclosed Lands. However there is relatively little settlement evidence and the New Forest (the Open Forest in particular) in the Neolithic period has been described as a largely blank area on the distribution maps (Gardiner 1996, 11).

The indications are of limited exploitation of woodland resources, possibly some localised clearance and management. This picture is not dissimilar to that indicated on Cranborne Chase to the west, where short-term events on favoured locations by semi-nomadic peoples has been suggested (Barrett *et al.* 1991). In the Avon Valley, however, which lies strategically between the two areas, settlements have been defined by the density and nature of flint scatters (see, for

example, Light *et al.* 1994), and it may be that the woodland resources to the east were being exploited from that valley in particular.

The lack of Neolithic remains is also characteristic of Hampshire generally, which has few long barrows and lacks the monumental structures (such as causewayed camps, cursus and henges) found in Dorset, Wiltshire and Sussex. It may also imply that Hampshire, and in particular the New Forest, was peripheral to the initial utilisation of the lighter soils on the chalk downlands.

4.5 Bronze Age (c. 2400 - 700 BC)

The period which sees the first demonstrable major impact on the Open Forest environment and in the associated river valleys is the Bronze Age. Evidence from soil and pollen samples suggests that there was significant clearance of the primary woodland at this time (Tubbs 1986, fig. 6 and 53ff; Barber 1987). The pollen evidence indicates a pre-existing woodland of alder, lime, oak and elm, cleared for arable agriculture and gradually replaced by heathland as the poor soils fail to regenerate. The central area of the Open Forest remains woodland on clay loam soils. Clearance may relate directly to agricultural use (arable), but some is probably specific to the construction of barrows, sited in woodland clearings rather than on open land. However, the barrows are often specifically sited on higher ground to be seen from particular directions, indicating deliberate landscape design, perhaps for delineation of territory. Subsequently such monuments have frequently been incorporated into boundaries and perambulations as existing and easily recognisable landmarks.

This is the first period (in this area) in which large numbers of monuments were constructed, and, many are still extant in particular across the open heathlands and in wooded areas such as Eyeworth and Anderwood. Elsewhere, such as in the Avon Valley, they can be recognised as cropmarks and subsurface features. The physical visible evidence includes some 250 round barrows (burial mounds) and mounds of burnt flint (boiling mounds), scattered across the Open Forest and in the river valleys to east, west and north. There is a concentration of barrows around Brockenhurst and Beaulieu where 'a general absence of later agriculture has ensured their survival' (Hughes 1984, 6), while many barrows are 'sited on wide heathy sites such as Wilverley Cross, Beaulieu Heath, Ober Heath and Fritham' (Kenchington 1944, 75). As well as the burial mounds, Deverel-Rimbury cremation burials have

been identified at Beaulieu Heath, Colbury, Plaitford and Cranbury Common (Tomalin 1996, 16). Other earthworks include two 'ranch boundaries' - linear features comprising a bank and ditch which may have marked territories running north-east from Whitsbury Castle Hillfort on the downs above the Avon Valley).

Burnt flint mounds (boiling mounds) occur all over the Open Forest and in the valleys, and low lying lands to west and east, though their real purpose is unclear. They tend to be low oval or kidney-shaped mounds, less than 1m high, and usually sited near natural water sources. They may have been related to some sort of semi-industrial process such as tanning, or to the processing of food products after hunting. Or they may have functioned as base camps with specialised cooking facilities for mobile communities pasturing their animals in the valleys. The limited amount of charcoal associated with them suggests that turf or peat was the fuel primarily used - possibly indicating a lack of wood for fuel as a result of extensive woodland clearance.

The settlements of the period are less well explored, but given the number of barrows and evidence for arable agriculture on the open heath, it is likely that occupation was extensive in the Open Forest. There is also evidence from the Avon Valley Fieldwalking Project (Light *et al.* 1994) and excavations in advance of gravel extraction at Hucklesbrook and Ellingham (Davies and Graham 1984; Butterworth 1996) that the valleys were a major focus for settlement. The Blackwater valley at Testwood Lakes (just outside the Heritage Area) has recently produced the first well-preserved Bronze Age wooden jetty or causeway, built of oak piles driven into the silts and preserved in the waterlogged conditions. A bronze rapier found driven into the underlying silts may have been a casual or accidental (if grievous) loss, or a deliberate votive deposition. Parts of a sea-going boat were also recovered (Wessex Archaeology 1996).

It seems likely therefore that at least in the middle and later Bronze Age settled valley communities with a mixed pastoral/arable economy were using the Open Forest uplands and heaths as convenient grazing. There is however, some evidence for earlier Bronze Age arable cultivation within the Open Forest itself.

4.6 Iron Age (c. 700 BC - AD 43)

During the Iron Age there is evidence for increasing populations, further clearance and cultivation of land. It has been suggested that it

was during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age that fixed agricultural systems became fully established. Long term occupation is indicated by storage pits, field boundaries, ditches and material remains of pottery, flint and metal (Light *et al.* 1994, 76). Long distance trade and 'industry' or craft specialisation, for which there is limited evidence during the Neolithic (imported stone axes) and Bronze Age (metalwork), was also further developed. Hengistbury Head to the west of the New Forest was an important trading and industrial centre in the later Iron Age. Remains of this period in the New Forest mirror those in many parts of Hampshire, with an increasing emphasis on land division and protection, and a rise of small hamlets or farmsteads with scattered larger centres.

Though detailed exploration on any scale is rare to date, the nature of the physical remains changes from funerary monuments to the development of embanked enclosures and defended settlements or hillforts around the peripheries of the area. Hillforts include: Castle Hill, Burley, single rampart and ditch; Roe Wood (Castle Piece), single bank and ditch; Gorley Wood (Godshill Wood); Frankenbury (Godmanscap), single rampart and ditch; Malwood Castle; Tatchbury and Buckland Rings (RCHME 1994, 5). Many overlooked or secured the main arteries into the Open Forest and along the coast (Buckland, for example, oversees the Lymington River access to the north; Godshill and Gorley the entry from the middle Avon and Cranborne).

Many enclosures and field systems of this date also lie within the woodland enclosures and on the heath, but are not recorded in the public record (pers. comm. A. H. Pasmore). Whether the enclosures relate to stock control, or reflect (as is perhaps more likely) the definition of personal holdings used for arable or market-garden type activities is unproven. Certainly the period sees increased local clearance of woodland and lynchets indicate substantial movement of soil from agricultural processes. Some field systems identified around the New Forest are likely to be of Iron Age date (New Forest Committee 1996, 23). However, relatively little settlement evidence has been recorded. Stock is likely to have been let loose to graze on the open heath, either from Open Forest settlements or from the surrounding valleys where there is evidence of occupation.

Extensive use of the New Forest from the early Iron Age, with its fine haematite coated pottery, is found at Godshill where excavations by the Avon Valley Group indicate continuous and dense

occupation on one of the main routes into the Open Forest from the Avon Valley. The pottery is probably made somewhere in the Middle Avon Valley (somewhere around Salisbury) using the fine brickearth clays. It is found in north-west Hampshire, the Romsey area and in Wiltshire, and similar types exist in Dorset. Hoards of Durotrigian coins – staters – have also been found in the Forest which has led to the suggestion that the New Forest was a sub-territory of the Durotriges (a tribe based in Dorset and Somerset) (Sellwood 1984), with the Avon Valley forming the boundary. However, the Avon Valley Fieldwalking Project showed that Late Iron Age pottery in the Avon Valley (mainly from the east side) was 'generally more consistent with that from the Open Forest (for example Eyeworth) ... than with that from Dorset' (Light *et al.* 1994).

4.7 Roman (AD 43 - c. 410)

During the Roman period, the large towns of the region were at Winchester and Dorchester (some 25 miles and 35 miles respectively) from the New Forest. There was also a fort and port at Bitterne some 15 miles away. Roman roads which cross the Open Forest have been recorded from Otterbourne to the Open Forest (Stoney Cross), from Stoney Cross to Fritham and from Dibden to Lepe, possibly the site of a Roman port. Work by Clarke (information from David Stagg) in tracing the roads further suggests that the road to Old Sarum (*Soiviodunum* - Salisbury) can be identified across the north-west part of the New Forest, and that the present A31 follows the course of the Roman road from Stoney Cross west to the Avon south of Ringwood.

There is no evidence for major settlement sites within the Forest. The only substantial Roman building recorded in the immediate vicinity of the New Forest is at Rockbourne on the western edge (a villa probably with an estate, and also the site of a late Iron Age settlement). A number of buildings are known outside the western and northern edges of the Forest (Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain). Three possible settlement sites have been noted at the north-west edge of the Open Forest/Avon Valley, and other sites lie on the eastern fringes at Nursling (enclosure with associated fields). It has been suggested that small enclosures of probable Roman date in Amberwood Inclosure may have been for keeping stock (Fulford 1975, 13).

The principal evidence from the Roman period within the Open Forest is for the exploitation of natural resources to produce pottery in the late

third and fourth century. Although not particularly good agricultural land, the area possessed clay, wood for fuel, and water, all of which are needed for pottery production. However, one of the interesting blank areas is the lack of evidence for clay exploitation, particularly near the main focus of the potteries in the north-west. One difficulty is that little work has actually been done in characterising the clay source, and it is possible that clay was imported from the areas of Reading Beds outside the New Forest - the main use of the Open Forest being for timber supplies, rather than all necessary resources.

Although the area covered by clusters of three or more kilns is relatively small, it is known that the kilns were predominantly in use from c. AD 250, to produce imitations of imported vessels, increasingly elaborate wares and colour coated vessels. 'Marketing of painted, stamped and incised vessels had probably ceased by c. 370 and the industry may well have collapsed by the end of the fourth century' (Swan, 1980 24). Both the New Forest and Alice Holt industries were of regional and national importance. Their products reached around the coast of Wales at least as far north as Chester, and across the Channel to Brittany and Normandy (Fulford 1996, 33). However, there has been a failure to locate or explore the evidence for workshops and living accommodation within the Forest. It therefore seems likely that the kilns are the remains of small scale, independent, seasonal (summer) activity.

Kilns have been investigated at the following locations, and further possible kiln sites have been noted near Brockenhurst (Pasmore pers. comm.):

- Pitts Wood
- Ashley Rails
- Islands Thorns
- Crock Hill
- Old Sloden Wood
- Sloden Inclosure
- Lower Sloden Inclosure
- Linwood (four areas)

Fulford argues that the potteries 'do not seem to have been competing for access to recognised roads, nor to the Avon, which, as it does not

communicate directly with the main, probable markets, may scarcely be considered as a useful transport system to distribute the bulk of the products from the Forest' (1975, 7). However, the potteries lie close to roads leading north to Salisbury, and the Avon Valley may well have been a principal routeway; whether the water was used for transport is totally uncertain either way. One speculative suggestion, though far from a new idea, but perhaps worthy of further examination, is the possibility of a relationship between the villa complex at Rockbourne and the potting industries of the Open Forest. The later boundaries around Rockbourne could suggest that the villa estate was a major influence in this area during the Roman period.

4.8 Anglo Saxon (c. AD 410- c. 1066)

Following the end of the Roman governorship of Britain, 'southern England was colonised by Saxon peoples, from the coastal lands of north Germany' (Hughes 1984, 11). Documentary evidence is scarce for the Saxon period. Similarly, a major gap in occupation and/or exploitation evidence has been noted in the New Forest region (Welch 1996, 36). This is partly due to the nature of Saxon evidence generally; finds are rare and the main dating medium, pottery, is not prolific and many types, notably organic wares, had a long currency (Hinton 1996, 40).

Elsewhere in Hampshire, archaeological work in the Itchen Valley near Winchester (Abbots Worthy) has shown that it can no longer be assumed that most of the immediate post-Roman sites were on high ground (Hinton 1996); sites closer to the river seem to have been preferred, with modern settlement and colluvial deposits masking evidence (Fasham and Whinney 1991, 159). However, the pattern of modern nucleated settlement is very similar to the Late Saxon settlement a consolidation of permanent settlement on the more productive soils forming the basis of the settlement pattern which exists today. One 'tangible legacy of the Saxon period..., its churches... [which were] being established as early as the seventh century, [and] it is possible that the present system of parishes has its origins in the mid to late Saxon period (Hughes 1984, 12). Elsewhere in the New Forest, placename evidence suggests Saxon occupation, for example Lyndhurst, meaning lime tree wood (see **Appendix 1**).

The preference for valley settlement is supported by the results of the Avon Valley fieldwalking project. There appears from artefact evidence to have been strong continuity with the earlier

Romano-British period (Light *et al.* 1994, 79). Further evidence was excavated ahead of gravel extraction at Hucklesbrook where a sunken-featured structure was found (Davies and Graham 1984). Burials of the earlier Saxon period have also been found in the Avon Valley. One is recorded from Gorley (a cremation urn; Hawkes 1970), but otherwise the nearest lie to the north at Charlton Plantation (late 5th-7th century; Davies 1984) and Witherington Ring (north of Downton), or south at Christchurch (6th-7th century; Jarvis 1983), in addition to the significant number around Salisbury.

Placename evidence may be used to argue that during the Saxon period for the first time, the Open Forest may have been a recognisable administrative or political entity. As late as 12th Century this area was referred to as *Ytene*, an Old English word for of the Jutes' (Loyn 1962, 38). Parts of the woodlands may already have been 'a hunting preserve of some kind under Saxon and Danish Kings, and the assembling of the King's land (*terra regis*) and the King's wood (*silva regis*) started in the Heptarchy (AD 455-527). Edward the Confessor already owned many of the main estates such as Eling, Lyndhurst, Ringwood and Christchurch. (Colebourne 1983, 22).

It is probable that there were a number of small settlements with a mixed agricultural economy, in and around the Open Forest, whose inhabitants exploited the natural resources such as wood, minerals, extra food for their stock much as they did in later periods, It is also likely that patches of woodland were cleared and enclosures for cultivation extended, to the detriment of the wildlife (Nisbett *et al.* 1973, 413).

4.9 Medieval period (c. AD 1066 - c. 1499)

In contrast to the previous period, 'the earthworks and cropmarks recording man's activities in the Middle Ages are no less characteristic than those of prehistoric times' (Aston and Rowley 1974, 21). Archaeological evidence for occupation, exploitation and management of natural resources within, and on the edges of the Open Forest is abundant - including visible remains of deer park pales, coppice banks, lodges, settlement pattern and buildings. Documentary sources, from Domesday (1086) onwards, provide a significant level of information on the ownership and management of the Forest during the medieval period, and an indication of the social hierarchy, land holding patterns (**Figure 3**) and subsistence activities which have left visible remains in the landscape. Further information

about settlement pattern comes from the artefact scatters in the enclosed lands.

The New Forest was created as a legal entity by William I about 1079. From the Norman Conquest and throughout the Middle Ages a 'Forest was a place of deer not necessarily of trees' (Rackham 1993, 165). William introduced the doctrine that all land ultimately belongs to the crown. It was part of the King's new, supreme, status that he had *the right to keep deer on other peoples lands* which lies at the heart of the Forest system (Rackham 1993). The New Forest is unique among Forests in that it was documented in its own subsection of the Domesday Survey although there are anomalies and difficulties in the arrangement of the New Forest material. For example, 'a number of Royal and non-royal manors listed in the main section of the Hampshire text as well' (Golding 1989, 3).

There has been much scholarly argument about the effect of Afforestation on the people living within and around the Forest area. The New Forest - that is the Open Forest - is one of the less fertile parts of Hampshire and many writers have emphasised its poverty, including the low average value and acreage of ploughland and the sparseness of the population (Tavener 1957, 76-7. The Domesday names generally ending in -hurst, or -ley;) also emphasise this poverty. 'William I imposed Forest Law, and the private lands became grazings since they could no longer be enclosed and farmed (Colebourne 1983, 22).

In the centre was a jealously preserved Deer Forest, administered by and on behalf of the Crown. It was occupied by small scattered agricultural communities whose actions were now rigorously supervised. They could still exercise rights of pasture, estover, turbary, pannage etc. but the rights were known and it was laid down exactly what occupants might do. Registers were kept of all the inhabitants who claimed rights and recorded in Claims books (Tavener 1957, 77). However, 'there is little evidence for the destruction of settlements and the wholesale removal of population once thought to have occurred during afforestation, although some villages did disappear after Domesday, perhaps because their agricultural economy was weakened' (Colebourne 1983, 22).

The Domesday entry for the New Forest shows the assessment in the area covered fell from 212.5 hides to 71.5, and the annual value of the land from £337 18s. to £133 4s. Some 30 villas suffered severely. On the other hand it was the

land of the King and his Norman followers that bore the brunt of this loss. The land in question was frequently of a somewhat marginal character; and even where there was good arable within the Open Forest the value could be maintained and even further increased; '... the extent and intensity of hardship and depopulation have been exaggerated.... William found 75,000 acres of very thinly populated woodland in Hampshire. To it he added 15,000 - 20,000 acres of inhabited land... later another 10,000 -20,000 acres was added' (Loyn 1962, 364-5).

The legally-taken venison of The Royal Forest although eaten, was not hunted for subsistence but for sport and leisure, however 'in England the working King could hardly hunt four days a week in ninety forests. A royal hunt was nearly as full of meaning as a coronation and about as rare' (Rackham 1993,170). The King's presence was maintained by his Officials who enforced the Forest Law, and through high status buildings. For example, Edward III constructed an important group of royal residences and hunting lodges. The old manor houses of Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst were rebuilt and four new lodges built in or near Lyndhurst Park, most of which were maintained into the 15th century (Bond 1994, 150).

The King also owned *vert* in the Forest also protected by Forest Law, although this was initially less significant. Early control of damage to the Forest (through the two Courts) was fairly effective but later it came under pressure from (both legal and illegal) grazing and felling. The medieval system of 'encoppicement' (enclosing a managed area to protect coppice growth from grazing) also probably ensured regeneration by protecting seedlings. Encroachments, both officially sanctioned and illegal, occurred for building, and farming. By the 15th century the Open Forest was increasingly neglected as a hunting preserve, and was a forest system in progressive decline (Colebourne 1983).

On the periphery of the wooded areas a number of large estates were established by wealthy secular landowners. These have left marks on the landscape which are still visible today, including remains of deer parks (private game reserves - enclosed, generally with the permission of the King) and extant manor houses.

The establishment of these new estates included Beaulieu, founded in 1204, on land at *Bellus Locus Regis* given by King John to the Cistercian order. Even here, illegal exploitation of the Forest

did take place - in one instance, an Abbot was taken to court accused of pasturing on Forest land 'so many horses, mares, cattle, sheep and other animals that they are ignorant of the numbers ... to the injury of the whole district' (Sibley and Fletcher 1986, 84). However, the Cistercian Order also practised a more intensive agricultural system with outlying granges, (each of which specialised in beef, cattle, pigs or sheep). Present day farms exist with the same names as those of the granges, but only that at St Leonards, near the mouth of the Beaulieu River, has surviving architectural features (Hughes 1976, 42-3). Sheep were of particular significance and large quantities of wool were shipped for export. The Abbey was involved in the wool trade in the 13th and 14th centuries and closely connected with the commerce and trade of the port and town of Southampton from the 13th to the 16th century (Hughes 1976).

Agriculture could be practised around the periphery of the Forest and in designated areas within it. Some evidence of this has survived, for example the Crockford Complex near Norley Enclosure - a system of embanked fields which covers more than 80 ha. of heath. They are probably medieval in origin and the scale of the system is suggestive of estate management rather than individual encroachment into the Forest (Brown and Skelton 1996, 25).

The Commoners also continued to use the Open Forest (or parts of it), resulting in small-scale exploitation of natural resources from some areas. Some of these were strictly controlled through the Commoners rights system - for example, the right to dig for marl, the right of wood and indeed the right to graze cattle and horses, and of pannage. In particular, it is the commoning practice of grazing which has had, and continues to have, such a significant impact on the landscape, in both environmental and ecological terms and in the preservation of physical remains of earlier periods.

The archaeological character of the Open Forest today, which has its origins in the Mesolithic, reinforced by Bronze Age activity, has largely been preserved by the Medieval period of some 500 years, in which a complex hierarchical society controlled development in the area through Forest Law. 'Of all the forests of the region, it is the New Forest, with its extensive commons, open woodland and old coppice enclosures which best preserves many of the features of its medieval landscape' (Bond 1994, 120). The extent to which the forests acted as a constraint upon agricultural activity was studied by Stamper who showed that clearance was

happening in all of them, but that documents do not allow precision over pace and timing (Hinton 1996, 41). There was some clearance by both lords and peasants, but whether such activity was more restricted in the Forests than on the chalkland or even on other heathland, where arable expansion was taking place is uncertain (Hinton 1996, 41). Hinton has pointed out that during the medieval period there appears to be a paucity of evidence for the types of minor industry known elsewhere (for example, charcoal burning). There is no large scale pottery industry (such as is seen, for example, at Laverstock, near Salisbury, which utilised the Clarendon Forest). Similarly, iron smelting and glass production appear to have been relatively late introductions to the area.

4.10 Post-medieval (c. 1500 -1799)

By the Tudor period the Forest system had largely fallen into disrepair. Royal hunting had become less socially significant, the Forest Courts met less often and there was more encroachment than there had been previously. Under the Tudors, however, there was a revival in interest in woodland management, largely to do with maintaining revenue (for example from letting coppices) and conserving timber supplies (Colebourne 1983, 26). The earliest survey of Wood in the Forest by Roger Taverner in 1565, identified unenclosed woodlands dominated by oak. Today, the dominant species is beech, principally as a result of increasing need for timber from 1570 onwards for naval vessels, building and defence works.

Royal interest in timber continued to be erratic, but gradually silviculture became a dominant factor in the management of the New Forest resources. In the Stuart period, from 1660 onwards, Charles II's interest in deer and timber led to ancient coppices being re-enclosed, with new inclosures in 1670 to 1673. Four hundred acres (Aldridge Hill, Holmhill and Holidays Hill) 'seem to have been first Oak timber plantations in the Forest' (Colebourne 1983).

In 1698 an Act of Parliament made it illegal to pollard and shred trees. Powers were introduced to enclose and plant with oak 2000 acres and to similarly treat 200 acres for 20 years, although only 1000 acres were actually planted, plus an additional 230 acres in 1750 and 2044 acres in 1776. At the same time some old coppices were cleared, re-fenced and sown with acorns, resulting in many early Inclosures trapped within later ones. Timber shortages were not

immediately apparent because reserves of old timber, including doddards, were being utilised.

By the 18th century the large oaks were depleted and new plantings still young and although 'the 1783 survey of the ancient woods reveals a relatively satisfactory state of affairs' (Colebourne 1983, 27) there were few doddards left. This was interpreted by Parliament as leading to shortage of wood for warships, so further management powers were introduced. By 1808, 6,000 acres at any one time could be enclosed and by 1817, 5,557 acres had been planted. A further 1,147 were enclosed between 1830 and 1848.

Archaeological remains from this period are visible today, silvicultural management having left many Inclosure earthworks. Utilisation of the other natural resources found in and on the edges of the Open Forest continued although probably on a smaller scale than in other areas. Evidence for this includes pillow-mounds (the remains of warrens for keeping and breeding rabbits), bee gardens (small enclosures within which beehives were protected from stock) and numerous watermills. Small scale industry included tanning (oak bark has traditionally been used in the process), brickmaking, iron smelting and saltworking, particularly around Lymington.

4.11 Modern (post 1800)

Forest Management continued and intensified; by 1850 there were almost 9,000 acres of Statutory Enclosures to supplement the 5,000 acres of unenclosed woods, but the administrative system was in disarray (Colebourne 1983, 28). The 1851 Deer Removal Act allowed the Crown to enclose more land for timber production 'by compensating the commoners for the reduced area of grazing for cattle...' (*ibid*). There was a reduction in grazing pressure which allowed some regeneration of the ancient and ornamental woods. The Act also gave the Crown powers to enclose a further 10,000 acres for planting (making a total of 16,000 acres legally behind fences at any one time). A further result of the Act was that it 'organised the commoners against further enclosures'. In 1877, a further act, known as *The New Forest Act*, defined the rights of Crown and Commoners and made provision for the preservation of unenclosed woods. In 1949, the Forest administration was changed again, with the introduction of an Act setting out the rules presently followed by the Forestry Commission (Colebourne 1983).

The surviving domestic architecture of the Forest area shows variations which apparently reflect

different management and control of the different areas of the Forest. Cob was the traditional structural material used for ordinary houses of working people, whether the housing was on estates such as Beaulieu or Minstead, or on the Crown common land. However, a greater proportion of domestic dwellings on private lands and freeholds were of a brick/timber-framing. In a recent paper, James (1995) has described the one overriding feature that defines domestic architecture in the New Forest as poverty, shown not only in the materials used but also in style. This he regards is the result of an area subject to the restrictions of royal control over a hunting region and governmental use as a timber reserve. The poverty of the soils, which are not particularly amenable to agriculture, also means farms tend to be smallholdings.

There are also a number of formal gardens within the New Forest area. These can be seen as part of a cultural tradition with elements of landscape design, recreation (and social hierarchy) dating back to at least the private deerparks of the medieval period.

The twentieth century archaeological record in the New Forest area is dominated by military and industrial relicts. The military establishments had varying impacts on their localities — for example, at the World War I Portuguese Army camp near Acres Down 'there were once numerous buildings and tramlines, and the concrete foundations are still in existence' (Brown and Skelton 1996 56). During the Second World War large numbers of military personnel and stores of equipment were hidden in the area and local properties were requisitioned, as in the case of Exbury House (Sibley and Fletcher 1986, 93). After World War II, Acres Down 'was littered with live explosives' (Sibley and Fletcher 1986) and there was an explosives range at Turf Hill. There are also numerous pill boxes within the New Forest area, although not all are immediately recognisable as such. One example can be found in the Dairy House, Beaulieu where 'an attractive hexagonal roof, conceals a concrete pillbox with loopholes to cover the adjacent river' (Wills 1995, 63).

Six airfields were located within or immediately adjacent to the New Forest:

- Beaulieu Airfield, close to the village of East Boldre, opened in 1910 and was used between 1915-19 by the RFC/RAF. From 1933-38 it was used as a civilian airfield.
- Hatchet Moor. A new airfield was built to the west during the Second World War, leaving the

New Forest scarred for years after its construction (Ashworth 1990).

- Ibsley, two miles north of Ringwood. Between 1941 -1 947 there was a short-lived but important airfield. Subsequently, from the early 1970s, the area was used for gravel extraction.
- Holmsley South. On the line of the present A35, a three-runway airfield was built between 1941-2 with 'a large number of panhandle dispersals cut into the woods around the airfield'. Some of the runways have been removed and some reutilised for campsites, parking and minor roads.
- Stoney Cross, seven miles northeast of Ringwood, initially planned as a secret field was developed from 1942, but was inactive from 1946. It eventually closed in 1948. The foundations have been subsequently reutilised by the Forestry Commission as camp sites and a minor road. An 'enormous water tank high on a tower' is also preserved (Sibley and Fletcher 1986,181).
- Bisterne, 1.5 miles south of Ringwood, had a very short life-span. Begun in 1943, it was derelict by the end of July 1944. The site reverted to agriculture, having been bulldozed effectively by the Royal Engineers (Ashworth 1990, 38).

There were also three Advanced Landing Grounds (which would probably have caused less damage and of which fewer traces remain).

- Lymington (Pylewell).
- Needs Oar Point (on low lying ground near the entrance to the Beaulieu River).
- Winkton/Sopley (2.5 miles north-west of Christchurch).

Transport and communication within the forest also intensified in the modern period and are an important aspect of the present landscape. 'The man who first visualised the peace of the New Forest being disturbed by a railway was Charles Castleman... the Southampton and Dorchester Railway - popularly known as Castleman's Corkscrew because of its circuitous route - formed an alliance with the LSWR and was opened in 1847' (Hay 1989). A branch line to Lymington has been electrified, and the Fawley branch, although closed to passengers is used for oil traffic (Gough 1994, 7).

The routeways bring many visitors to the Forest to enjoy its scenery and tranquillity. The leisure

activities in the present landscape reflect a continuing use of the area since the eleventh century for such purposes even if today's activities are less restricted amongst the population.

5 LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

5.1 Introduction

As outlined above, landscape character is a combination of social and natural processes, events and perceived values and emotions. Given that most of the landscape of Britain and, in particular England, could be seen as an artefact of human making, the impact of past populations is a crucial factor in determining landscape character.

The individual remains of human activities are components in an overall framework of social and economic practices. Whilst the remains might be of interest in themselves, whether a fragment of pottery or an earthwork enclosure, a catalogue of individual items does not constitute archaeological or historical character. The relationships between elements, the ways in which the landscapes were inhabited, designed and used at different times, and the processes which governed human activities and the use of the land (some intangible in the archaeological record) are of greater significance.

The most significant considerations are:

- the range of processes and events,
- the depth of time over which certain social and economic themes emerge,
- the associations between areas of the New Forest and
- the physical form of the countryside.
- The last is the result of past activity combined with physical character of the soils and geology.

A further consideration is the nature of the evidence and its reliability.

5.2 The nature of the archaeological and historical evidence

Any public record will not contain a full catalogue of the past, but whilst the number of individual sites/findspots listed could probably be significantly increased within the Open Forest (heath and woodland), the general picture is

unlikely to change (A. H. Pasmore, pers. comm.). The public records also vary in content, and in level of detail and in components included (types of site, find or monument). Thus, the known record can only be a statement of a certain state of knowledge at a given time. Such records are organic and will grow as further discoveries are made through whatever cause.

The archaeological/historical record is also biased through the levels of activity of workers in the field. For example the Avon Valley and Godshill area are rich in records because of the local archaeological groups extensive field survey and excavation programme in the area; the Roman pottery kilns have received much attention; and the New Forest Section of the Hampshire Field Club has made extensive investigations of Open Forest enclosures. The 'distribution' of sites by period is clearly influenced by the physical and visible survival of earthworks in the Open Forest and by the degree of activity by archaeologists in certain areas.

The record is also affected by the variable survival of remains: flint survives better than prehistoric pottery, arable agriculture at one level destroys archaeological remains, whilst at another reveals artefact scatters through ploughing enabling settlement patterns or at least rubbish disposal patterns to be retrieved; remains survive as earthworks in areas not used for arable agriculture.

Documentary evidence is variable, but generally extensive for the New Forest from the later Saxon period onwards; before that a lot of assumptions or interpretations which are more difficult to substantiate are inevitable.

Thus, component parts could be summarised as:

- sub-surface features (buried sites, artefact scatters, palaeo-environmental remains)
- visible elements (earthworks, enclosures, boundaries, burial mounds, roads, built structures)
- patterns of fields, density and type of settlement
- semi-natural features (woods, heath)
- less tangible elements (documentary sources, associations, social and ideological beliefs)

5.3 The present physical landscape

Within the New Forest the countryside divides into two main types: open and generally unenclosed land within the Perambulation (and to an extent along the coast) and enclosed areas with extensive settlement and intensive landuse.

The landscape reflects in part the underlying geology and soils, poorer and more acidic in the open areas and less conducive to sustained agriculture. It also reflects human impact.

Three general landscape areas have been defined (**Figure 4**): the Open Forest Heath, the Open Forest Woodland and the Enclosed Lands. The distinctions are made on gross characteristics of physical form (open versus enclosed), broad land use types and broad ecological character - arable and pastoral fields and associated linear settlements, as against open heath with scattered isolated dwellings and wood pasture and silviculture enclosures.

Within each general landscape area it is possible to create sub-divisions on, for example, details of size and shape of fields. But the processes which have contributed to the present form of the landscape are similar (for example, effects of landholding, agriculture practice and settlement). Similarly the nature of the archaeological and historical components do not vary substantially across the area as a whole (though they do vary in preservation and in some distributional aspects). There is also a close relationship between the centre and the periphery consistent within the whole area in terms of historical and current land use and rights of exploitation (Golding 1989; Atlas of Claims held by the Verderers Office). Therefore, a gross division seems more appropriate at this time.

5.4 Historical processes and critical events

There are a number of historical processes that have left a mark on the countryside, and they impact on the study area no less than elsewhere in southern England. The principal processes are:

- **Woodland clearance** - including the initial impact of the Mesolithic hunters on the Open Forest, when some clearance of woodland is likely to have occurred leading to developing heath. This period sets in train the oscillation between the Open Forest and surrounding enclosed lands.
- **Development of the settled and farmed landscape** - inception of arable farming from the

later Neolithic, expanding populations; more formalised development of the settled landscape from the later Bronze Age, with patterns of enclosure, fields and boundaries. Changing funerary practice of the earlier Bronze Age, with its round barrows.

- **Soil deterioration** - in the Open Forest from the Bronze Age leading to the abandonment of areas for arable use, and the development of an adaptive system of woodland and heathland pasture resulting in preservation of earlier features.

- **Territoriality and control** - demarcation, development of the administrative framework, land ownership, social control, and in particular, designation as Forest in the late 11th century preserving open areas as woodland and earlier features, including formalisation of wide-ranging rights to the Open Forest.

- **Woodland management** - of the medieval and post-medieval periods, establishment of silviculture enclosures, ancient and ornamental woodland.

- **Expansion of settlement and encroachment** - in the later medieval and post-medieval periods, including industrialisation. Enclosure of land, formalisation of later field patterns

- **Social change** - including, particularly, development of leisure and tourism.

5.5 Time-depth

The evolution of the present New Forest landscape has been a lengthy process, starting some 10,000 years ago with the activities of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. **Figure 5** indicates the demonstrated length of land use set against the general landscape areas defined.

Time-depth is a key criterion in assessing the landscape character of the New Forest. Certain areas demonstrate a long history of more or less continuous use from at least 2400 BC, and in some areas from the Mesolithic. There are similarities in time-depth between the Open Forest (hatched and dark green areas) and some parts of the enclosed lands (dark and mid grey), indicating contemporaneous activity across a wide area.

The Open Forest Heath falls into two areas: one, the greater part (hatched areas) which shows strong pre-medieval land use (from 8500 BC, but

particularly from 2400 BC), the other has weaker evidence for land use and is generally the more remote part of the Forest.

The Open Forest Woodland (and here this includes both silviculture enclosures and Ancient and Ornamental Woodland) again divides into two. The first area (shaded dark green) contains powerful evidence of pre-medieval activity from 2400 BC onwards (increasing in magnitude from about 700 BC) and also substantial medieval and post-medieval land use. The second are woodland areas where there is only moderate evidence for use before and after the medieval period.

The Enclosed Lands, both around the periphery of the Open Forest and those surrounded by it, fall into three time-depth divisions. Whilst to some extent this is a reflection of archaeological activity, it is also probably a reflection of the suitability of the land for early (prehistoric) exploitation, and an indication of social processes and sense of place.

The first division of the Enclosed Lands shows strong pre-medieval, medieval and later use, from 8500 BC, but particularly from 2400 BC (like the Open Forest Heath). The secondary areas show moderately strong evidence for prehistoric and Roman land use, with stronger evidence for

medieval and post-medieval activity. Thirdly, there are areas where the evidence suggests late exploitation, with little activity substantiated before the medieval period.

5.6 Social and Economic Themes

The individual components (such as barrows, artefacts, documents etc) are reflections of particular social or economic activities which vary through time, but which also continue across different periods. Those activities in turn indicate or have the potential to indicate certain overriding themes which contribute to the archaeological and historical land-use and character.

Table 2 summarises the activities/functions which seem to appropriate for the New Forest and indicates the main periods in which they can be identified. **Appendix 2** sets out which features/components are allocated to each activity/theme. The distributions of components by theme are shown in **Figure 6**. The themes derived also take account of material and observations which are not specifically recorded in the public record. For example, settlement pattern and architectural data are either not, or not consistently, included in those records. The themes are interpretative and therefore also rely on subjective, but informed judgement.

Table 2: Themes and Activities

Theme	Activities/functions	Main Periods
1 Impact on environment	Clearance; soil erosion	Mesolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age; modern
2 Subsistence and resource exploitation	Hunting/gathering; arable agriculture; pastoral farming; woods and forests; turbarry; bracken; pannage; water resources; coastal resources	Mesolithic onwards; best documented medieval onwards
3 Landholding and allotment	enclosures; boundaries; commoning; transhumance; field patterns; estates; territory	Bronze Age; Iron Age; Saxon onwards
4 Community and population	Settlement pattern; settlement density; social hierarchy; political and administrative	(Mesolithic) Bronze Age onwards, especially Saxon and later
5 Trade and industry	rural-subsistence related; rural-economic; extraction; processing and production; commerce	Roman and later, particularly post-medieval and modern
6 Transport and communication	Transport patterns; shipping; communications	Roman, later medieval; post-medieval and modern
7 Ideology	Funerary; worship; commemorative	Bronze Age; late Saxon onwards
8 Social and aesthetic	Landscape design; architecture; sport; recreation; cultural (arts)	Bronze Age; medieval, particularly post-medieval and modern
9 Military and defensive	Military installations; testing grounds; fortified settlements	Iron Age; post-medieval and modern

5.7 Theme 1: Impact on Environment

All areas of the New Forest show indicators of environmental impact but it is perhaps particularly obvious in the Open Forest where the heath has developed as a result of prehistoric activity (for example clearance for farming, or the construction of funerary monuments) where erosion from modern recreational activities can be clearly seen. The Enclosed Lands also show the effects of prehistoric and later clearance of woodland for farming, where arable agriculture is sustainable in the more fertile valleys and lowland areas than in the Open Forest.

The theme, which covers both clearance and erosion of the natural woodland and soils, is demonstrated by the presence of artefacts, of monuments and field patterns, and by palaeoenvironmental data and analyses. The last element indicates that the principal period affecting the Open Forest is the later prehistoric period (from about 2400 BC to the Roman conquest), but the exploitation of woodland in the post-medieval period and modern day use of the area are also significant elements. Clearance for and execution of military activities - construction of airfields or testing grounds - has also impacted

extant wood pasture of the Open Forest is the oldest surviving example in the country.

on the environment, although within the Open Forest these areas have largely been restored to grazing land by the removal of built structures and runways.

As the theme is demonstrated over the whole area it is not illustrated graphically.

5.8 Theme 2: Subsistence and resource exploitation

Utilisation of the whole area is evident from the Mesolithic, with distributions indicating extensive hunting across the heaths and woodland, as well as exploitation of the lower ground and coast. Hunting and gathering continued to play a large role in the economy throughout the archaeological and historical periods (and continues today with the collection of fungi, for example).

The development of arable farming from the Neolithic onwards is shown by artefacts, and by patterns of Iron Age fields within the Open Forest, as well as later settlement and field patterns still extant and in use. Pastoral farming can be assessed from prehistoric boundaries to an extent, and pastoral farming now forms one of the most important components of the economy. The

The wood and timber resources of the area have been exploited for fuel and building from the

earliest times, though prehistoric use leaves little direct evidence. It can be inferred from palaeoenvironmental data, and this record shows clearly the clearance of woodland, but not so easily its management and maintenance at that period. In the prehistoric periods it is reasonable to infer that timber and wood was utilised for buildings, while substantial quantities of wood (or possibly peat) would have been necessary for the cremation of the inhabitants later buried in barrows or flat cemeteries (possibly one tonne of oak per cremation). Roman exploitation included (by inference) fuel for the extensive pottery production sites. Forest rights of estovers, the collection of fuel wood, are documented from the 11th century AD.

Inland water resources can be shown to be used from at least the Bronze Age, by the distribution of burnt flint boiling' mounds which are often sited near streams both in the Open Forest and in the Avon valley. The associated plant, fish and waterfowl concomitant with these areas would also have been exploited. Later demonstrated use of water includes milling (grain and fulling mills) and water meadows in the Avon valley as part of the integrated farming systems of the post-medieval and modern periods.

Coastal resource exploitation would include fishing, shellfish gathering and oyster cultivation from the Roman period and salt production of Iron Age and later date. Direct evidence includes salterns, shells and bone found at inland sites, of which the uses are well documented from the medieval period onwards.

5.9 Theme 3: Landholding and allotment (Figure 6)

The most obvious relics and features of this theme are the settlements and associated field patterns visible in the present landscape, although the earlier periods are also clearly represented in the record. Boundaries are evident from the Bronze Age onwards, still visible as earth banks in the Open Forest, while the Forest perambulations are marked by topographic and manmade features such as barrows, boundary stones and posts. Medieval features include the deer park pales, as at Lyndhurst.

The theme also includes the existence of rights to exploit commons and the Forest, attached, from the medieval period onwards, to properties in the settled and enclosed lands. They are shown by the grazing of stock and the present form of the heath. The antiquity of such rights is difficult to prove, but they go back in demonstrable form for

at least a thousand years. Further elements would include the ownership of property by the Church (for example, Beaulieu Abbey holdings in the Avon valley at Burgate), and by large secular estates, and the modern pattern of ownership.

5.10 Theme 4: Community and population (Figure 6)

Earlier settlements of nomadic or semi-nomadic peoples would have been temporary and seasonally used, leaving little trace in the records. Within the area relatively little is known about the precise form or size of settlements before the modern period, though there are exceptions which could include the size and shape of, for example, Iron Age enclosures and hillforts (but internal details are lacking), or the core early areas of some medieval villages or hamlets. However, the form of the present settlements can be assessed in plan terms.

Two basic patterns of settlement exist: those plans based on linear or row arrangements, and those based on agglomerations; both types may have regular (or tightly-structured) or irregular forms (Roberts 1996). In part the regularity is a reflection of controlled planning, with less regular patterns a function of uncontrolled encroachment and/or subdivision of plots, and to some extent topography.

Four types of pattern may be defined for the New Forest area:

- Regular rows: contiguous tofts arranged as a row with property boundaries of a largely uniform length extending perpendicular to an axial street.
- Irregular clustered: a number of single tofts together, too close to be depicted as single farms or dwellings, but too dispersed and irregular in boundary shape to be nucleated clusters; or forming islands of encroachment arranged about irregular lanes.
- Irregular or interrupted row: a number of tofts separated by small paddocks or fields forming an attenuated string along a lane or on the edge of an area of common land.
- Single or isolated dwellings and farmsteads.

The New Forest has a dispersed settlement pattern (**Figure 7**), with some nucleated settlement predominantly on the fringes of the Open Forest and along the river valleys. The pattern is not dissimilar to that in north-west Hampshire with its clusters of common-edge

settlements (Edwards 1996, 5.1). Most New Forest settlements are irregular in plan, with row or linear forms dominant; few show well-structured agglomerative or linear patterns. The agglomerated settlements are either the more major ones with early origins (Lyndhurst or Brockenhurst) or later encroachments such as Bransgore.

Community and population includes facets of hierarchy and status and administrative factors. The evidence comprises the variety of buildings, domestic, agricultural and industrial (for example, barns, ice houses, court houses), sub-surface features and artefacts and extant earthworks. Political and social status is reflected by, amongst other elements, the Bronze Age barrows, the Iron Age hillforts (organisation of labour to build and man defensively), and the development of the Roman road system.

5.11 Theme 5: Trade and industry (Figure 6)

This theme in this context is related to rural subsistence and economic activities, and processing, production and resource exploitation on an extensive commercial scale.

For the first area activities would include woodland resource management for fuel and building (coppicing, charcoal burning), commoning, agriculture, salt production, local scale brickworks and so on. Whilst smuggling might not have been an official activity, and its scale debatable, it was probably also an important economic activity: the market held regularly was attended by buyers from all over the Forest, Winchester, Salisbury and even Bristol. It is probable that the finer wares, such as lace from Venice, Bruges, Brussels, brocades from the Middle East and embroideries from all over the world were laid out under the great beeches of Ridley Wood (Morley, quoted in Sibley and Fletcher, 1986).

Commercial scale activities are in evidence for the Roman period where the New Forest potteries served a fairly large regional market in southern England. In the medieval period the production of wool on a commercial scale is particularly associated with Beaulieu Abbey, and other activities included salt-making. But the most significant activities are reflected in the post-medieval and modern evidence, both documentary and physical. The exploitation of timber for ship- building is an obvious example, well- illustrated by documents, legislation and by the extensive silviculture enclosures. The development of ship- construction at Bucklers

Hard (1720s to 1822) and Baileys Hard (1698 to World War II) indicates the importance of the area. Other commercial centres include the Schultze gunpowder factory at Eyeworth, iron smelting centres at Sowley, and rope-making at Beaulieu. Mineral extraction for building and transport facilities is clear in the Avon valley, with its extensive restored lakes, but also extensive in the northern fringes, for example north of Wellow.

5.12 Theme 6: Transportation and communication (Figure 6)

The principal communication arteries across the Forest which follow topographically-determined routes were clearly established at an early date, probably during the later prehistoric period, and were formalised initially in the Roman period. Intensified commercial production and timber exploitation developed specialised roads (as at Eyeworth). Modern patterns of roads probably still follow the early basic routeways, though the extension of settlement has increased their number.

The River Avon and its valley also must have functioned as a major communication route, from the earliest period, though tangible evidence is not extensive. Recent suggestions by Sherratt (1996) make a case for the Avon as a major factor in the pre-eminence of 'Wessex' (the area around Stonehenge and Avebury) in the earlier Bronze Age, when that part of Wiltshire, in particular, is characterised by a series of richly-furnished graves. The impact on the New Forest, if this suggestion is correct, is difficult to determine, though the number of barrows would seem to indicate a large population in the area.

Modern communications networks are evident everywhere - transmitters, telegraph poles, telephone boxes. Older ones are evident in the records and placenames, such as Telegraph Hill and beacon sites.

5.13 Theme 7: Ideology (Figure 6)

Ideologies of past and present populations are an important theme from about 2400 BC onwards. These include burial and funerary activities, worship and commemoration. This first element is particularly clear in the presence of hundreds of Bronze Age round barrows in the Open Forest and in all surrounding areas, whether as visible earthworks or as ploughed-out ring ditches (as at Hucklesbrook or Ellingham).

Other elements comprise churches, chapels, and associated burial grounds; cult objects such as

phallic amulets and carved heads, sculpture and memorials, such as the Rufus Stone, the Earl Radnor memorial stone and the Portuguese Fireplace.

5.14 Theme 8: Social and aesthetic (Figure 6)

Most of the social and aesthetic element are reflected in landscape features, though some cultural aspects are evident in portable artefacts (such as Roman jewellery), or literature and painting (for example the works of Heywood Sumner, artist, architect and archaeologist, who lived at South Gorley). Landscape features include the formal design of gardens and landscape parks, and architectural details.

Sport and recreation form an increasingly important factor of the economic and social activity in the area, particularly given the proximity of major urban centres, but the New Forest was designated to fulfil the King's pleasure in hunting as a recreational and social activity as much as for economic reasons. The physical indicators of sport and recreation include the many cricket pitches, camping grounds, garden centres, and the erosion of the Forest. Historical elements include Balmer Lawn, formerly a racecourse for New Forest ponies, a pre-World War I flying field at Beaulieu, and the remains of medieval hunting lodges and deer parks.

5.15 Theme 9: Military and defensive (Figure 6)

Military and defensive themes emerge in the Iron Age with the construction of the defended hillforts, perhaps a reflection of increased competition for resources and conflict arising from the need to defend territory. Medieval fortifications include Castle hill ringwork, near Godshill, and there are numerous post-medieval and modern remnants. These include both visible elements (pillboxes, artillery forts and shooting butts) and the cleared remains of airfields, bombing ranges and military depots.

World War I elements include Balmer Lawn and Park Ground Inclosure - Balmer Lawn once a racecourse for New Forest ponies, but 4 ha of land were enclosed for the establishment of a hospital. The World War 1 Matley Trench Mortar School, closed in 1918, was replaced by a War Dog Training School which itself closed a year later.

In World War II 2000 ha of Hampton Ridge was assigned as a bombing range. The bomb craters can still be seen, some filled with water to form

strikingly circular ponds which have become havens for wildlife.

Airfields include Stoney Cross and Beaulieu Heath Airfield (1910-1960), which are largely dismantled, but there are still remains of the runways and gun emplacements, and the grass and heather is still regenerating. Not on the SMR but very significant were the Airfields and Advanced Landing Grounds of the New Forest and Avon Valley. Not only did these cover relatively large areas, but while they were under construction and operational, large numbers of people were employed there. The construction of such sites led to the investigation before destruction of some Bronze Age sites, including round barrows.

5.16 Distribution and correlation of themes

The key historical themes are impact on the environment (the development of heath and woodland clearance for stable agricultural use); resource exploitation (largely of the Open Forest by the Enclosed Lands); land holding and allotment; community; trade and industry; ideology and military and defensive. The social and aesthetic theme is not strongly represented in the data, but is strong in documentation and particularly in recent and present land use, impacting on the environment in a variety of physical and sensory ways.

Figure 8 outlines those areas where there is a strong correlation of the themes. Areas within the enclosed lands in the west and the Open Forest Heath and Woodland show associations in both time depth and correlated themes, as expressed in the archaeological and historical record.

5.17 Summary - the development of character areas

There is a clear distinction in the physical and visual archaeological and historical landscapes between the heathland and woodland of the Open Forest and its surrounding and the central enclosed lands where the fertile soils have been exploited and settled more recently, and where earlier remains are less obviously tangible.

The Open Forest reflects principally environmental impacts, resource exploitation, landholding and ideology of earlier prehistoric date, preserved by medieval and modern agricultural practices. The landscape also reflects commercial patterns of resource exploitation in silviculture enclosures. Physical survivals which characterise the landscape include earthwork

enclosures and fields of Iron Age to post-medieval date, Bronze Age burnt mounds and barrows, medieval and later pillow mounds, and the distinctive ecological heathland landscape derived from the prehistoric clearances which began in the Mesolithic and which were intensified in the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The Open Forest landscape is not a fossilised later prehistoric one, but a modern working landscape characterised by the preservation of certain types of early features, with an ecology resulting from prehistoric activity. The characterisation is circular - the landscape and environment evolve because of (principally) Bronze Age activity, which brings about a particular agricultural response - wood pasture or commoning. This in turn preserves the characteristic Bronze Age monuments, as well as facilitating the preservation of later physical components.

Some of the immediate surrounds, in particular the smallholdings and estates where heathland pasture is dominant, reflect a similar physical survival of earlier prehistoric remains, notably barrows preserved through pastoral agriculture, but their agricultural and ecological character is different because of the nature of the soils and landform. The visible, and less tangible remains serve to emphasise the links between present heath and fringe areas.

The Enclosed Lands generally appear to reflect a settlement and agricultural pattern originating in the late Saxon period which has developed through periods of agricultural intensification, becoming formalised in the post-medieval field patterns, transport systems and industry. But some areas have demonstrably much earlier settlement origins, where archaeological information is more prevalent. The physical pattern of the landscape in all the Enclosed Lands is much later in origin than the Open Forest core, and appears much more deeply affected by continuing processes of farming and settlement. It is also visually different because of the landform. Similar sorts of earlier prehistoric and historic activity are present but not as easily visible components.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CHARACTER AREAS

6.1 The areas defined and summary of characteristic themes

Five character areas have been defined, the first three with sub-divisions:

- **1A Open Forest Heath** - powerful time depth
- **1B Open Forest Heath** - modest time-depth
- **2A Open Forest Woodland** - powerful time-depth
- **2B Open Forest Woodland** - moderate time-depth
- **3A Enclosed Lands** - powerful time depth
- **3B Enclosed Lands** - strong time- depth
- **3C Enclosed Lands** - modest time-depth (medieval and later)
- **4 The Coastal fringe**
- **5 Urban and suburban settlement** with industrial areas (all presently outside the New Forest as defined in February 1996)

The defined areas are described below, under the following headings:

- Introduction: basic defining features (for example, morphology, landuse, ecology)
- Principle archaeological or historical events and processes (which affect or create the character area), including social and economic themes
- Typical archaeological and historical components (with a subjective assessment of rarity, survival and condition, coherence and diversity)
- Visible elements archaeological and record in the area
- Less tangible or less visible elements of the archaeological and historical record
- Evidence for past interaction or association with surrounding character areas
- Contribution to the character of the New Forest
- Potential for research, education or amenity
- Vulnerability and management issues
- Summary of importance of character area

6.2 Character Area 1: The Open Forest - Open Heath

6.2.1 Introduction

This character area comprises the open areas of the Open Forest, unenclosed heath or grass lawns, with some woodland cover on poor acidic soils. Vegetation cover comprises heather, gorse, bracken, with birch and holly clumps. Open vistas are extensive, with broad plateaux broken by shallow broad valleys. There are occasional isolated dwellings or farms along the principal routeways.

The area is extensively used for grazing stock, mainly cattle and ponies, but also sheep particularly in the north around Godshill and Bramshaw. Pigs are also turned out in the autumn (Tubbs 1986).

The area is also increasingly used for recreational purposes, by local residents and by those from nearby villages and conurbations, as well as visitors from farther afield. The area could therefore be said to be characterised by increasing vehicular and pedestrian traffic, as well as horse and bicycle riders, causing erosion and pollution.

The character area is in two parts: those areas which display powerful time-depth, and strong thematic links (Character Area 1A), and those where the evidence is thinner (the more remote, or wetter areas unattractive to prehistoric and later exploitation) for human activity (Character Area 1B). For management purposes it would be preferable to regard the two as a single entity, despite the apparent difference in archaeological and historical land use.

6.2.2 Character Area 1A: The Open Forest .open heath with strong time-depth (extensive pre-medieval evidence; post-8500 BC and especially post-2400 BC)

6.2.2.1 Processes, events and themes

Mesolithic resource exploitation, using the lighter sandy areas as base camps for woodland hunting, is a critical characteristic. The period sees the probable initiation of woodland clearance and the beginning of the process of oscillation between 'upland' and 'lowland' in the New Forest (cf Barrett *et al.* 1991, 29ff).

Extensive Bronze Age occupation and use for arable agriculture, settlement and funerary

purposes - clearance of woodland resulting in decline of soil fertility and increased development of heathland - is also an important characteristic of this area.

The designation of the area as Forest by William I, is the third principal event, acting to preserve earlier archaeological features and ecology, with its use as 'waste' for grazing of stock demonstrably since at least the 10th century. Exercise of this and other Forest rights by commoners has resulted in the maintenance of the ecology and preservation of earlier archaeological components. Thus, the nature of the area is maintained by the survival of the historic farming practice.

The social and economic themes evident in the analysis of the component elements include environmental impact, resource exploitation, land holding, ideology, military and defensive. Also represented are current and past recreational themes, including leisure activities and medieval hunting.

6.2.2.2 Typical archaeological and historical components

The area has artefacts and remains of all periods from Lower Palaeolithic to modern. Particularly important are Mesolithic artefacts, found in extensive surface scatters. Bronze Age remains include well-preserved and sometimes highly visible round barrows and burnt mounds, settlements and earthwork boundaries. There are relatively few Iron Age and Roman recorded sites or finds and possibly some post-Roman enclosures. There are however, numerous medieval earthworks including coppice banks, lodges and deer park pale boundaries. Military remains include airfields and testing grounds, some visible, some affecting ecology.

6.2.2.3 Visible elements

Of major significance are the Bronze Age barrows. Most of the barrows are of simple 'bowl' type (i.e. a shallow ditch surrounding a central turf or turf and sand mound, with no gap between the ditch and mound and no external bank to the ditch). Many are sited on ridge or plateau crests designed to be visible from particular directions (for example, the group of five on Telegraph Hill) or on plains with good views from all directions (such as at Fritham, or on Bratley and Blackbush Plains). Others are set back from crests or are built on sloping ground (as on Ocknell Plain). The barrows vary in size, with many being less than 1m high and relatively difficult to see in heather

growth and bracken (for example, on Blackbush Plain). Others are larger and higher (Ashley Cross and Fritham plain being good examples), clearly visible from some distance and relatively easily recognisable as archaeological features.

Other visible earthworks include enclosure or land boundaries of medieval date (deer park pale, coppice banks, lodges). Military remnants include airfield runways, firing station remains (Turf Hill), plus various debris and craters from explosive tests.

6.2.2.4 Less tangible elements

The exertion of commoning and other rights (such as gravel extraction and peat cutting) has had, and continues to have, a major impact on the present landscape, affecting and maintaining the ecology and environment.

The less visible remains include the artefact scatters, subsurface remains of prehistoric and later activity; plus the environmental impact of Mesolithic clearances.

Documentary evidence for Domesday holdings is slight with only one holding (Hinchelsea) which lay within the area.

6.2.2.5 Past interaction and associations

There is strong documentary and physical evidence for past associations and interactions with all other character areas (except the Coastal Fringe) from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**). The strongest medieval and modern associations are represented by the exertion of commoning rights (Golding 1989 and Atlas of Claims) Physical links include the ecology, boundaries and communications routes - funnels from surrounding areas.

There are strong thematic associations with the Avon Valley and western fringe of the Enclosed Lands and with the Open Forest Woodland (Character Area 2A) in the north-west (**Figure 8**). Particularly strong are the themes of land allotment, trade and industry, ideology and military activity.

The evidence for past associations includes artefact evidence for similar exploitation of heath in the Mesolithic, and to some extent the Neolithic, linking to woodland and the Avon Valley in particular. The area has similar Bronze Age funerary structures to enclosed areas, including the Avon Valley terrace farmlands (sub-

surface features), and heathland estates around Hamptworth and smallholdings and farmland around Copythorne (earthworks).

6.2.2.6 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

This area is of critical importance to the character of the New Forest, and combined with woodland (Character Area 2) it represents the public face of the Heritage Area. It is also of major significance for its prehistoric features and ecology.

6.2.2.7 Potential

The area is important as a scientific and educational resource, through the physical preservation of Bronze Age and later earthworks, though the acidic nature of the soils means preservation of some types of evidence (for example, bone) is poor. The acidic soils also preserve pollen which has and will give good environmental sequences for the whole post-glacial period and can be tied in by radiocarbon dating to a sound relative chronology. To date relatively little analysis has been undertaken, but selective further work would significantly enhance the record.

The presence in significant numbers of Mesolithic artefacts has good potential for further research into patterns of resource exploitation and settlement from the pre-farming period, complemented by palaeoenvironmental data.

The known and visible archaeological remains are not easily recognisable to all visitors, although there is potential for far more explanation of these at suitable locations. However, in this respect, consideration must be given to potential for damage or erosion.

6.2.2.8 Vulnerability and management issues

The area contains many earthwork monuments, of good quality, preserved by the persistence of the agricultural practice. However, such remains remain vulnerable to erosion by stock, vehicles and people.

Some of the areas have high potential for palaeoenvironmental data and analysis, and there may be the possibility of preservation of organic material. However, such data could be affected by changes in hydrology.

There is a need to continue identifying new sites, to collate information of condition of monuments as part of an integrated strategy, to avoid erosion or damage by control of stock and people, and to increase awareness of the heritage of the area.

6.2.2.9 Summary

This character area is of major importance; forming the pivot (along with Character Area 2) around which the character areas of the enclosed lands revolve, and have revolved for in excess of three thousand years. Both form the core of the Heritage Area. The area has a long and varied archaeological and historical record, but stands out for the quality of preservation of certain types of monument. That record is well-documented, but elements of the older record are less well-explored. There is a long and demonstrable association with the surrounding enclosed lands of the New Forest and its scientific value is high due to the quality of preservation of physical remains and environmental data. There is also considerable potential for tourism and education relating to historical content.

The landscape is protected by the continuing practice of commoning, with the picture of grazing stock in mixed landscape of heath and woodland the critical element most commonly associated with the area.

6.2.3 Character Area 18: The Open Forest - open heath with moderate time-depth (moderate pre-medieval evidence; post-2400 BC)

6.2.3.1 General comment

Most of the descriptive elements relating to Character Area 1A also relate to this sub-division of the Open Forest Heath. Similar historical and environmental processes affected the area but the density of evidence and of preserved and visible remains is much lower. There are a small number of Bronze Age barrows, but the areas seem always to have been remote in terms of past human activity (at least as demonstrated) before the post-medieval period.

6.2.3.2 Principal processes, events and themes

The main processes and themes at work in these areas would seem to be clearance and resource exploitation combined with land allotment, including the exertion of rights.

6.2.3.3 Past interaction and associations

There is documentary and physical evidence for past associations and interactions with all other character areas (except the Coastal Fringe) from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**). The strongest medieval and modern associations are represented by the exertion of commoning rights (Golding 1989 and Atlas of Claims).

6.2.3.4 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

This area, though apparently different in archaeological and historical character, is an integral part of the Open Forest and would not be perceived as significantly different in visual and general ecological terms to the rest of the Open Forest. Its contribution therefore equates to Character Area 1A.

There is strong documentary and physical evidence for past associations and interactions with all other character areas (except the Coastal Fringe) from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**). The strongest medieval and modern associations are represented by the exertion of commoning rights (Golding 1989 and Atlas of Claims). Physical links include the ecology, boundaries and communications routes (funnels from surrounding areas, such as droveways).

6.2.3.5 Potential

The potential of the area in archaeological and historic terms is difficult to assess. The acidic soils may well preserve environmental data, including pollen sequences, relevant to these and other areas. Monuments exist so the potential for locating further remains with new survey work is good.

6.2.3.6 Vulnerability and management issues

The area contains a few earthwork monuments, preserved by the persistence of the agricultural practice. Such remains are vulnerable to erosion by stock, vehicles or people.

Management issues include the need to continue identifying new sites, to collate information of condition of monuments as part of an integrated strategy, and to avoid erosion or damage by control of stock and people.

6.2.3.7 Summary

This character area forms the pivot (along with Character Area 2) around which the character areas of the enclosed lands revolve. The known archaeological and historical record is thin, as evidenced by direct information on monuments in the public record, but it has potential similar in nature to Character Area 1A. There is a long and demonstrable association with the surrounding enclosed lands of the New Forest, and a wider area in relation to the Commoners Rights. It has potential scientific value because of the preservation of physical remains and environmental data, as does the potential (albeit rather limited) for tourism and education relating to historical content.

6.3 Character Area 2: The Open Forest Woodland

Ancient beech and oak stands form the core of the ancient and ornamental woodland (Peterken *et al.* 1996), much of which has been tree-covered throughout the Holocene (10,000BC onwards). Secondary expansions, including pinewoods, mixed deciduous woodland and holly stands form an important part of the present landscape, and along the river and stream banks are alder and beech woods, as well as willows and oak. Pine plantations for commercial use give a somewhat military and claustrophobic feel to certain parts of the character area.

The ancient semi-natural woodlands and planted timber enclosures contrast with the open heathy landscapes of Character Area 1, giving a marked sense of enclosure and depth. Views are limited but frequently changing with the varied topography, tree species and understorey. The ancient wood pasture is unique in Britain.

The main area is divided into two parts: those which have direct evidence for human use and exploitation, going back over 5000 years; and those areas where the evidence suggests some later prehistoric and Roman activity, with exploitation in the medieval and later periods.

6.3.1 Character Area 2A: The Open Forest - Woodland with strong time-depth (extensive pre-medieval evidence; post-2400 BC)

The character area could be further sub-divided into i) ancient and ornamental woodlands and ii) the enclosed timber plantations. However, it is felt that on the basis of the present known archaeological and historical components that

this is not merited, as similar elements and themes are present.

6.3.1.1 Principal processes, events and themes

The main historical processes comprise woodland management and territoriality and control. The archaeological and historical themes which emerge include resource exploitation, land holding and allotment, trade and industry, ideology and recreation.

A strong characteristic of this character area is the presence of earthworks of many dates from the Iron Age onwards, particularly from the medieval and post-medieval periods. The heavier soils were exploited for farming at a later date than those in Character Area 1.

Roman industry (pottery production) is a particular facet of the woodlands in the north-west of the Open Forest.

Designations as Forest by William I initially limited substantive exploitation, but gradual increases in medieval woodland management and exploitation are evident.

The Acts of 1688 and subsequent enclosure and management form the basis for the present landscape.

6.3.1.2 Typical archaeological and historical components

Typical archaeological components include Neolithic artefacts indicating woodland management or resource usage. There is some evidence for Bronze Age funerary earthworks (barrows) and numerous enclosures of Iron Age and Roman date, the latter associated with the potting industry. Medieval and later earthworks relating to woodland management are prevalent, as are remains of medieval hunting and sport. There is also a late 19th century grade II formal garden at Rhinefield House.

The woods themselves are obviously a crucial consideration here, and their nature and floral content significant in themselves. The ancient and ornamental wood, wood pasture and the silviculture enclosures have been well documented in recent work by Peterken *et al.*, and the detail in that report is not repeated here.

6.3.1.3 Visible elements

Visible evidence includes Bronze Age barrows, and earthworks (banks, ditches and enclosures) of Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date which are well-preserved, if not always easily visible. Other visible characteristics comprise the form and shape of plantations and enclosures of post-medieval date and the ornamental woodlands with their natural (and cultivated) content.

6.3.1.4 Less tangible elements

Less visible, but no less significant, are the artefact scatters of all dates from the Mesolithic, but especially those from the late prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. Subsurface features of similar date are also present. Other less tangible elements comprise the effects of commoning and literary and cultural associations, notably the work of Heywood Sumner in exploring the archaeology of the areas. There are also several documentary references to medieval woodland management and a number of woodland areas are referenced in early documents (Sloden, for example, is first mentioned in 1243).

6.3.1.5 Past interaction and associations

Past interaction with other character areas is demonstrated by clear documented associations with Character Areas 1 and 3 from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**). Continuing commoning associations contribute to the maintenance of wood pasture and ecology.

Complementary evidence for contemporary settlement in surrounding enclosed lands and heath areas is present from the Neolithic period onwards in the form of artefacts, Bronze Age barrows and settlements and Iron Age and Roman settlements in enclosed lands.

Thematic links in landholding, trade and industry, ideology and military activity are particularly strong with Character Area 1A and 3A in the Avon Valley and adjacent enclosed lands.

6.3.1.6 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

As with Character Area 1, the woodland of the Open Forest forms the core of the commonly understood New Forest and is critical to the perceived character of the Heritage Area.

6.3.1.7 Potential

As with Character Area 1, the area has good potential as a scientific and educational resource, given the level of preservation and the nature of the soils, but careful management is required to ensure against the erosion of or damage to the resource.

6.3.1.8 Vulnerability and management issues

The main concern in these areas is the effects of timber and woodland management on the physical preservation of the components and the potential for damage from falling trees, erosion and stock. The earthworks, whether barrows, enclosure banks, or woodland banks are vulnerable to damage, as are the subsurface deposits (archaeological layers and artefacts, which lie beneath the leaf litter). Management strategies should include the collection and collation of information on sites. An assessment of the potential impacts of forestry techniques, including enclosure maintenance and fencing, vehicle movements, planting and felling or clearance is also required.

6.3.1.9 Summary

This character area is of major importance. It forms the pivot (along with Character Area 1) around which the character areas of the enclosed lands revolve and have revolved for in excess of three thousand years. Both form the core of the Heritage Area. The area has a long and varied archaeological and historical record and is distinguished by the quality of preservation of certain monument types - in particular, later prehistoric, Roman and medieval enclosures. It has a long and well-documented association with the surrounding enclosed lands of the New Forest and has scientific value because of the quality of preservation of physical remains and environmental data. There is also potential for tourism and education relating to historical content, subject to careful management. In addition, the need exists for carefully developed, integrated management of the area which balances the needs of forestry, cultivation and woodland management against the archaeological and historical elements.

6.3.2 Character Area 2B: The Open Forest woodland with moderate pre-Medieval time-depth

6.3.2.1 Principal processes, events and themes

The area shows a similar range of processes and events to Character Area 2A, although evidence is less extensive for the prehistoric and Roman periods. Woodland management and territoriality and control of land holding are key processes.

Designations as Forest by William I limited initially substantive exploitation, but gradual increases in medieval woodland management and exploitation are evident. The Acts of 1688, and subsequent enclosure and management form the basis for the present landscape.

Themes evident include impact on the environment, subsistence and resource exploitation, land holding and allotment, trade and industry and recreation, both past and present.

6.3.2.2 Typical archaeological and historical components

Typical archaeological components include a small number of Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts indicative of woodland management or resource usage. There is also evidence for Bronze Age funerary and other Iron Age earthworks. Medieval and later earthworks relating to woodland management and remains of medieval hunting and sport are also present.

6.3.2.3 Visible elements

Evidence includes earthworks (banks, ditches and enclosures) of Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date which are well-preserved, if not always easily visible. Other visible characteristics comprise the regular form and shape of post-medieval woodland plantations and enclosures.

6.3.2.4 Less tangible elements

Less visible, but no less significant, are the artefact scatters of all dates from the Mesolithic - in particular, those dating from the late prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. Subsurface features of similar date are also present.

6.3.2.5 Past interaction and associations

Associations with other areas are indicated by the commoning rights and by thematic links, particularly resource exploitation and woodland management and trade and industry, including the provision of timber for ships and structures.

Complementary evidence for contemporary settlement in surrounding enclosed lands and heath areas is present from the Neolithic period onwards in the form of artefacts, Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age and Roman settlements in enclosed lands.

6.3.2.6 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

As with Character Area 1, the woodland of the Open Forest forms the core of the commonly understood New Forest and is critical to the perceived character of the Heritage Area.

6.3.2.7 Potential

As with Character Area 2A, the area has good potential as a scientific and educational resource, given the level of preservation and the nature of the soils, but requires careful management to ensure against the erosion of or damage to the resource.

6.3.2.8 Vulnerability and management issues

The main concern in these areas is the effects of timber and woodland management on the physical preservation of the components and the potential for damage from falling trees, erosion and stock. As with Character Area 2A, continued collection and collation of information, so that significant areas can be protected, is essential.

6.3.2.9 Summary

This character area is of major importance - it is central to actual and perceived notions of the New Forest, around which the character areas of the enclosed lands revolve and have revolved for several thousand years. The character area has a moderately long and varied archaeological and historical record and is notable for the quality of preservation its medieval enclosures. It has a long and well-documented association with the surrounding enclosed lands of the New Forest. It has also high scientific value because of the quality of preservation of physical remains and environmental data. There is also considerable

potential for tourism and education relating to historical content, subject to careful management.

6.4 Character Area 3: The Enclosed Lands

The enclosed lands have a very varied, generally small scale and often undulating landscape with a dispersed linear settlement pattern, generally characterised by loose clusters of roadside dwellings (though some areas have more agglomerated settlement). Building styles vary widely but traditional brick, timber and thatch dwellings are common. In the south-east of the area, around Exbury, the use of yellow Southampton brick is a common feature.

Land use is predominantly pastoral, frequently enclosed by irregular patterns of small to medium fields defined by thick, often overgrown hedgerows. In some areas, especially those within the perambulation, common and heathland are intimately associated with this enclosed landscape. Elsewhere, holly hedges, bracken, village greens, wide verges and, in particular, grazing stock all provide strong visual links with the adjoining forest core. Other parts of the enclosed lands, for example, the estates around Beaulieu and in the farmlands around Wellow and in the Avon Valley, the pattern is one of larger fields, often fenced or railed, with greater arable cultivation. There are also an increasing number of open fields being used for the raising of pigs, particularly around Wellow, in the north.

Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and Burley, whilst retaining the general character of agglomerated villages, have a denser pattern of central settlement fringed by modern developments. Whilst Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst have distinct village cores, there is no obvious core to Burley which has a more straggling street pattern; Burley Street seems to be a secondary settlement.

The enclosed lands show great variety in detail, and it is partly the consistently variable nature of the physical detail which suggests a landscape cohesion. The area has been intensively occupied for a long period and adapted and used pragmatically (as the prevalence of hedges and fences reinforced by corrugated tin shows). The processes and themes which show in the archaeological and historical record reinforce a sense of cohesion, and whilst the areas could be sub-divided on purely visual grounds, the less tangible elements of time-depth, interaction and association, combined with a cohesion in themes and settlement patterns, mitigate against this course.

6.4.1 Character Area 3A: Enclosed Lands with strong time-depth (post-8500 BC; strong evidence post-2400 BC)

Included in this character area are the settled lands in the Avon Valley between Crow and Downton, those around Godshill, Woodgreen, Stuckton, Gorley, Hyde, Ogdens, Hungerford and Ibsley in the west; Hamptworth to Plaitford Green in the north; the area west of Minstead; Blackfield, Cadland and Stone Farm, and north of Lymington to Boldre.

6.4.1.1 Processes, events and themes

The major processes involved in the development of the Enclosed Lands relate to clearance of woodland, settlement and farming, territoriality and social change.

The social and economic themes evident in the analysis of the component elements include environmental impact, resource exploitation, land holding, ideology and military and defensive. Also represented are current and past recreational themes, including leisure activities.

6.4.1.2 Typical archaeological and historical components

The area has artefacts and remains of all periods from Lower Palaeolithic to modern. Particularly important is the depth of time represented by the occurrence of artefacts and physical features in the landscape. Typical components include the dispersed linear settlement pattern commonly associated with 18th and 19th century brick-built houses, interspersed with thatched cottages and 20th century dwellings of the bungalow or chalet-type. Other built structures include watermills, icehouses and landscaped parks. The field patterns are variable across the area but, in general, are irregular in shape and size, except where aligned on roads along valley and scarp edges, or boundaries within the perambulation. Military remains include hillforts, airfields and testing grounds, some visible, some affecting ecology.

Subsurface archaeological features and topsoil artefacts also form typical elements of the record, well explored in certain areas - for example, the Avon Valley and Godshill.

6.4.1.3 Visible elements

Visible elements of earlier periods are not common in this character area, but do occur with reasonable regularity in some of the more heathy and pastoral areas - notably Hamptworth where standing Bronze Age barrows can be found. Iron Age hillforts are also found at Frankenbury (Godmanescap), Castle Hill (Godshill), Gorley Hill and Castle Malwood.

The principal visible elements relate to land holding and settlement patterns of post-medieval date, together with the built structures from the 17th to 20th centuries. Features include a moated manor at Plaitford and an array of fine agricultural and manor buildings at Plaitford Green, including staddle granaries.

6.4.1.4 Less tangible elements

Stray artefacts from across a wide range of archaeological and historical periods have been recovered from this character area. These include worked flints of earlier prehistoric date and major scatters of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery, indicative of settlement, retrieved from fieldwalking, particularly in the Avon Valley.

Archaeological excavations within the area have not been extensive, but recent work at Crystal Hollow, Godshill, by the Avon Valley Group give an insight into the potential of these areas. Subsurface features include Mesolithic and Neolithic pits, Bronze Age ring ditches (eroded burial mounds), Iron Age houses and enclosures and a sequence of Roman structures alongside a road leading towards the potteries in the Open Forest Woodland. The Avon Valley has also produced excavated evidence of Bronze Age barrows and early Saxon structures at Ellingham and Hucklesbrook.

6.4.1.5 Past interaction and associations

There is strong documentary and physical evidence for past associations and interactions with the Open Forest, from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**). The strongest medieval and modern associations are represented by the exertion of commoning rights (Golding 1989 and Atlas of Claims). Physical links include the ecology, boundaries and communications routes. The settlements at Bickton, Burgate, Ibsley, Gorley, Minstead and Stanes Farm are all Domesday holdings with forest rights while associations with Beaulieu Abbey are documented for Burgate.

The artefact and excavated evidence for subsurface features indicates contemporaneous activity with, in particular, the Open Forest Heath and Woodland (Character Areas 1A and 2A). There are similarities in material finds and in thematic links, particularly with the Open Forest Heath at Beaulieu and Matley/Denny Heaths and the Woodland in the north-west of the Open Forest (**Figure 8**). Thematic links in landholding, trade and industry, ideology and military activity are particularly strong with Character Area 1A and 2A. The site at Godshill with its Roman road also provides a tenuous link between the Avon Valley and the Open Forest.

Some of the material finds, such as Iron Age pottery from Godshill, may also indicate links to the Salisbury area at that time.

6.4.1.6 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

This area is significant as it provides long-term (convincingly for at least 5000 years) contemporaneous links with much of the Open Forest. In its settlement and field patterns it is a typical forest-edge landscape, with the settled areas blending with the topography. It is variable in nature, as are all the peripheral lands, with generally pasture fields, interspersed with some arable and market garden fields. The variability reflects the complexity of the history of land use over an extensive period. Commoning rights are extensive in this area and are still exerted, thus assisting in the maintenance of the physical and ecological character of the landscape.

6.4.1.7 Potential

Sites such as Crystal Hollow indicate the potential for good survival of subsurface features, although their upper levels may be eroded by later agriculture. There is potential for more detailed examination of the development of early settlement patterns and communications routes and for opportunist examination of river valleys and stream areas for earlier prehistoric sites. The potential for scientific and educational value is, therefore, considerable. The form and close association with the Open Forest and with the small scale and linear settlement pattern typical of the area provides aesthetic value.

6.4.1.8 Vulnerability and management issues

The area contains earthwork monuments preserved by the persistence of the pastoral agriculture. However, these remains are

vulnerable to erosion by stock and by vehicles or people. The subsurface features and artefacts are vulnerable to arable agriculture, routine maintenance and development, as well as extraction for agricultural purposes. Potential development could affect the character of the built environment, with its mix of generally small scale dwellings.

6.4.1.9 Summary

This character area is of major importance. It has a long and varied archaeological and historical record which is well-documented with elements of the older record explored to a greater extent than elsewhere. It also has a long and demonstrable association with the Open Forest and other enclosed lands, in contemporaneous activity and historical processes and themes. It retains the linear and dispersed settlement pattern and associated mix of buildings and fields characteristic of the Forest surrounds, with a characteristically mixed economy.

6.4.2 Character Area 3B: Enclosed Lands with moderately strong time depth (post-2400 BC, but stronger post-700 BC)

The enclosed lands included within this character area comprise those between Sway and Battramsley, around Beaulieu, Linwood, Fritham, Ower, Cadnam, Copythorne, Tatchbury and Wigley, Burley, Burley Street, Setley, and Brangsgore, as well as the larger settlements at Lyndhurst, Burley and Beaulieu. These are typical irregular linear settlements with a mix of brick-built cottages and dwellings, thatched cottages and substantial modern infill. The landscape is a mix of pastoral and some arable fields and is well-wooded and heathy. Away from the main roads, the lanes are sinuous and lined with hedges with holly, bracken and brambles, interspersed with fenced fields. The fields are usually of small to medium scale and irregular in shape, though other parts, particularly where horses are kept, are more regular and fenced with post and rail. Other parts of the area, associated with the larger estate holdings, have larger and more regular fields which are frequently used for arable cultivation.

6.4.2.1 Processes, events and themes

The major processes involved in the development of the Enclosed Lands relate to clearance of woodland, settlement and farming, territoriality and control and social change.

The social and economic themes strongly evident in the analysis of the component elements include environmental impact, resource exploitation, community and population, communication and land holding.

6.4.2.2 Typical archaeological and historical components

Whilst the area has artefacts and remains of all periods, from Lower Palaeolithic to modern, evidence for substantial levels of activity before about 700 BC is not extensive with the strongest evidence for later development, particularly medieval and post-medieval in date.

Typical components include the dispersed linear settlement pattern, common with 18th and 19th century brick-built houses, interspersed with thatched cottages and 20th century dwellings. Grander buildings are also a feature of the larger settlements with other substantial stone built structures, such as the Beaulieu Abbey grange barn at St Leonards, as well as the structures at Beaulieu itself. Agglomerated settlements at Lyndhurst and Burley vary the generally linear pattern slightly. The field patterns are variable across the area, but generally, as in Character Area 3A, are irregular in shape and size, except where aligned on roads along valley and scarp edges or boundaries within the perambulation. Military remains include hillforts.

Stray finds of many periods are also fairly typical components, but there has been relatively little formal exploration of subsurface remains, with the exception of work at Beaulieu Abbey and ongoing work in the Beaulieu River exploring the nature of (inter alia) remains associated with Bucklers Hard.

6.4.2.3 Visible elements

Visible elements of earlier periods include the Iron Age hillforts of Tatchbury and Castle Hill, Burley. Banks and boundaries of probable medieval field systems also lie around Burley running onto the heath, while around Lyndhurst the earthworks of the medieval park pale are clearly evident. There are also a few extant Bronze Age barrows, for example, at Copythorne.

The principal visible elements relate to land holding and settlement patterns of post-medieval date, together with the built structures dating from the 17th to 20th centuries. Features include a moated manor at Plaitford and an array of fine agricultural and manor buildings at Plaitford Green, including staddle granaries. At Hale there

is a Grade II* formal garden, pleasure ground and landscape park of late 17th and 18th century date, covering some 50 hectares. Beaulieu Abbey and Bucklers Hard represent a grander scale of architecture and land holding.

6.4.2.4 Less tangible elements

Stray artefacts have been recovered from most archaeological and historical periods. Included are worked flints of earlier prehistoric date and scatters of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery.

6.4.2.5 Past interaction and associations

There is strong documentary and physical evidence for past associations and interactions with the Open Forest from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**). The strongest medieval and modern associations are represented by the exertion of commoning rights (Golding 1989 and Atlas of Claims). Physical links include the ecology, boundaries and communications routes, such as droveways. Amongst others, the settlements at Sway, Lyndhurst, Tatchbury, Rockford and Pilley were Domesday holdings with forest rights. Beaulieu Abbey held the holding at Burgate in the Avon Valley.

Burley is not specifically mentioned in Domesday, but it is assumed that it is the place referred to under the entry for Ringwood (Edwards 1996, 60). The placename *Burgelea*, first mentioned in 1178 and deriving from OE *Burhleah*, could mean clearing or wood of the town (rather than fort wood or clearing, which could refer to Castle Hill). Ringwood itself lies within the terrace farmlands, but outside the New Forest as defined here.

The artefact evidence and earthworks indicates contemporaneous activity with, in particular, the Open Forest Heath and Woodland (Character Areas 1A, 2A and 2B), as well as Godshill and the Avon Valley east of Fordingbridge (Character Area 3A). The area south of Exbury also has strongly correlated thematic links with the Open Forest Heath and Woodland (Character Areas 1A and 2A) and the Avon Valley and adjacent enclosed lands between Ringwood and Charford (**Figure 8**). Exploitation of the timber resources of the Forest supported the ship-building industry at Bucklers Hard.

6.4.2.6 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

This area is significant as it provides long-term (convincingly for at least 3000 years, with some

evidence for two further millennia) contemporaneous links with much of the Open Forest. Like Character Area 3A in its settlement and field patterns, it is a typical Forest edge and Forest-surrounded landscape, with the settled areas blending with the topography. The variable nature reflects the complexity of the history of land use, in particular land holding and territoriality, over an extensive period. The commoning rights are extensive in this area and are still exerted, thus assisting in the maintenance of the physical and ecological character of the Open Forest.

6.4.2.7 Potential

The area has potential for more detailed examination of the development of early settlement patterns and communications routes, as well as the opportunist examination of river valleys and stream areas for earlier prehistoric sites. It therefore has scientific and educational value. Its aesthetic value lies in its form and close association with the Open Forest, with the small scale linear settlement pattern typical of the area, and in recreational activities associated with the larger estates.

6.4.2.8 Vulnerability and management issues

The area contains earthwork monuments vulnerable to erosion by stock and by vehicles or people. Similarly, subsurface features and artefacts are vulnerable to arable agriculture, routine maintenance and development. Potential development could affect the character of the built environment, with its mix of generally small scale dwellings, interspersed with grander houses and estates.

6.4.2.9 Summary

This character area has a long and varied archaeological and historical record which is well-documented. It has a long and demonstrable association with the Open Forest and other enclosed lands, in contemporaneous activity, and historical processes and themes. It also retains the linear and dispersed settlement pattern and associated mix of buildings and fields characteristic of the Forest surrounds, with a characteristically mixed economy. Fine examples of architecture on a grander scale are also present.

6.4.3 Character Area 3C: Enclosed Lands with moderate time-depth

(predominantly medieval and later evidence)

The remainder of the Enclosed Lands fall into this character area, most having demonstrable medieval origins for settlement with intermittent post-medieval encroachments and expansions, combined with modern development.

6.4.3.1 Processes, events and themes

The major processes involved in the development of the Enclosed Lands relate to clearance of woodland, settlement and farming, territoriality and control and social change.

The social and economic themes strongly evident in the analysis of the component elements include environmental impact, resource exploitation, community and population, communication and land holding.

6.4.3.2 Typical archaeological and historical components

Whilst the area has artefacts and remains of all periods from Lower Palaeolithic to modern, evidence for substantial levels of activity before the medieval period is not extensive. The typical components are similar to those in Character Area 3B though modern developments, particularly around the main roads, have meant a more nucleated appearance to parts of the area. The field patterns are variable across the area but in general, as in Character Area 3A, are irregular in shape and size, except where aligned on roads along valley and scarp edges. Another feature of this area are some of the larger estates in the south-east, exhibiting a regulated building style, estate walls and iron gates.

6.4.3.3 Visible elements

The principal visible elements relate to land holding and settlement patterns of post-medieval date, together with the built structures from the 17th to 20th century.

6.4.3.4 Less tangible elements

Stray artefacts from across the archaeological and historical time-band have been recovered from most parts of this area. These include worked flints of earlier prehistoric date and scatters of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery.

6.4.3.5 Past interaction and associations

There is strong documentary and physical evidence for past associations and interactions with the Open Forest from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**). The strongest medieval and modern associations are represented by the exertion of commoning rights (Golding 1989 and Atlas of Claims). Amongst others, the settlements at Wellow, Hinton, Brockenhurst and Dibden were Domesday holdings with forest rights (**Figure 3**).

The limited artefact evidence indicates a level of contemporaneous activity with other areas of the New Forest. Thematic links are akin to those for Character Area 3A.

6.4.3.6 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

Like Character Area 3A, in its settlement and field patterns the area is a typical Forest edge landscape, blending into the open areas visually and physically. Its variable nature reflects the complexity of the history of land use, in particular land holding and territoriality, over a long period. Commoning rights are extensive in this area and are still exerted.

6.4.3.7 Potential

The area has potential for more detailed examination of the development of early settlement patterns and communications routes, as well as opportunist examination of river valleys and stream areas for earlier prehistoric sites, thereby increasing its scientific and educational value. Its aesthetic value lies in its form and close association with the Open Forest, with the small scale and linear settlement pattern typical of the area.

6.4.3.8 Vulnerability and management issues

Subsurface features and artefacts are vulnerable to arable agriculture, routine maintenance and development. Potential development could affect the character of the built environment, with its mix of generally small scale dwellings, interspersed with grander house and estates.

6.4.3.9 Summary

This character area has a long and varied archaeological and historical record which is well-documented. It also has a long and demonstrable

association with the Open Forest and other enclosed lands in contemporaneous activity and historical processes and themes. Additionally, it retains the linear and dispersed settlement pattern with the associated mix of buildings and fields characteristic of the Forest surrounds.

Characteristically the economy is mixed. Fine examples of architecture on a grander scale are, however, also to be found.

6.5 Character Area 4: The Coastal Fringe

This is a flat, open landscape with wide views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. It is quiet and secluded, though also bleak and exposed to the full force of sea winds. Special features include areas of saltmarsh, shingle beaches, muddy creeks, grazing marshes and coastal woodlands all rich in coastal flora and supporting large numbers of waders, wildfowl, gulls and other birds. Within the New Forest boundary these areas include the Beaulieu River estuary and the coast westwards to the Lymington River.

6.5.1.1 Processes, events and themes

The archaeological components recorded in the public record are not extensive but reflect a scattering of finds from the earliest period onwards. Historical processes of clearance, expansion of settlement and territoriality and control and social change are also evident.

No strong themes emerge, but resource exploitation, military and defensive remains and transport and communication, as well as industry (such as salt-working and fishing) are represented.

6.5.1.2 Typical archaeological and historical components

The area has a thin scatter (in the public record) of artefacts and remains of all periods from Lower Palaeolithic to modern. These include Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts with Bronze Age pottery being found as surface scatters or retrieved from the muds of the Solent. The muds have also yielded stray Iron Age and Roman finds.

6.5.1.3 Visible and less tangible elements

Few elements of the archaeological and historical record are easily visible, though the mudflats reveal wooden structures and artefacts. The inter-tidal zone preserves organic remains and the sediments contain evidence of now drowned

prehistoric landscapes and landuse (Momber *et al.* 1996).

Outside the Heritage Area there are the significant fortifications of Calshot Castle and Hurst Castle, part of Henry VIII's chain of defence against Francis I.

6.5.1.4 Past interaction and associations

The nature of the area means that past associations and interactions tend to be limited to similarities in artefact types and to documentary references to salt working and trade. However, it is probable that the resources of the area were exploited by adjacent settled areas in most periods.

6.5.1.5 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

This character area is physically and visually very different to the rest of the enclosed lands and is better known for its ecology and wildlife. The Beaulieu and Lymington River estuaries form the last link with watercourses originating in the heart of the Forest, but also access the Solent and the Isle of Wight to past and present shipping. Significantly, the Isle of Wight has links (in terms of historical rights and land holding) with the New Forest.

6.5.1.6 Potential

The area is important as a scientific and amenity resource and has potential to contain organic archaeological materials not found elsewhere in the New Forest. These include remnants of ships and boats and preserved earlier prehistoric land surfaces beneath the Solent muds.

6.5.1.7 Vulnerability and management issues

The erosive nature of tidal movements potentially jeopardise artefacts, structures and ancient land surfaces. Identification of resources and collection and collation of information so that significant areas can be protected is therefore essential.

6.6 Character Area 5: Urban and suburban settlement, industrial areas

This character area lies outside the New Forest, comprising the urban and industrial agglomeration and associated highly-developed landscape along the coast west of the Lymington

River and the west side of Southampton Water. It is included here for completeness, but not all sections are addressed.

This is a variable, large scale, intensively farmed landscape with a strong urban fringe character. Horticultural units, garden centres, caravan parks and expanded settlements are common features. Most settlements have very mixed building styles with much modern residential development and the many busy roads reflect the proximity to large urban centres. The farmed landscape is characterised by a large scale field pattern frequently defined by fence lines. Hedgerows, often with stunted and windblown oak, holly or pine, are largely restricted to roadside boundaries. Broadleaved woodlands are a characteristic feature along many of the small valleys in the area (Land Use Consultants 1991).

This landscape area has produced archaeological evidence for all periods, with the exception of the early Saxon, of a similar nature to other parts of the New Forest. Although few early features survive as visible elements, the quality of preservation of the hidden archaeological resource is probably good, particularly in the terrace farmlands.

6.6.1.1 Processes, events and themes

The historical processes represented include clearance, development of the farmed landscape, territoriality and control and settlement expansion. The strongest characteristics (as recorded in the SMRs) reflect funerary and ideology activity and military and defensive remains (largely World War II). In practice, the strongest characteristic is the density of settlement and industry relating to the 20th century. Also represented are current and past recreational themes, including leisure activities.

6.6.1.2 Typical archaeological and historical components: visible and less tangible

The area has artefacts and remains of all periods from Lower Palaeolithic to modern. Particularly important are the extensive Mesolithic artefacts found as surface scatters. Military remains include pillboxes and airfields, while the area is dominated by its compact and clustered settlement pattern of post-medieval and modern date, as described above.

6.6.1.3 Past interaction and associations

There is strong documentary and physical evidence for past associations and interactions with the Open Forest from Domesday onwards (see **Figure 3**).

Other evidence for past associations include artefacts and subsurface features and documentary sources for contemporaneous use and development with Character Areas 1A, 2A and B and 3A-C.

6.6.1.4 Contribution to the character of the New Forest

The densely settled, suburban and industrialised nature of the area excluded it from the Heritage Area. Its generally urban character is alien to the remainder of the enclosed lands and Open Forest, though the origins of its settlement pattern lie in the same processes and in similar periods to those of the enclosed lands.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The New Forest (as defined in 1996 by the New Forest Committee) contains a wealth of recorded archaeological and historical remains from about 500,000 BC to the modern period. The principal periods represented in the public record, comprising nearly 2000 references, (although acknowledged to be incomplete) are the Bronze Age (c. 2500-1100 BC) with 434 records listed; the medieval and post-medieval periods (post-1086) with 258 and 315 records respectively; the Roman period (AD 43-420) with 193 records and the Mesolithic (8500-4000 BC) some 71 records.

There are recurrent processes and themes reflected in the archaeological and historical landscapes, many of which are still pertinent today in present land use. The themes change through time as the settled landscape develops from the Bronze Age onwards, with more emphasis on land holding, allotment and rights, and a more demonstrable link between the Open Forest and the surrounding enclosed lands, in both physical terms and documented activities. The New Forest has clearly been one coherent zone of activity for thousands of years, with the communities living in it adapting to the changing environment and using the natural and man-made resources from the different topographic zones in different ways.

Levels of preservation vary between the different ecological and farming zones. The Open Forest stands out as significant for the preservation of both visible and less tangible remains from the prehistoric period, in particular, though there is a marked difference between the woodland and the heath, the latter clearly being damaged for arable agriculture at an early period.

Given the strong links, demonstrated in both archaeological content and documentary references for the historical period, coupled with continuing processes between the Open Forest and the enclosed lands, it is possible to regard the New Forest as a single landscape character zone as recently suggested by the Countryside Commissions character map of England. However, at a local scale, the identification of the eight archaeological and historical landscape character areas within the New Forest is valid in both archaeological terms and in visual aspects of the environment. The individual character areas have different needs in practical management terms but need to be treated as a coherent entity in order for the traditional character of any to be maintained.

The areas also have differing value as a scientific resource (for archaeological research for example), and as an amenity, either educational or recreational, with some areas being more accessible than others. Much of the wealth and diversity of information is highly visible in its present landscape. There is considerable potential for understanding and explaining these landscapes of past ages to perhaps a greater degree than elsewhere in lowland England because of the quality of preservation and environmental data.

The quality of preservation is the result of past (prehistoric) activity combined with the present and historic (in its true meaning) commoning practice and cultural continuity over the whole area. It is essential to maintain that character, and to enhance it by benign and positive management and by making aspects of the record more accessible to the public.

Amongst the issues which need to be addressed are:

- the development of positive management policies which reflect a balanced view between the needs of the present day working landscape and the monuments of the past
- the physical preservation of sites and monuments and their settings

- the continuing identification of sites and monuments
- the collection and curation of information on sites, landscapes and monuments
- assessment of the condition of archaeological and historical components the
- assessment of potential negative impacts from, for example, timber production
- increasing public awareness and access (not necessarily physically) to the archaeological and historical landscape
- education, in particular, the integration of archaeology into school projects and the national curriculum, exploiting the wealth of New Forest resources
- co-ordination
- resourcing of any of the above.

It would seem appropriate that:

- there should be a published detailed policy statement which sets out the nature of the resource, the academic and management frameworks, and the co-ordinated response of the various bodies responsible for the New Forest. The policy statement must take account of local knowledge, national, regional and local priorities and guidance. It should also identify specific areas of investigation or projects which it is desirable to undertake over a specified period of time. The policy should include the development of educational literature and projects, with regular reviews at intervals of no more than five years.
- Detailed consideration of the archaeological and historical heritage should be included in the formulation of all management plans where appropriate.
- There should be a co-ordinating body which can direct interested parties towards those specific areas of research or investigation which would be useful in the management of the resource and the development of knowledge about it.
- There should be a regularly published review of all activities relating to the archaeological and historical landscape of the New Forest (in addition to the regular publications in the Hampshire Field Club), which stresses the inter-relationship of the area as a whole and the

benefits of a co-ordinated approach.

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9 APPENDIX 1: NEW FOREST PLACENAMES

Unless otherwise notated they following details are taken from or paraphrased from Coates 1989 *The Placenames of Hampshire*.

Abbreviations:

C - Century
DB - Domesday Book
ME - Middle English
NE - New Forest (ie the Open Forest; within the perambulation)
OE - Old English

Place	Details
Arnewood	1086 - <i>Ernemude</i> ; 1488 - <i>Ernewode</i> . Probably OE - Eagles wood. Manor and hamlet in Hordle, now in Sway Parish.
Ashley Walk	Part of Fordingbridge, within New Forest. 1280 - (<i>boscus de</i>) <i>Assle</i> - Ash wood (OE/ME); walk = one of New Forest walks, 1670.
Ashurst	Former hamlet in Colbury, now estate in Eling. 1331 - <i>Assh (e) hurst</i> - ashwooded hill. (OE/ME)
Bashley	1053 - <i>bageslucesleia</i> ; 1086 - <i>Bailochesle</i> 1152 - <i>Bailukesleia</i> . OE. wood/clearing of Bægloc; uncommon name, borne by an abbot.
Batramsley	Manor in Boldre; NF bailiwick. 1086 - <i>Betramelei</i> ; 1212 - <i>Batrameslie</i> ; 1236 - <i>Baterhameslie</i> ; 1272 - <i>Beterhemeleg</i> . Uncertain; second element <i>leah</i> wood/clearing, of a place called <i>*Betraham</i> 'better estate/hemmed-in land; or <i>*Beateraham</i> – 'beaters/boxers estate/hemmed-in land'.
Beaulieu	1205 - (<i>de</i>) <i>Beio Loco (Regis)</i> ; 1208 <i>Bellum Locum</i> ; c. 1300 <i>Beulu</i> ; 1341 <i>Beuleu</i> ; 1381 - <i>Bewley</i> . Latin/Anglo-Norman - 'lovely place'.
Bickton	Manor in Fordingbridge. 1086 - <i>Bichetone</i> ; 1227 - <i>Biketon</i> . OE - <i>*Bicantün</i> - Beehive Farm; or OE man's name <i>Bica</i> .

<i>Bile</i>	DB Manor in Boldre. Possibly Pilley or Burley, but uncertain. OE <i>Bileage</i> 'by the wood/clearing'.
Bisterne	Manor in Ringwood. 1086 - <i>Betestre</i> ; 1187 <i>Bettestorn</i> ; 1190 <i>Budestorn</i> ; 1219 <i>Butestorna</i> ; 1300 <i>Budesthorne</i> . OE 'Bytta's (haw)thorn'.
Boldre	1086 - <i>Bovre(ford)</i> ; manor depopulated by William I. 1152 <i>Bolre</i> . Origin uncertain, suggestions include possibly (river marked by) stand of rushes; or bole or plank house. DB implies 'by the (flat-topped) hill'.
Bramshaw	Formerly part of Wiltshire. 1086 - <i>Brammesage</i> ; 1158 <i>Bremscaue</i> ; 1186 <i>Brumesaghe</i> ; 1272 <i>Brambelshagh</i> . 13th century version suggests bramble-bush wood; 1182 version suggests broom.
Bransgore	Late record; 1759 - <i>Bransgoer Common</i> . Second element probably gore triangular piece of land.
Bratley	Inclosure, Plain etc. 1365 <i>Brottele</i> ; 1490 <i>Bratteley</i> . OE/ME 'brittle clearing/wood'.
Breamore	1086- <i>Brumore</i> ; 1130- <i>Brommore</i> . OE broom (covered) marsh or moor. Taverner notes that every Hampshire village whose name includes <i>brom</i> or related, has unenclosed commons surviving today.
Brockenhurst	Henry I - <i>Brokenhurst</i> ; 1181 - <i>Brochenherst</i> . Traditionally 'badger wood'. OE likely 'broken wooded hill'.
Brook	1326 - <i>le Broke</i> ; 1586 - <i>Brooke</i> . OE/ME 'stream, or streamside meadow'.
Broomy Walk	Part of Ellingham. Recorded 1787, associated with Broomy Lodge, etc. Self-explanatory.
Bucklers Hard	1759 - <i>Montague Town vulgar Bucklesbuty</i> ; 1789 - Bucklers Hard. 'Firm landing place'.
Burgate	Manor, tenement in Fordingbridge of Beaulieu Abbey. 1086 - <i>Borgate</i> ; c.1250 - <i>Burgate</i> . Possibly a reference to the Iron Age 'camp' at Godshill (Godmanes); or 'gate of the town or borough (Upper Burgate is on the northern edge of Fordingbridge). Often associated with Gorley in Beaulieu Abbey documents.
Burley	Parish, part of Ringwood within Forest. 1178- <i>Burgelea</i> ; 1212 <i>Borlegh</i> ; 1301 <i>Borghley</i> . OE - fort wood/clearing, possibly reference to Castle Hill. But if DB entry for Ringwood to 4 hides in NF refers to Burley, <i>burh</i> element could mean town or borough - then 'clearing /wood of the town'.
Cadnam	1272, 1280 - <i>Cadenham</i> . OE/ME 'Cada's estate or hemmed-in land. Cada likely derivative from British element * <i>Catu</i> - battle.
Calmore	13th C - <i>Cauwelmoe</i> ; 1276 - <i>Caulemoe</i> , <i>Kaulemor</i> . OE <i>Cawelmor</i> - 'cabbage marshland'. Probably a reference to seakale.
Canada	Settlement in West Wellow. Modern name, probably of late 18 C or early 19 C origin, often representing intakes of marginal land.
Canterton	Manor in Minstead. 1086 - <i>Cantortun</i> ; 1212 - <i>Kantarton</i> ; 1227 <i>Canterton</i> . Often said to be from OE for 'farm of the Kentish men'.

Castle Malwood	Hamlet and Forest Walk in Minstead. 1272 <i>Malewoode</i> ; 1280 <i>Mallewode</i> . Possibly OE 'Mealla's wood; or wood by gravelly ridge.
Colbury	Modern parish carved out of Eling. c. 1250 - <i>Colebir</i> ; 1280 - <i>Colebur</i> . Probably ME 'Cola's Manor'. Cola the Hunter held the DB manor of Ellingham.
Connigers Copse	Brockenhurst. One of numerous references in Hampshire to ME 'rabbit warren'. Warrens multiplied rapidly from c. 1240-60, largely on marginal land, waste or forest.
Copythorne	Modern parish taken from Eling. Edward III - <i>Coppethorne</i> ; 1754 - <i>Coped Thorne</i> . ME 'pollarded (haw)thorne'.
Criddlestyle	Hamlet in Fordingbridge. c. 1220 - <i>Cridelistruhe</i> ; 1341 - <i>Crideistrowe</i> . Possibly OE 'Cridel's tree, or water-conduit/trough.
Crow	Manor in Ringwood. 1086 - <i>Croue</i> ; 1300 - <i>Crowe</i> . Possibly primitive Welsh <i>criw</i> 'weir, ford or stepping stones. Or Welsh <i>crau</i> 'hovel'.
Denny	Civil parish, part of Beaulieu within the Forest. c. 1300 - <i>Dunie</i> ; 1331 - <i>la Dunye</i> ; 1347 - <i>Dinne</i> ; 1589 - <i>Dynney walke</i> . Possibly OE 'slope island'; or 'Dyne's island'.
Dibden	1086 - <i>Depedene</i> ; 1165 - <i>Diepedena</i> ; 1201 - <i>Dupedene</i> . Possibly OE 'deep valley', or valley by the deep water (of the river Test).
Eling	1086 - <i>Edlinges</i> ; 1158 - <i>Elinges</i> ; 1186 <i>Ailinges</i> . Possibly a personal name element - 'those associated with Æðel'. Uncertain.
Ellingham	1086 - <i>Adelingeham</i> ; c. 1165 <i>Haslingueham</i> ; 1167 <i>Elingeham</i> . OE 'estate or hemmed-in land', possibly 'of the people of Eling'.
Exbury	1086 - <i>Teocreberie</i> ; 1197 - <i>Ykesbir</i> ; 1212 - <i>Ekeresbur</i> ; 1236 - <i>Hukeresbur</i> ; 1280 - <i>Eukeresbir</i> ; 1291 <i>Eukesbirh</i> Uncertain. Possibly an OE personal name, perhaps 'Eohhere's or ðecere's manor
Eyeworth	DB manor. 1086 - <i>Iuare</i> ; 1365 - <i>Iware</i> . Probably OE 'yew-weir or fishpond'. Less likely 'streamside meadow or marsh'.
Fawley	1086 - <i>falegia</i> , <i>Falelel</i> ; 1194 - <i>Falelela</i> . OE 'fallow (coloured wood/clearing', or 'clearing with land broken in for arable'.
Fordingbridge	Town and Hundred. 1086 - <i>Fordingbrige</i> (hundred), 1227 - <i>Fordingbrig</i> (town). OE/ME 'bridge of the dwellers at Ford'.
Fritham	1212 - <i>Frtham</i> ; c. 1280 - <i>Fiytham</i> . Possibly OE 'scrub on the edge of a forest'. Second element may be <i>hamm</i> in the sense of a 'cultivated plot on marginal land'.
Godmannescamp	Lost DB manor. Possibly NF - appears as name for fortification above Godshill) or in East Hampshire (Rowditch hundred in DB). Name means 'camp of God's man'. <i>Camp</i> is interpreted by Gelling as meaning uncultivated land on the edge of a RB villa estate'.
Gorley	c. 1210 - <i>Garlela</i> ; <i>Gorlega</i> . OE - triangular wood/clearing.
Hale	1158 - <i>Hala</i> ; 1219 - <i>la Hale</i> . OE 'nook, angle' often of an administrative area. In NW corner of Hampshire until 1895, when Whitsbury and Martin taken into Hants. East end of Fordingbridge hundred.

Hanger	DB manor in Netley Marsh. <i>Hangre</i> (1086 & 1242) 'sloping wood'.
Hatt	Found in several places in the NF for a small tree-crowned hill (King's Hatt Inclosure etc).
Hinton Admiral	1086 - <i>hentune</i> ; 1242 <i>henton</i> ; 1379 <i>Henton Aumarle</i> ; 1412 <i>Henton Damarle</i> . OE 'at the high farm'. Manorial specifier is surname Albemarle. Modern version first seen in 1592.
Holbury	1186 - <i>Holeberi</i> . OE '(at the) hollow fortification'. A moated site.
Holmsley	Likely ME ' <i>holm</i> ' - holly. Holmsley Walk Forest walk in Burley.
Hordle	Henry I - <i>Hordella</i> ; Stephen - <i>Hordhulle</i> ; 1331 - <i>Hordehulle</i> . OE '(treasure) hoard hill'. <i>Hord</i> may be associated with words for barrows (and supposedly haunted places). Or could derive from OE 'storehouse'.
lbsley	1086 - <i>Tibeslel</i> ; 1166 <i>Tibeslela</i> ; 13th C <i>Ibeslehe</i> ; 1236 <i>Ibbesleg</i> . OE 'Tibb's wood/clearing'.
Inclosure	Bratley, Appleslade etc. Managed woodland fenced off to keep commoners animals from grazing seedlings. Always spelled with 'l'. Enclosing any parts of Forest illegal until 1488, but Acts of that year, 1698, 1808 etc. established and confirmed the practice in the interests of timber provision. Many inclosures post-1808.
Ipley	c. 1210 - <i>Huppeleia</i> ; 1236 <i>Yppele</i> , <i>Ipelegh</i> . OE 'dais or hunting platform clearing'.
Langley	DB manor in Fawley. 1086 - <i>Langelie</i> . OE long wood'. Another Langley in Colbury.
Lepe	1277 - <i>Lepe</i> ; 1280 - <i>Lupe</i> ; 1324 <i>Leope</i> . OE 'leaping place, especially for deer, a fence to allow deer to jump where other animals are restrained. Jumpable stream or crossing place.
Linford	Likely 'ford by the lime tree'.
Lyndhurst	1086 - <i>Linhest</i> ; 1165 - <i>Lindeherst</i> ; 1196 <i>Lindhurst</i> . OE 'lime wood'.
Matley Bog	named from Matley Wood - 1270 <i>Mattele</i> . Possibly 'Matta's wood, or 'wood where rushes (for mats) were got'.
Minstead	1086 - <i>Mintestede</i> ; 1248 - <i>Minstede</i> . OE 'place where mint grew'.
Mockbeggar	Common house and farm name. Earliest reference 1622. Ostensibly a place where no welcome could be expected (poem by Taylor); thereafter fashionable.
Netley Marsh	508 - <i>natan leaga</i> ; 1248 <i>Nateleg</i> . OE 'Wet wood'
New Forest	1086 <i>Nova Foresta</i> ; 1231 <i>Nova Foresta Regis</i> etc. Area was a wasteland before 1086, but was 'new' in the time of William I as a legally-defined area.
Ower	Manors/hamlets in Copythorne and Fawley. 1086 <i>Hore</i> ; 1284 <i>Ore</i> ; 1327 <i>Oure</i> . Possibly OE 'flat-topped ridge, or bank/shore/foot of a slope.
Pennington	12th C. <i>Penyton</i> ; 1272 <i>Penington</i> . OE/ME 'penny farm (i.e. farm on which a penny geld was payable).

Picket Post	Hamlet in Burley. 1789 - <i>Picked Post</i> pointed post, possibly related to Picket Piece ?boundary mark between Ellingham and Burley.
Pilley	c. 1280 <i>Pilely</i> ; 1280 <i>Pililegh</i> ; 1306 <i>Pillelegh</i> . OE 'wood where shafts or piles were got'. Or possibly from Welsh 'tidal creek'.
Plaitford	1086 <i>Pleite ford</i> ; 1234 <i>Pleites ford</i> . Possibly from OE 'playing', thus 'ford where games took place'.
Poulner	1300 <i>Polenore</i> ; 1327 <i>Polenoure</i> ; 1410 <i>Pulnore</i> ; 1682 <i>Powner</i> . Second element OE 'bank or slope', or (more likely) flat-topped ridge'. First element may be an unrecognised personal name, or OR 'pennyroyal', a medicinal plant growing in damp places.
Purlieu	cf Dibden Purlieu, Hale Purlieu etc. Anglo-Norman, <i>purale</i> - perambulation. An area around the nucleus of the New Forest. Technically land removed from the forest in the 14th C, when the boundaries established by perambulations were acknowledged by succeeding kings. In practice certain royal rights were retained, and Forest Law enforced.
Rhinefield	1352 <i>Ryefeld</i> ; 1353 <i>Riefelde</i> . OE/ME 'rye open land'.
Ringwood	AS 10th C. <i>runcwuda</i> and <i>rimucwuda</i> , and <i>rimecuda</i> . DB 1086 <i>Rincvede</i> (manor and hundred). Ekwall suggests from OE <i>rimuc</i> - border or edge, thus 'border wood'. Position on west edge NF supports this, but NF border parishes carved out of Ringwood, and Coates less certain about origin.
Rockford	1086 <i>Rocheford</i> ; 1167 <i>Rechesford</i> ; 1286 <i>Rokeford</i> . Manor in Ellingham. Possibly OE 'Rooks' ford (over Dockens Water).
Rufus Stone	Marks traditional site of William II's death in 1099. Stone placed there in 1745 by Lord de la Warr.
Setley	1331 <i>Setle</i> . Appears to mean planted wood (but enclosure pre-1483 technically illegal). Possibly includes 'stunted'.
Sloden Inclosure	1243 - <i>Sloudon</i> . OE bog hill'. Above and edged by Latchmore Brook (Leech Pool or boggy pool).
South Baddesley	Parish and hamlet in Boldre. 1086 - <i>Bedeslel</i> ; 1167 - <i>Badeslea</i> ; 1212 <i>Badeslie</i> . OE. Bæddi's Wood/clearing; presumably settlement in ancient woodland.
Sway	1086 <i>Sueia</i> ; 1227 <i>Swela</i> ; 1248 <i>Sweye</i> . Possibly OE 'track', or OE 'sow enclosure'.
Tatchbury	903 <i>tachburi</i> ; 1086 <i>Taceberie</i> ; 1227 <i>Tachebir</i> . Second element OE <i>byrig</i> - fort; first unclear. Could be personal name (<i>Tacca</i>), or possibly OE 'roof/thatch'.
Walhampton	Manor in Boldre. 1086 <i>Wolnetune</i> ; 12thC <i>Wothampton</i> ; 1262 <i>Welhamton</i> . Possibly 'estate' (<i>Hamton</i>) by a 'wall' or 'ridge/baulk'.
Warborne	Hamlet in Boldre. 12thC <i>Wereburne</i> , 13thC. <i>Wereborne</i> . Probably OE 'stream with weirs or fish traps'.
Wellow	7thC (in 12thC manuscript) <i>welewe</i> ; & 9thC (11thC manuscript); 1086 <i>Weluwe</i> (referring to manor). Appears to be an old name for the river Blackwater. Possibly from Welsh adjective 'pale blue/colour of fermenting milk'. DB implies one manor; there are two medieval parishes.

Wigley	1189 <i>Wigelega</i> ; 1256 <i>Wygele</i> . OE 'beetle wood/clearing'.
Winsor	1167 <i>Windesore</i> ; 1222 <i>Windlesore</i> ; 1272 <i>Windlesovere</i> . Possibly relating to pulling vehicles up muddy slopes (Gelling).
Wood Green	Known from mid 17thC. Green is a common name for a secondary settlement; the wood is Godshill Enclosure.

10 APPENDIX 2: DETAILS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND FINDSPOTS ASSIGNED TO CHARACTERISATION THEMES

The individual components listed in the SMRs *et al.* reflect various social and economic activities (such as burial, resource exploitation) which in turn reflect a series of themes. The combination of activities and themes, plus the physical nature of the countryside contribute to the derivation of historic landscape areas and hence character. Nine themes were identified, and these are set out below, with a very general comment on components and information. As far as possible all sites / findspots listed on the Sites and Monuments Records were assigned to a theme.

Theme	Activities/component (Physical remains identified and listed on Sites and Monuments record)	Other types of evidence
1 Impact on environment	None specific, but pollen record, plus stray artefact finds	clearance & erosion - environmental evidence also inferred from finds of axes (not illustrated)
2 Subsistence and resource exploitation	Stray finds or collections of implements (worked flints, stone axes)	Hunting & gathering inferred from presence of people in Palaeolithic and Mesolithic - as shown by finds of flint tools (not illustrated)
3 Landholding and allotment	Boundaries, markers, territory, field patterns,	Documentary evidence for land use, Commoning, Inclosures etc.
4 Community and population	Settlements Social hierarchy (inferred) Political & administrative	Maps, documentary sources, buildings
5 Trade and industry (intensification of production)	rural substance related: extraction processing & production	Physical scars on landscape not listed in SMRs
6 Transport	Roads, rail, & shipping rivers (inferred)	Documentary sources
7 Ideology	Funerary/Ceremonial/Worship (Barrows, churches, chapels, cult objects)	Documentary sources
8 Social and aesthetic	Landscape design, sport, recreation, cultural (arts)	Documentary sources
9 Military / defensive	Airfields, pillboxes, hillforts etc	Documentary sources

A number of the SMR classifications were initially designated as Findspots. Although many of these have since been assigned to a theme they were not illustrated on theme maps. Also Themes 1 and 2 have not had a Theme map produced as few of the activities which represent these themes have left physical remains which have been recorded on the SMR.

11 APPENDIX 3: NATIONAL AND LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

There are a number of published frameworks for archaeology, and two in particular are relevant to the New Forest: *Exploring our past* (English Heritage 1991; hereafter EoP) and *Archaeology in Hampshire: a Framework for the Future* (Hinton and Hughes (eds) 1996, for Hampshire County Council). In addition further research for Hampshire County Council on the historic rural settlement in the New Forest District has highlighted both areas of archaeological potential within some villages, and has suggested potential survey topics which would be useful at a detailed parish or village scale (Edwards 1996). The present survey can also add to suggestions already in published frameworks, having looked in a more detailed, if not comprehensive way, at the archaeological and historical components of the New Forest.

Nationally defined priorities - *Exploring our past*

The purpose of this document was to set down academic priorities at a national and regional level, taking into account the views of special interest groups, the national Period Societies and others. Three themes were defined: the study of transitions, of landscapes and of themes related to sites (page 35). The last was subdivided into urban themes, buildings research, church archaeology, industrial archaeology, patterns of industry and craftsmanship.

Of particular relevance to the New Forest are the following themes set out under the heading of 'Processes of change':

- Hunter-gatherers, Lower Palaeolithic to post-glacial;
- Hunter gatherers into farmers
- Change and diversification of farming communities
- Briton into Roman
- The early medieval period
- Transition from medieval to post medieval.

Under the heading 'Landscapes' EoP cites as important the 'classification of undated relict features (for example field systems) and the examination of medieval rural settlements. In considering specific survey and identification projects, there is reference to the New Forest on page 46, stressing the importance of heathlands, medieval deer parks and ancient woodland, where "islands of prehistoric and Roman earthworks survive amongst modern and relict medieval cultivation".

Archaeology in Hampshire: frameworks for the future

This volume sets out a series of period-based recommendations, which take into account to at least some extent the national views expressed in EoP. It is interesting to note that even though this volume was published in 1996, the comments of the New Forest seem based on a slim dataset. There is an under appreciation of the level of information already available from the County SMR alone, leaving aside information published recently by the active local groups and other sources (for example, the distribution map of Neolithic sites and findspots shows one spot for the Open Forest; 8-10 for the Avon Valley and coast. There are, however, 41 references in the SMR alone). Nevertheless the general conclusions for the New Forest hold.

There are a number of specific references to the New Forest. For the Palaeolithic Wymer (page 4) makes reference to the need for watching briefs in the Avon Valley during gravel extraction, and highlights the

need to examine surface artefacts distributions, which applies to the Open Forest. In terms of environmental matters, Allen recommends in particular investigation of the nature of, and clearance in, Mesolithic woodland, and the exploration of Mesolithic sites.

Gardiner (page 11) recommends for the Neolithic specifically 'the identification and mapping of surface assemblages within the forest [meaning there the Open Forest within the perambulation] should be a priority as should the obtaining of environmental sequences'. She also recommends the examination of offshore deposits for *in situ* and redeposited material; and that exposed shorelines should be a priority.

In terms of the Bronze Age, the New Forest falls within Tomalin's Mother zone la landscape character zone (page 13) and he suggests that we should be seeking to conserve a representative array of field monuments and their settings which serve to give the landscape of our region its own distinctive character. He views the New Forest as a benign daughter of the Mother zone, and states that "a low level of curatorial intervention may suffice although regular and formalised links with the Forestry Commission will need to be developed". Tomalin is the only one to take a landscape approach, and this is reflected in his final recommendations which are equally applicable to the rest of the archaeological and historical periods. His recommendations are set out on page 24, and amongst them are:

- the identification and quantification of the array of archaeological monuments within each mother zone
- the determination of the archaeological health of each mother zone (proportions of well preserved monuments)
- new field survey to identify the concealed archaeological dimensions, including palaeo-environmental information
- the improvement and promotion of a higher level of public access and enjoyment of field monuments.

To a large extent some of these recommendations are already in hand (by such surveys as this one, by the work of local groups and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and by English Heritage and the County and District Councils), but Tomalin's comments highlight the need for a concerted and co-ordinated approach.

In his survey of the Iron Age, Professor Cunliffe sets out a broad philosophy for more survey off the chalklands and selective small scale excavations (like those already being undertaken by the New Forest section of the Hampshire Field Club). Professor Fulford highlights the lack of information on the tertiary lowlands of the Hampshire Basin, and specifically highlights the New Forest (the subject of his doctoral thesis) as an important area, stressing the need for care in woodland management (such as avoiding replanting on known sites). He picks out the following research questions . was the dispersed nature of the New Forest industry reflected in the settlement pattern; to what extent was pottery production the principal specialisation of the communities; did agriculture have a role to play; was forestry also important in the Roman period? He then cites as a priority the need to investigate further patterns of settlement in the Avon Valley, which he observes gives the impression of having served as some sort of boundary through the Roman period, possibly perpetuating Iron Age tribal divisions". Fulford also stresses the need for the publication of backlog sites (*cf* New Forest pottery kiln excavations).

In describing forests as 'ambivalent places in the medieval mind' . the excitement and entertainment of the chase or the dark world of outlaws and thieves on the margins of society . Hinton perhaps touches on an ambivalent sentiment current today in the perception of the present new Forest landscape . a place of ponies and pasture suitable for leisure and recreation, or a working environment which is struggling to survive. However, he goes on to stress the importance of examining land holding patterns and the influence of the church and other great landowners in the development of landscape.

Historic Rural Settlement in the New Forest District

This volume sets out a database of information on villages, including the principal documentary sources, SMR information and buildings, and makes recommendations for areas of archaeological potential, based on the historic core, plus other archaeological find spots. The survey examined 31 settlements, focusing on

the main parish villages, but it could be extended to all settlements. One comment is on the difficult nature of the New Forest settlement pattern for studies of this type; as many settlements are large and highly dispersed they cannot easily be surveyed rapidly and coherently, and further work is therefore recommended, in particular detailed parish surveys for Boldre, Bramshaw and Minstead.

Outcome

Taking all this into account, and adding in the data collated in this archaeological and historic landscape assessment survey, what do we end up with? Certain archaeological and historical themes seem to be recurrent, and to merit further or continuing exploration, through structured or opportunistic means. Such exploration is pertinent to furthering our understanding of the development of the present landscape, and is also relevant to the management of the area.