

Historic Environment Audit
of the
Medina Valley Estuary
Isle of Wight



Produced by the
Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service,
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An Historic Environment Audit of the Medina Valley Estuary

1.0 Background to the Medina Estuary Historic Environment Audit

The River Medina runs northwards from its source near Chale through the rural landscape in the heart of the Isle of Wight until it reaches the County Town of Newport, from where it flows north to Cowes and drains into the Solent. For the 6.8km between Newport Harbour and the Solent at Cowes, the Medina river becomes a tidal estuary lying within a wide shallow valley with pasture and arable farmland, woodland and saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats which are protected by local, national and international environmental designations to protect the rare and important flora, fauna and habitats.

The middle and upper sections of the Medina Estuary are surrounded by agricultural land, with a network of fields, hedges and woodland on both sides. In contrast the modern urban centres of Cowes (East and West) lie at the mouth of the estuary and the town of Newport lies at the estuaries' tidal limit to the south. Consequently, the estuary is surrounded by docks, boatyards, marinas and industrial land uses at both extremities, despite its predominantly rural nature. Commercial and economic use of the estuary includes commercial shipping, ferry services, marine services, commercial fishing; and tourism

1.1 The geological context: The Geology of the River Medina

Contributed by Dr Martin C. Munt, Curator of Geology, Isle of Wight Council

The underlying geology of the Isle of Wight directly influences the current landscape form as well as the flora and fauna and it is likely that it influenced the patterns of human activity in the past.

Geologically the Island is divided into two parts by the central chalk ridge which runs east to west across the Island. South of the ridge the geology is cretaceous and to the north lie Lower Tertiary deposits. The Medina Estuary flows through a gap in the chalk ridge and through the underlying Oligocene clays which give rise to very heavy soils and which have been used for brick, pottery and tile making in the past.

Structural Geology

The tidal section of the River Medina cuts through strata belonging to the Late Eocene to Early Oligocene (Palaeogene) Solent Group. Between Cowes and Dodnor the rocks dip at a low angle towards the south. South of Dodnor the dip is low angle to the north, therefore we can infer the axis of a shallow syncline under Parkhurst Forest. The dip becomes vertical under central Newport, where the entire Palaeogene sequence is upturned against the northern limb of the Purbeck-Wight monocline as it drapes across east-west trending Variscan thrust faults. Variscan thrust faults have resulted in a series of blocks in pre-late Jurassic strata, some of which extend up into the Palaeogene. North-south trending faulting during the Neogene is now picked-out by the courses of northward flowing rivers such as the Medina. The banks of the Medina therefore mark-out the edges of adjacent displaced fault blocks.

Concealed Strata

The late Palaeogene Solent Group overlies earlier Palaeogene Barton, Bracklesham, Thames and Lambeth Groups. These lay unconformably on the eroded surface of Late Cretaceous Chalk. The Chalk comes to the surface just south of Newport at Shide as part of the central line of east-west aligned hills, which are the surface expression of the Purbeck-Wight monocline. Below the Chalk is an abridged sequence of Upper Greensand, Gault and Lower Greensand, overlying Wealden and Jurassic rocks. Below these, Early Mesozoic strata overlie Palaeozoic rocks to a known depth of c. 2km below the ground.

Exposed Solid Geology

The tidal section of the River Medina cuts through strata belonging to the Late Eocene to Early Oligocene (Palaeogene) Solent Group. The oldest outcropping strata in the study area are parts of the Fishbourne Member (Headon Hill Formation, Solent Group), these and the overlying Seagrove Bay Member (Headon Hill Formation, Solent Group) underlay much of East Cowes. The Seagrove Bay Member comprises calcareous sandstones including ripple-marked flagstones. These can be seen on the shore at East Cowes and occasionally between Cowes and Gurnard. Parts of the Seagrove Bay Member and Fishbourne Member comprising muds with shell beds are intermittently exposed in the foreshore and in low cliffs just east of Gurnard Luck.

The succeeding Bembridge Limestone Formation (Solent Group) outcrops at approximately sea level along the Cowes seafront, but is obscured by sea walls and buildings. This 'freshwater' limestone was deposited at approximately the Eocene/Oligocene transition in an extensive lake system which covered much of the northern part of the Island. The characteristic creamy limestones include horizons rich in the moulds of large gastropod shells.

The overlying Bembridge Marls Member (Bouldnor Formation, Solent Group) comprises grey and colour-mottled muds with shell beds and thin intermittent limestone. It underlies much of Cowes and Gurnard, parts of east Cowes and then fringes the River Medina south to Werrar Farm. The Bembridge Marls Member was deposited in a lagoonal/ swamp complex with wide fluctuations in salinity.

Summary of Geological Succession

Solent Group

Bouldnor Formation

Hamstead Member
Bembridge Marls Member

Bembridge Limestone Formation

Headon Hill Formation

Seagrove Bay Member
Fishbourne Member

The overlying Hamstead Member (Bouldnor Formation, Solent Group) comprises grey, pale brown and occasionally colour-mottled muds with occasional shell beds. It

is the surface geology over much of the northern part of the Island. As with the Bembridge Marls Member, the Hamstead Member was deposited in a lagoonal/swamp complex with wide fluctuations in salinity.

Superficial Deposits

These comprise Plateau Gravels and alluvium. The former occupies the high ground stretching from Cowes to Northwood, Parkhurst Forest and between East Cowes and Whippingham. These gravels are linked with early Pleistocene river levels. They tend to comprise both matrix-support and clast-support angular to sub-angular flint gravels. Where there is matrix support this is often sticky clay derived from the underlying Solent Group. There are a number of records of cold-fauna Pleistocene mammal remains from the vicinity of Northwood. Alluvium comprises the muds, sands and gravels in the current course of the River Medina.

1.2 The Archaeological Background:

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

The Medina Estuary is one of the richest potential locations for surviving remains of the Island's Historic Environment because of its central role in the Island's settlement, communication and trading patterns over ½ a million years ago..

The Medina Estuary is a deep pre-existing river eroded valley which was flooded by sea level rise during the past 10,000 years. When the first human hunter gatherer groups visited areas of Britain during the warmer interglacial periods between ice ages in the Palaeolithic period (425,000 to 10,000 BC), the Medina Estuary was used by humans and animals alike as a transport corridor. As an additional focus for water, food and material resources, the estuary became an important location for these earliest remains which can help us understand the earliest human activities on the Isle of Wight. As well as evidence of human activities, the Medina Estuary contains rich palaeo-environmental deposits. These are layers of preserved organic material which can be analysed to reconstruct the Ice Age and prehistoric landscape and environment.

Over the remainder of the stone age prehistoric periods (Mesolithic to Neolithic – 10,000 to 2000BC) the hunter gatherer lifestyle which left so few archaeological remains, gave way to a more sedentary settled existence through the introduction of farming and the first permanent settlements. Here again, the Medina estuary was the focus of such activity, with well drained soils on the gravel terraces, wetland pasture for grazing animals and access to the resources of nearby woodland and the estuary and sea themselves, it would have provided prehistoric farmers with the ideal settlement areas. Gradually over these periods, sea level change and other

environmental processes caused the former Solent river to flood the land bridges between the Island, mainland Britain and Europe.

During the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods (2000BC to 43AD), the Island populations increased and the Islanders became heavily involved with the Atlantic trading routes of metalwork and luxury goods, the Medina would have served as a key navigable communication route. The recently discovered Bronze Age settlement at Newport and a hoard of Bronze Age axe heads and later finds from the estuary demonstrate this use.

The arrival of the Romans (43 to 410 AD) saw the reorganisation of the Island's landscape around at least 8 Roman Villas which acted as estate centres for farming and the use of the Island's natural resources. The Roman Empire's involvement with international and mainland trade may have caused the Medina, as a navigable river, to have been used as a route right to the heart of the Roman settlements at Newport and Carisbrooke. Numerous individual coin finds have been reported from the intertidal muds as well as imported Roman pottery.

The Medieval period saw the growth of towns at East and West Cowes and Newport, and documentary references to the medieval port of "Shamlord" shows that the Medina River was used for many industrial and commercial uses. There is evidence for tide mills on both east and west sides of the river and documentary evidence for further mills near Newport Quay.

One very important role of estuaries is as a prime location for prehistoric to modern industries and there is evidence from the Medina Estuary showing several salt making sites (called salterns) found in Cowes and further up river, oyster beds, at least seven brickworks, shipyards and dry docks, listed buildings and industrial structures around Newport Quay, even World War II shelters and the nationally important site of the early concrete works and limekilns

In particular, there are twenty known hulks (abandoned or scuttled ships/barges) identified from aerial photographs lying within the intertidal muds or buried by later reclamation works. These are a vivid and fragile link back to the Island's past maritime activities and include The Bee, a Cowes Ketch which played a vital role in national maritime history, and some need detailed recording before they are destroyed by tidal erosion.

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Past fieldwork visits to the Medina Valley have identified post alignments and groups of wooden features within the intertidal muds, as well as possible prehistoric features eroding out of the estuary edges. These still require scientific dating and recording, however, similar intertidal features recorded by the Wootton Quarr project to the east of the Island have been identified as fish traps, fish weirs and track ways and scientifically dated to Neolithic, Bronze Age and Saxon periods.

1.3 The legal and strategic context

In response to a House of Commons Select Committee Report on coastal planning, European Union (EU) directives and requirements of the Ports Authority, The Medina Estuary Management Plan was produced as an overall integrated management sustainable framework and was revised in 2000. The scientific and cultural importance, as well as the vulnerability and non renewable nature of the historic environment remains within the Estuary were recognised within this Plan and Objective HC2 states that the plan will promote survey, research and the integration of data to achieve a thorough understanding of the historical and archaeological interest of the estuary.

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Authorities are now required to produce suite of documents to make up a Local Development Framework which will replace the Unitary Development Plan. The Isle of Wight Local Development Framework will include Area Action Plans for specific targeted areas of the Island. This will include the Medina Valley Area Action Plan and this study is undertaken specifically to feed historic environment information into these documents in order to inform the future holistic management of estuary.

1.4 The dates of archaeological periods

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

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

2.0 The Historic Environment potential of the Medina Estuary:

There are four different historic environment types within the Medina Estuary valley:

- 1) The **land based** farmland and woodland making up the shallow valley sides;
- 2) The saltmarsh, intertidal mud flats and estuary edge at the land/water interface (**the intertidal zone**);
- 3) The **Marine zone** comprising the river bed and underwater zone;
- 4) The **Settlement zones** at the urban centres of Cowes and Newport at each end of the estuary.

The intertidal and marine zones are particularly important as the anaerobic environment preserves important organic archaeological and palaeo-environmental remains which do not survive on land.

However, before this project there has never been any systematic recording archaeological survey and subsequent synthetic assessment of the different elements of the historic environment within the Medina Estuary.

Before this project was started, it was impossible to understand the sequence of human activities within the Medina Valley which means that:

- historic environment information could not be fed into any of the major development or regeneration proposals;
- historic environment information could not be shared with the local community;
- potentially nationally important archaeological remains were being destroyed without record;
- accurate and cost effective programmes of mitigation works for historic environment remains could not be devised in relation to future development or regeneration projects.

The unrecorded information contained within these unknown sites was heavily threatened by destruction without record due to a number of factors:

- the tidal cycle of the estuary causes the erosion of banks and salt marshes. Examination of aerial photographs has shown approximate losses of between 5 and 17 metres since the 1960's.
- reclamation of foreshore areas has caused important archaeological deposits and remains to be covered and the knowledge of their existence to be forgotten;
- recent development proposals along the entire length of the Estuary may damage or destroy archaeological remains which we do not know about and which therefore cannot be protected through the Isle of Wight Council's Development Control Process.

2.1 Methodology

The methodology for an assessment of the historic environment for the entire Medina Estuary area was designed for the 15 year English Heritage funded Wootton-Quarr project carried out by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service. This assessment will include all four of the historic environment types and comprises four stages:

Stage 1: Audit of known surviving remains:

Documentary research undertaken from the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record and all sources held at the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service to synthesise all recorded historic environment information into the desk based section of the assessment report;

Stage 2: Audit of unknown remains by detailed archaeological recording surveys:

- i) land based - geophysical survey of the sloping valley sides;
- ii) intertidal – archaeological recording survey of saltmarsh and intertidal mud flats;
- iii) marine archaeology survey of river bed and underwater zone;

Stage 3: Provision of interpretative (dating and function) information:

A programme of archaeological scientific dating and analysis of a selection of remains identified by the audit in order to provide a secure understanding of the development of the historic landscape and environment of the Medina Valley since the last Ice Age. This will include a range of palaeo-environmental analyses, radiocarbon and dendrochronological dating where appropriate.

Stage 4: Updated report on the archaeological heritage of the Medina Valley:

- i) An overall description of the development of the historic landscape and environment of the Medina Valley with clearly identified zones of local, regional and national potential archaeological importance;
- ii) Recommendations for further community heritage projects;
- iii) Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage data made available for all future community, interpretation, environmental, development and regeneration projects by inclusion on the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record, the definitive database of historic environment remains.

3.0 Stage 1: Audit of known surviving remains

The audit was carried out by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service using all data held the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record at the data capture event dating to October 2005. This includes data from the Isle of Wight County Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.

The area of the Estuary included in this audit focuses on the tidal estuary between Newport Harbour to the Solent at Cowes, although additional information pertinent to the development and human use of the Estuary valley beyond Newport will be referred to when appropriate. The study area is shown on Map 1 and, for ease of consultation, the study area has been split in to a nine research units and the archaeological remains identified within the four historic environment types are described by period from earliest to latest, with all prehistoric periods grouped together for clarity.

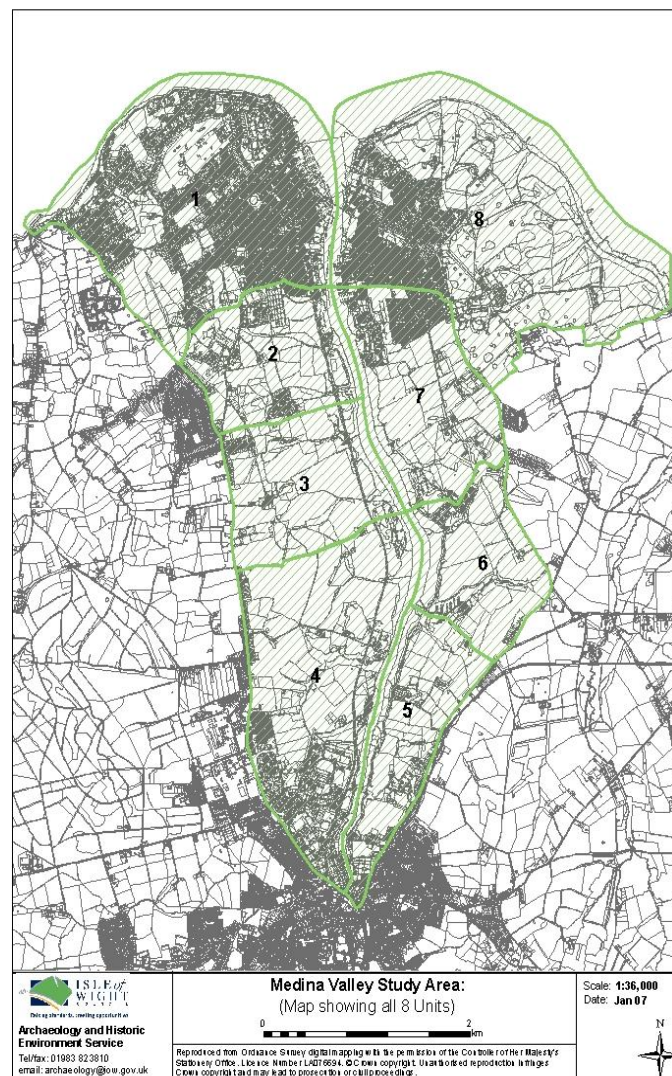


Figure 1: Medina Valley study area showing all 8 Research Units

3.1 Historic Environment Designations:

A number of national, regional and local legal designations are available to protect and manage the different types of historic environment remains in England. Details of the relevant designations currently within each research unit are described at the beginning of each section of this stage 1 audit. These designations comprise:

Conservation Areas:

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

Scheduled Monuments:

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

Listed Buildings:

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

Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Importance:

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

Historic Environment Record sites:

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

Areas of Archaeological Potential:

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

3.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation information:

Historic Landscape Characterisation is a technique developed by English Heritage and various County Archaeological Services to identify and describe historic components in the landscape. Based on a study of key elements in the landscape such as field patterns, woodland, downland, heathland and settlement, the technique identifies areas with similar characteristics which are then plotted onto a digital map base using GIS (Geographic Information System) software. This HLC data can then be used to produce maps covering many aspects of the historic landscape both at the present day and in the past, particularly with respect to field patterns and rural settlement land uses through time. The results of the Isle of Wight HLC Project have been incorporated in to each research unit of this study.

3.3 Research Unit 1: Gurnard and West Cowes

The boundaries to this unit start at the point that Gurnard Luck flows into the Solent at Gurnard Bay and follow Marsh Road, Lower Church Road and Cockleton Lane south until the crossroads with Nodes Road, Place Road and Pallance Lane. It then runs north along Place Road and turns east to run along Three Gates Road before meeting Newport Road at the Somerton roundabout and following Newport Road eastwards until its junction with Artic Road. The boundary then follows Artic Road across the roundabout and straight out into the centre of the River Medina.

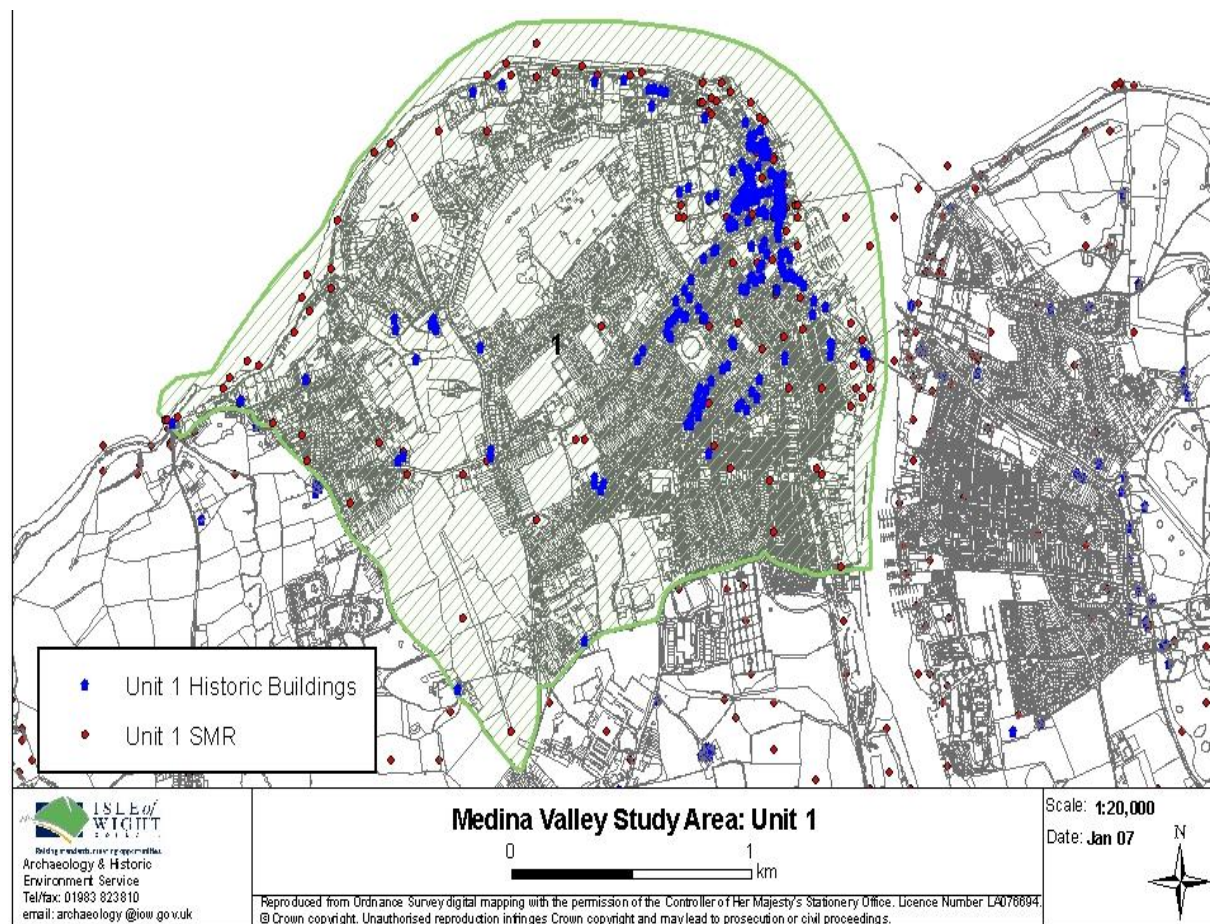


Figure 2: Research Unit 1

This unit includes the modern town of West Cowes which climbs from sea level to around 50m OD and is of economic importance to the Island as an industrial port and a major yachting centre and ferry port. The coastal frontage of Cowes consists of residential, commercial and port land uses, protected by a series of sea walls, much of which falls within a Conservation Area. The town is separated from East Cowes by the Medina Estuary

3.3.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 1:

This unit comprises the 17th century urban core of the town of West Cowes (1021) with areas of 18th century and 19th (1025) and 20th century (1026) residential expansion as well as more modern residential infill (945, 1027, 1028, 1031, 1032, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1042, 1043) and its schools (945, 1033 and 1047), recreational land (946, 1022, 1034 and 1035, woodland (299, 300, 1041), industrial areas (1044, 1045, 1046), marine industry (1051) and Parkland (1023).

The 19th century core of the seaside village of Gurnard (1053) with its Green (1077) and woodland (1076) is surrounded by 20th century residential infill (1029 and 1030).

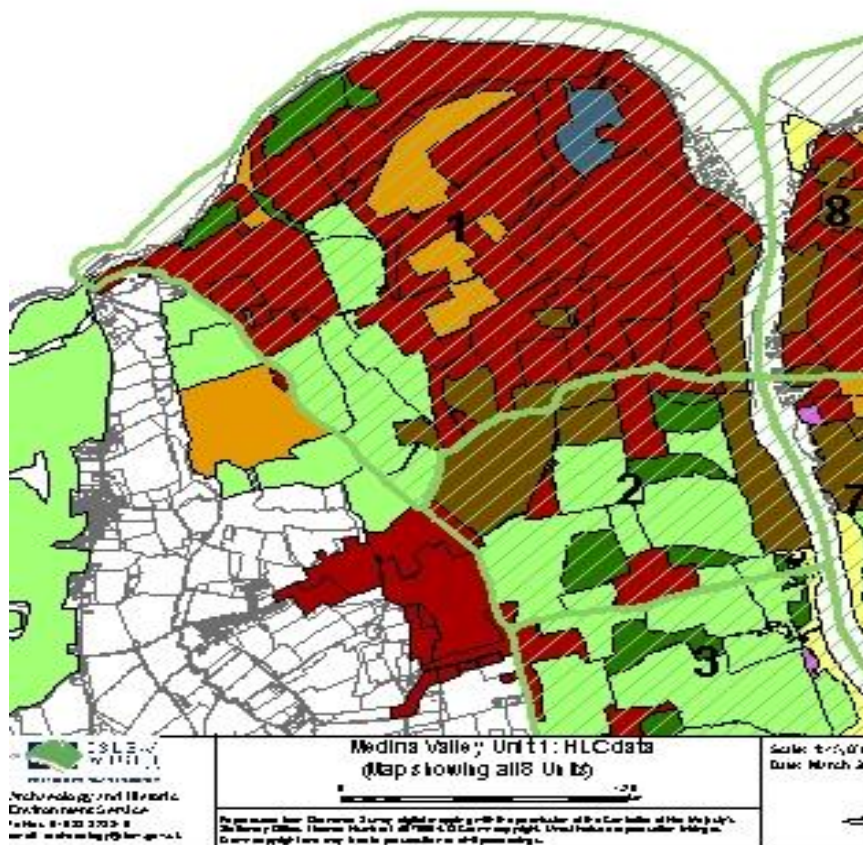


Figure 3: Research Unit 1 HLC data

The small area of field patterns situated to the south of Gurnard (940, 941, 942, 943 and 1075) show a combination of amalgamated fields, enclosed common/waste, late enclosed and re-organised fields.

3.3.2 Historic Environment Designations within Unit 1:

Cowes Conservation Area consists of three separate character areas. The Cowes Town Centre Character Area related to the general core of the 17th to 19th century town; Queen's Road Character Area is an area of substantial 19th century villas which grew up around the 16th century Cowes Castle, and the Northwood Park Character Area covers the remains of the 19th century Park laid out to complement the 1837 Northwood House. Map of Conservation Area needed

There are three **Areas of Archaeological Importance or Potential** within this unit. An Area of Nationally Important Archaeological Remains is designated around the area of the Nationally Important site of the 16th Century West Cowes Castle. An Area of High Archaeological Potential covers the Church of St Mary and its Churchyard and An Area of Archaeological Potential covering the historic core of Cowes.

There are a large number of **Listed Buildings** within this unit, these are discussed within the appropriate period discussion for this unit;

Northwood House is included on the **Local Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes** as 19th century landscape park complementing the Northwood House complex of buildings.

There are a large number of sites of archaeological and historic importance recorded on the **Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record (HER)** within this unit. These are listed below with each site given the HER reference number in brackets.

3.3.3 Audit of Historic Environment Remains in Unit 1:

Prehistoric:

The earliest human activity within Unit 1 is the Palaeolithic scraper found in 1924 on the beach at the foot of the cliffs between Cowes and Gurnard Bay (HER 609). A flint scatter including a prehistoric blade of probable Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date has been recorded south of Cockleton Farm (HER 4189).

Neolithic flint tools including a blade and a leaf shaped arrowhead were found in a field to the north of Cockleton Lane (HER 586), a Neolithic axe (HER 608) from Gurnard and another from Gurnard Bay (HER 1369), a flint tool from Gurnard Beach (HER 624), an arrowhead from St Faith's Road in Cowes (HER 615)

Two Bronze Age burial mounds have been identified from aerial photographs on the recreation ground at western edge of the current conurbation (HER 2264 and 2265).

Iron Age activity is confined to a single Iron Age stater (HER 1465) found on Gurnard Beach. The stater was American indicating a possible trading link between the pre-Roman Isle of Wight and areas in Europe.

Further general prehistoric dates can be assigned to the flint arrowhead found in the garden of the Painter's Arms in Cowes Town Centre (HER1373).

The prehistoric activity recorded shows two concentration of prehistoric activity around Gurnard Beach and around Cockleton Farm with the Bronze Age burial mounds located on the higher ground and further prehistoric activity dotted around the area that has now become the residential area of the modern town of Cowes.

Roman:

Roman activity focuses again on the area of Gurnard Bay, where one of the Island's Roman villas was built. The site was excavated in 1864 by E.J. Smith and a row of three small rooms, two with tessellated floors and a third with a raised fire place (HER 1483) was dated to between the 1st and 4th Centuries AD. The site was destroyed by coastal erosion and nothing remained when revisited in 1866.

The location of the villa at Gurnard Bay is an indication of the importance for the Romans of controlling maritime activity from the north of the Island. The villa may also have been the centre of an agricultural estate in the surrounding countryside.

Further Roman finds centre around the villa site with a Roman carinated bowl (HER 612), ceramic flue and roof tiles (HER 623, 1356, 1558 and 2373) as well as Bembridge limestone roof tiles (HER 1462) and Roman coins (HER 1317, 2148 and 2465) being recorded.

A single coin of Gordian III from Mill Hill Road (HER 613) is the only Roman find known from Cowes town itself, but the continuing activity around the Cockleton Lane area is evidenced by one Roman coin (HER 2013).

Medieval:

The land upon which the modern settlement of West Cowes stands was part of the medieval manor of Bowcombe, the principal manor of the Island which had a "parochia", or area of jurisdiction running from the north to the south coasts and including Carisbrooke as the central administration settlement.

There was no settlement around the modern settlement of Cowes town, although an estate called "West Shamlord" is identified as a holding of the Abbott of Beaulieu in the late thirteen century and this is likely to be the location for the medieval port referred to in the 14th Century, probably located around the site of White's foundry.

The principal settlement in the northern part of the Bowcombe parochia was at Northwood and is discussed in Unit 3 below.

This lack of concentrated activity around Cowes is shown by there being only one recorded find of medieval material within Unit one. This is the midden, or rubbish pit, containing medieval coarse wares and shell recorded in Gurnard (HER 3826).

Post medieval and modern:

It was during the post medieval period that the town of Cowes grew up. The erection of West Cowes Castle (HER 610), the coastal defence fort built by Henry VIII in 1539 shows that the defensive position of the Cowes environs was important to the King of England. It was part of a chain of castles, including Hurst and Yarmouth which was built to protect against the threat of French invasion. Remodelled in 1716 and adapted for the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1856-58 by Anthony Salvin with further modifications late 19th and 20th century, Cowes Castle is now the headquarters of the Royal Yacht Squadron and is designated as a Grade II * Listed Building. .

The development of West Cowes as a town seems to have begun in the early 17th century from the small settlements which had built up around the Castle and its growth is documented by Sir John Oglander in 1627 when he comments on the usefulness of the new market centre at Cowes and remembers when there were only three or four houses at Cowes. There are few survivals of the earliest buildings with the Vectis Tavern (HER 10464) probably being the oldest surviving building.

The growth of the town is shown in documents relating to the Stephens family who owned part of the land on which it developed. In 1631 there were 10 houses on the land and by 1660 there were 6 ancient messuages on Stephens' land at West Cowes and Northwood and 60 newly erected messuages in West Cowes. By 1691 there were 148 houses on Stephens' land and in 1725 there was a recorded population of 1250 people in the town.

In the seventeenth century, East Cowes was the more important settlement and its growth was based around the settlement of the new colonies in America. West Cowes is likely to have benefited from these maritime activities although it wasn't until the mid 18th century that West Cowes became a fashionable watering place after two bath houses were built, one near the castle (HER 2881) and one at Egypt Point. By the 18th Century West Cowes had become a thriving port and a good number of buildings within the Conservation Area date to this period or to the early 19th century. With the ship building industry of this period lying along the River Medina, it has suffered greatly from war time bombing and from continuous redevelopment, consequently archaeological records are poor for this area of research. There is no evidence of ship building in West Cowes until the mid 18th century when there are records of tradesmen working in or connected to shipbuilding including chandlers, blockmakers, rope makers, sailmakers, blacksmiths and coopers.

Sites of archaeological importance related to ship building in Cowes include White's Shipbuilding Yard (HER 2886) constructed from land which had previously been tidal marshland, partly used as salterns, in the early 19th century. The Thetis Yard with its Thetis Dry Dock (HER 3339) was opened in 1815 and the later Medina or West Cowes shipyard (HER 2885) including the construction of the Medina drydock in 1844 (HER 2882). The Cowes hammerhead Crane was constructed in 1911 for J Samuel White (HER 3773).

Another early shipyard is that of Ratsey's Yard (HER 3356) established on land formerly known as "part of Lacey's" which was leased to James Ratsey, a shipwright, in 1750. The Slipway and piers of the yacht building and fitting yard constructed by George Henry Marvin in 1885 at Shamblers (HER 3340) is shown on 1897 OS map

After Queen Victoria's purchase of Osborne House in 1845, the popularity of the town grew and public parks and street furniture associated with the Victorian town include the public park at Princes Green (HER 3587) which was presented to Cowes in 1863 to commemorate the wedding of the Prince of Wales with its fountain (HER 3321) dating to 1864, the Parade (HER 3693) with its Esplanade wall erected in 1897 in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Princes Esplanade (HER 3696) from Egypt Point to Gurnard which was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1926 with its shelter (HER 3720) and drinking fountains (HER 2935 and 3695).

In addition, there is the landscape park of Northwood House (HER 10626 and LB II*) and Park (HER 3586) which was developed by George Ward on the site of the former property of Bellevue from 1800. The park includes an ice house (HER 1460) dated to between 1866 and 1899, a stable (HER 14291) and Church Lodge (HER 10508 and LB II) which was the former lodge to Bellevue and Northwood Houses.

Cowes has an irregular street plan with most of its earliest settlement lying along the waterfront with the steep slope to the west being a less attractive area for initial settlement. The principal street is High Street which is parallel to the shoreline and it is believed that the line of the harbour wall built by John Stephens in the mid 17th century (HER 5776) lies along the High Street, so that the earliest quay may be in this area.

The historic core of the town is focussed along High Street and around the triangular area which formed by Market Hill and Sun Hill. Another Area of Archaeological Potential extends from the top of Shooters Hill in the south to Bath Road in the north including the triangular area and the east side of the High Street which lies upon the suggested reclaimed land. Evidence of 17th Century trades and industries or waterlogged remains of the early quay may survive here. HER 2438 is a 19th century brick bread oven and associated heating chamber recorded in the garden at rear of Tudor House in Bath Road, Cowes. Many buildings of archaeological importance lie on the High Street with the earliest probably the concealed timber framed building at the Vectis Tavern (HER 10464) which dates to between 1600 and 1700 and is designated as a grade II Listed Building. Four other buildings on the High Street date to between 1700 and 1800: Numbers 28 (HER 19451), 127 (HER 10452 and LBII), 33 to 37 (HER 10462) and 41 to 41a (HER 10466 and LBII), as did the former Three Crowns building at No 45 (HER 10461) until it was partially demolished despite being designated as a grade II Listed Building. Number 38 (HER 10467) is dated slightly later between 1750 and 1850 and 31 others date to the 19th century including the Anchor (HER 10453 and LBII) and The Fountain (HER 10471) public houses and numbers 20 (HER 10475), 28 (HER 10450), 31 (HER 10463), 39 (HER 10473 and LBII), 40 (HER 10472 and LBII), 46 (HER 10468 and LBII), 47 (HER 11087), 48-49 (HER 11088), 51-2 (HER 11089), 53-54 (HER 10469), 61 (HER 10458 and LBII), 62 (HER 10454 and LBII), 63 -63a (HER 10459), 68 (HER 10456), 71 (HER 10460), 72 (HER 10455), 83 (HER 10566 and LB II), 84 (HER 10565 and LB II), 88 (HER 10562 and LB II*), 92 (HER 10457 and LBII), 93 (HER 10465), 94 (HER 10565 and LB II), 105 (HER 11090), 107 (HER 11091), 112 (HER 10478), 113 (HER 10474), 117 (HER 10567 and LB II), 116 and 177 (HER 10470 and LBII) and 129-130 (HER 10477 and LBII), whilst numbers 95-96 (HER 10476 and LBII) dates to the first decade of the 20th Century.

To the south and south-west of the town there are rows of terraced houses such as Thetis and Pelham Roads which were built in the 19th century for workers from White's Yard.

First and Second World War sites of importance recorded on the HER include the anti-aircraft batteries at Egypt Point (HER 4010) opened in 1914 to cover the new anti submarine net laid across the mouth of the Solent and (HER 3104) dated to 1917, and other gun emplacement positions (HER 3254), a now demolished air raid shelter in Victoria Road (HER 3744), Searchlight battery (HER 3972) dating to 1941 and the war memorial (HER 5334).

The remains of the Newport to Cowes Branch Railway (HER 536) which was operational from 1862 to 1966 include the terminus and station which stood near the junction of Terminus Road, Railway Street and Carvel Lane. Mill Hill (HER 5301) and Cowes (HER 5302) Railway Stations were both closed in 1966 and the Granville Road Bridge (HER 5419) and Cowes Tunnel (HER 5420) are also part of the town's archaeological heritage.

Post medieval industrial sites include the Medina Ropeworks (HER 2689). Founded as Bannisters Ropeworks around 1790, the business moved to the site on Mill Hill Road around 1820. From the frontage on Mill Hill Road the works extended southwards, parallel to York Street and Pelham Road and passing under Bridge Road, a distance of about 1000 feet. The premises were altered several times as a result of fires but eventually there were two main ropeworks, together with a small walk for the hand spinning of special purpose rope. The firm was eventually taken over by J.S. White & Co. Ltd. in 1956. Another ropeworks is known to have been located in Queen's Road (HER 3721) A Sailmakers warehouse dating to between 1780 and 1830 is at 42 Medina Road (HER 11073)

Other post medieval industries represented in West Cowes include the cross Solent and Medina ferries. The floating bridge ferry (HER 982) which crosses the Medina between East and West Cowes and is relatively modern having been built in the 1970's as a replica replacement. The first steam floating bridge went into service in 1859. Prior to this the ferry (HER 2657) was winched across from Ferry Boat Quay (just south of Trinity Wharf) to the present site at West Cowes. The "Horse Ferry" (HER 2887) which was replaced by the floating bridge is shown on Andrew's map of 1769. Fountain Quay (HER 3200) was a stone quay built in 1823 extending 56 feet from the High Street out to sea to provide a landing place for Steam ferries and had cellars beneath to store coal to fuel the steamers. The Fountain Pier was built beyond the quay in 1841. In addition the hovercraft terminal (HER 3211) is also recorded in Medina Road. The Parade slipway (HER 3690) and gate piers and slipway of the Royal Yacht Squadron (HER 3691) are also of archaeological interest.

Evidence of other industries includes a malthouse at 89 High Street (HER 3722) consisting of a 17th century or earlier timber frame encased in red brick of late 18th or early 19th centuries. At least two icehouses are known from documentary references at Castle Hill in 1859 and 1863 (HER 3008) and a windmill (HER 3896) shown as a tower mill with four common sails. Brickworks were located at Gurnard (Elim brickworks HER 4049), those in Place Road (HER 4108) and the Egypt Hill brickworks (HER 4148). The reservoir (HER 5333) also survives.

Other post medieval sites of archaeological interest include the Victoria Pier (HER 2693) which was built between 1893 and 1902 by the West Cowes Local Board with a pavilion built by 1904 the outbreak of the second world war, when the pier was taken over by the Royal Navy and damaged and was dismantled in 1961. The Miniature Rifle range (HER 2781) is shown in the 1908 OS map.

The site of the gasworks (HER 2883) is shown on the 1866 OS map. A Coast Light was erected at Egypt Point in 1897 (HER 2678) and only dismantled in 1989. A Custom House was established in 1575 in East Cowes and was moved to West Cowes

in 1839 (HER 2944), whilst a later Custom House is visible on the 1863 OS map (HER 2884)

Cowes became an ecclesiastical parish in 1894 when it was taken out of the parish of Northwood. St Mary's church (HER 616 and 10511 and LB II*) was built in 1867 on the site of an earlier church erected in 1675 and the area around it is designated as an Area of High Archaeological Potential as the 18th century monuments could provide important social history of the town as it developed and there is a high likelihood of the earlier remains which could provide important demographic information. HER 2668 - Church of the Holy Trinity (HER 2668) in Queens Road was built in 1832 by architect Benjamin Bramble and was enlarged by addition of a chancel in 1862.

Other buildings of religious interest include the Methodist Chapels at St Mary's Road (4246) (Free Wesleyan) shown on the 1st edition OS map, but used as an Infant School on the 2nd edition, at Market Hill (HER 4249) (primitive), at Mill Hill Road (HER 4297) at Worsley Road (HER 4348) (Primitive), at Birmingham Road (HER 4350) (Wesleyan) dating to 1901 and at Cross Street (HER 4247) and Union Street (HER 4248), the chapel in Beckford Road (4298) is now the public library and a Baptist Chapel in Victoria Road (HER 4349), as well as St Faith's Church (HER 4465).

Market Hill contains some buildings of historical interest: 11 and 12 (HER 11101) date to 1750-1800, 15-16 (HER 10522 and LBII) and Claremont House (HER 10523 and LBII) both date to 1780-1820, whilst 1-5 Wards Cottages (HER 10521 and LBII) date to between 1820 and 186.

The long tradition of farming activities within the rural landscape surrounding the town of West Cowes is evident from the rural buildings of historic importance within this unit. Cockleton Farmhouse (HER 10438) dates to between 1780 and 1840, whilst Broadfields Farmhouse on Park Road (HER 11064) and its outhouse (HER 11065) date to 1750 to 1850. The Farmhouse at Dottens Farm on Baring Road (HER 11141 and LB II) dates to between 1700-1750 with its barn (HER 11142 and LB II), outhouse (HER 11143), cartshed (HER 11144) and stable (HER 11145) of similar dates. The earliest complex of rural buildings within this unit is Debourne Manor on Baring Road (HER 10484) which dates to between 1650 and 1700, with its barn (HER 10485) dating to 1600-1700 and slightly later shed (HER 10486) and stables (HER 10487).

Other buildings of designated historic importance within this unit are listed in the table below in alphabetical order of street name:

Street	House number or name	Date	HER number	Listed?
Albert Street	11,13, 15	1820-1860	HER 11006	-
Albert Street	17	1820-1860	HER 11007	-
Albert Street	20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32	1820-1860	HER 11008	-
Albert Street	34-40	1800-1860	HER 11009	-
Albert Street	42 and 44	1820-1860	HER 11010	-
Albert Street	52 and 54	1820-1860	HER 11011	-
Albert Street	56 and 58	1800-1860	HER 11012	-
Bars Hill	1-2 July Cottages	1700-1800	HER 10541	LB II
Bars Hill	Glen Rosa	1800-1860	HER 11115	-
Bath Road	3	1820-1860	HER 10494	-
Bath Road	4	1820-1860	HER 10496	-
Bath Road	5-6	1820-1860	HER 10495	LBII
Bath Road	9	1820-1860	HER 10497	LBII
Bath Road	Exmouth House	1820-1860	HER 10498	LB II
Bath Road	Clarence House	1820-1860	HER 10499	LB II
Bath Road	Copper Kettle	1820-1860	HER 10491	LB II
Bath Road	Prince's Building	1840-1900	HER 10492	-
Bath Road	Bars Hill	1820-1860	HER 10493	LB II
Bath Road	10-11	1820-1860	HER 10488	LB II
Bath Road	17-19	1700-1800	HER 10490	-
Bath Road	31	1800-1850	HER 10489	-
Bellevue Road	15	-	HER 10999	-
Bellevue Road	34-6	-	HER 11000	-
Bellevue Road	35-7	-	HER 11001	-
Bellevue Road	41-3	-	HER 11002	-
Bellevue Road	69A	-	HER 11003	-
Bellevue Road	96-8	-	HER 11004	-
Bellevue Road	100-102	-	HER 11005	-
Birmingham Road	1	1800-1900	HER 10513	-
Birmingham Road	5	1800-1850	HER 10514	-
Birmingham Road	9	1600-1700	HER 10512	LB II*
Birmingham Road	43	1752	HER 10564	LB II
Birmingham Road	Medina Lodge	1830-1870	HER 10509	LB II
Castle Road	2-6	1800-1860	HER 10502	LB II
Castle Road	3, 5 and 7	1750-1800	HER 11097	-
Castle Road	8-10	1820-1860	HER 10500	LB II
Castle Road	9	1800-1850	HER 10504	LB II
Castle Road	11	1820-1860	HER 10501	LB II
Castle Road	12	1780-1840	HER 11098	-
Castle Road	16	1780-1840	HER 11099	-
Castle Road	18-20	1780-1860	HER 11100	-
Castle Road	22-24	1800-1850	HER 10503	LB II
Cross Street	23-25	1800-1850	HER 10505	-
Cross Street	37-41	1800-1850	HER 10506	-
Cross Street	2 and 4	1780-1840	HER 11094	-
Cross Street	24, 26, 28, 30, 32	1800-1860	HER 11095	-
Denmark Road	School	1840-1880	HER 14155	-
Fellows Road	1-3	1800-1860	HER 11013	-
Fellows Road	11-13	1820-1860	HER 11014	-
Fellows Road	37, 39 and 41		HER 11015	-
Fellows Road	38		HER 11016	-

Street	House number or name	Date	HER number	Listed?
Fellows Road	44-56		HER 11017	-
Fellows Road	65, 67, 69	1800-1862	HER 11018	-
Fellows Road	68		HER 11019	-
Fellows Road	71		HER 11020	-
Fellows Road	87		HER 11021	-
Fellows Road	89, 91 and 93	1858	HER 11022	-
Grove Road	49		HER 11026	-
Medina Road	7-11	Early 19 th century	HER 14211	LB II
Medina Road	The Bell Inn	1750-1800	HER 11140	LB II
Mill Hill Road	147	1780-1840	HER 11036	-
Mill Hill Road	Duke of York pub	Early 19 th century	HER 14288	LB II
Newport Road	10 and 12	1750-1850	HER 11085	-
Newport Road				
Park Road	10	1770-1840	HER 11066	-
Park Road	12-14	1800-1860	HER 11067	-
Park Road	28, 30, 32, 34	1800-1840	HER 11068	-
Park Road	64	1700-1799	HER 11069	-
Park Road	92-4	1852	HER 11070	-
Park Road	182-184	1800-1840	HER 11071	-
Park Road	198	1780-1850	HER 11072	-
Park Road	Broadfields Farmhouse	1750-1850	HER 11064	-
Park Road	Outhouse at Broadfields Farm	1750-1850	HER 11065	-
Princes Street	Ivy Dene	1820-1860	HER 11023	--
Princes Street	2,3, 4	1820-1860	HER 11024	--
Princes Street	6-7	1820-1860	HER 11025	--
Queens Road	Belmore House	1780-1820	HER 11111	LB II
Queens Road	Marina	1800-1830	HER 11112	LB II
Queens Road	9	mid 19 th Century	HER 14207	LBII
Queens Road	Egypt House	1880	HER 14208	LB II
Queens Road	The Boathouse	Post med	HER 14215	-
Queens Road	15 and 17	mid 19 th Century	HER 14216	LB II
Shooters Hill;	14-15	1800-1850	HER 10529	LB II
Shooters Hill	16-17	1750-1800	HER 10530	-
Shooters Hill	11	1880-1900	HER 10531	-
St Andrews Road	32 and 33	1800-1860	HER 11082	-
St Andrews Road	34-35	1820-1860	HER 11083	-
St Andrews Road	48 and 50	1820-1860	HER 11084	-
St Marys Road	Former fire station	1800-1900	HER 10507	-
St Marys Road	22	1820-1860	HER 11074	-
St Marys Road	24-32	1820-1860	HER 11075	-
St Marys Road	45, 47, 49	1820-1860	HER 11076	-
St Marys Road	54	1820-1860	HER 11077	-
St Marys Road	56, 58, 60	1820-1860	HER 11078	-
St Marys Road	65	1842	HER 11079	--
St Marys Road	67 and 71	1820-1860	HER 11080	-
St Marys Road	86	1820-1860	HER 11081	-
Sun Hill	2	1850-1900	HER 11105	--
Sun Hill	4 and 6	1730-1760	HER 10543	LB II
Sun Hill	Ivy House	1700-1800	HER 10532	LB II*
Sun Hill	19 and 21	1800-1850	HER 11106	-
Sun Hill	23	1800-1840	HER 11107	-
Sun Hill	22, 24 and 26	1800-1850	HER 11108	-
Sun Hill	29 and 31	1800-1860	HER 10542	-

Street	House number or name	Date	HER number	Listed?
Sun Hill	32	1830-1870	HER 10515	LBII
Sun Hill	33	1800-1840	HER 10520	-
Sun Hill	34	1800-1840	HER 10517	LBII
Sun Hill	36	1820- 1860	HER 19563	LB II
Sun Hill	Grapes Hotel	1800-1850	HER 10519	-
Sun Hill	37 and 39	1820-1860	HER 10518	-
Sun Hill	43	1780-1840	HER 11109	-
Sun Hill	45	1800-1860	HER 11110	-
Sun Hill	47	1780-1850	HER 10533	-
Terminus Road	36-38	1840-1890	HER 10525	-
Terminus Road	1-3 Reeds Cottages	1800-1860	HER 10526	-
Terminus Road	Northwood Place	1848	HER 10527	-
Terminus Road	16 and 18	1800-1860	HER 11103	-
Terminus Road	28, 30, 32	1780-1840	HER 11104	-
Terminus Road	44	1780-1840	HER 11102	-
The Parade	Slipway Cottage and Townsend House	Early 19 th Century	HER 14210	LB II
Three Gates Road	1-3	1854	HER 10991	-
Trinity Church Lane	The Studio	1800-1840	HER 11113	-
Trinity Church Lane	Stanhope Cottage	1800-1860	HER 11114	-
Union Road	1	1750-1850	HER 10537	-
Union Road	5 and 7	1750-1800	HER 10539	LB II
Union Road	8	1800-1860	HER 10535	-
Union Road	9	1820-1860	HER 10540	-
Union Road	10	1820-1860	HER 10569	-
Union Road	12	1820-1860	HER 10570	-
Union Road	19	1820-1860	HER 10536	LB II
Union Road	21 and 23	1800-1850	HER 10538	LB II
Union Road	22	1780-1840	HER 11092	-
Union Road	25	1846	HER 11093	--
Victoria Parade	Harbour House	Early 19 th Century	HER 14209	LB II
Victoria Road	5	1800-1862	HER 11027	-
Victoria Road	17	1800-1870	HER 11028	-
Victoria Road	35	1800-1840	HER 11029	--
Victoria Road	37, 39	1780-1840	HER 11030	-
Victoria Road	76	1800-1862	HER 11031	-
Victoria Road	78	1800-1862	HER 11032	-
Victoria Road	80	1800-1862	HER 11033	-
Victoria Road	108-110	1800-1860	HER 11034	-
Victoria Road	Royal Standard	1800-1862	HER 11035	-
Watch House Lane	The Union pub	1820-1860	HER 10544	-
Watch House Lane	The Watch House	1750-1820	HER 10534	-
West Hill Road	Library	1820-1880	HER 10528	-
Wolsey Road	Stable	1750-1800	HER 11138	-
Wolsey Road	Gurnard Stores	1820-1870	HER 11139	-
Woodvale Road	Woodvale House	1800-1860	HER 11124	-
Woodvale Road	The Stables	1800-1860	HER 11125	-
Woodvale Road	Kennels	1840-1900	HER 11126	-

3.4 Unit 2 – Shamblers Copse to Medham Lane:

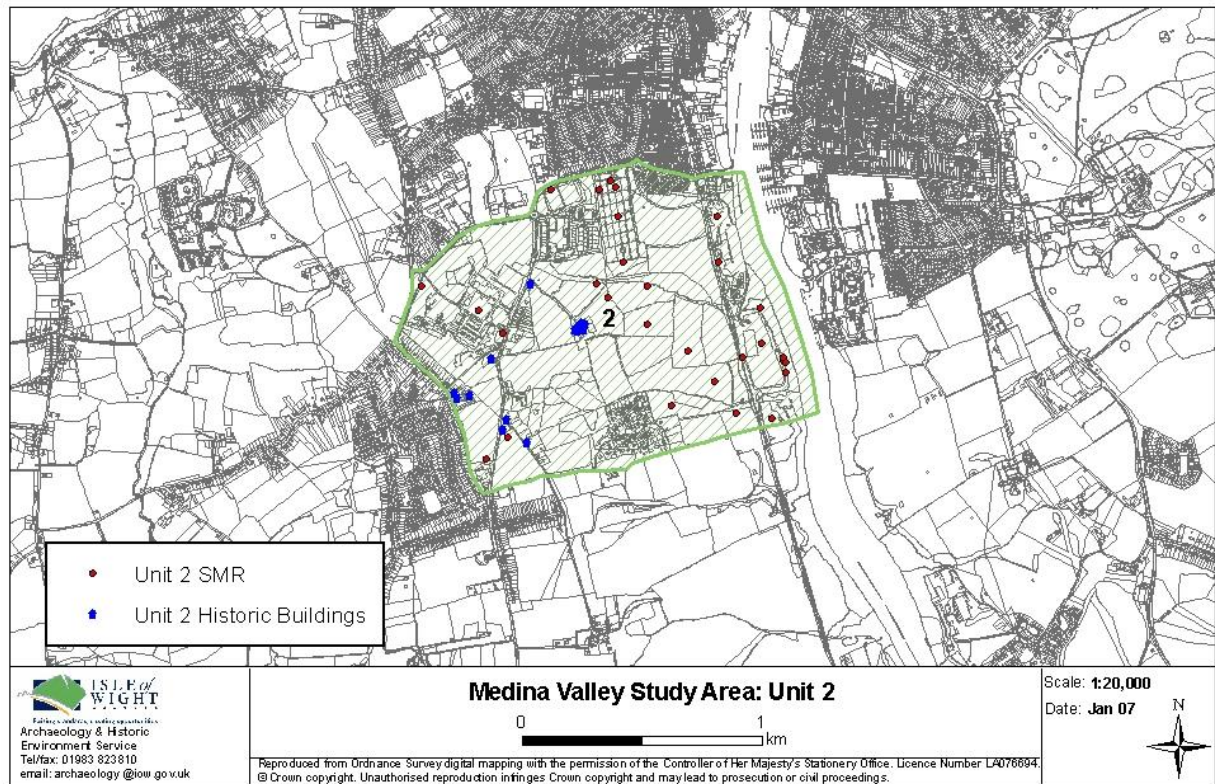


Figure 4: Research Unit 2

The boundaries of this unit start at the road junction between Newport Road and Medham Lane in the south west corner and follows the road and then field boundaries to the east until the boundary reaches the centre of the river which it follows north until it draws level with the line of Artic Road and then turns west to follow the line of Arctic Road to its junction with Newport Road at the Northwood cemetery.

The boundary then follows Newport Road southwards until it turns west down Three Gates, turns south along Place Road and then along Nodes Road until it meets Newport and Medham Lane.

3.4.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 2:

This unit comprises a small amount of residential scatter to the east of Northwood (1061), a cemetery (1018) and industrial uses to the south of Cowes (944, 1019, 1020, 1058) as well as a modern housing estate at Medham (1014).



Figure 5: Research Unit 2 – HLC data

Field patterns include early enclosures possibly associated with Somerton Farm from medieval times (1017), as well as other assorted field patterns (1050, 1016, 1060, 1059) associated with Somerton and Nodes Farms.

The one area of Ancient Woodland at Shamblers Copse (304) is accompanied by secondary and recent woodland (306, 318) including Calving Copse which was replanted after the 2nd World War and it is likely that this area not wooded in the medieval period, but was an enclosed field of cultivated land (307)

3.4.2 Historic Environment Designations within Unit 2:

There are a large number of sites of archaeological and historic importance recorded on the **Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record (HER)** within this unit. These are listed below with each site given the HER reference number in brackets.

3.4.3 Audit of Historic Environment Remains in Unit 2

Prehistoric:

Evidence for prehistoric land use within this unit ranges from the Neolithic to Late Iron Age. Evidence from a field to the east of Somerton Farm, suggests that the area was cleared of trees and scrub to create open pasture in the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age with fire cracked flint, probably from a burnt mound by an ancient spring line (HER 4571).

Further prehistoric land use was recorded near to Calving Copse (HER 4575) where flint tools, debitage and quantities of fire-cracked flint indicates prehistoric activity in the vicinity next to a former stream channel which has since silted up. It is likely that there was a small settlement site in this part of the unit in the Bronze Age.

The latest prehistoric activity is one land division boundary ditch with four pits lying to the west all of Late Iron Age date, which were excavated as part of mitigation works for the route of the Seaclean pipelines (HER 4035) just to the west of Somerton Farm. The fragment of clay loom weight and Iron Age pottery indicates that a Late Iron Age settlement was nearby. The excavations also recorded prehistoric worked flint (scrapers, flakes and blades) from earlier periods.

Roman:

The only evidence for Roman activity recorded on the HER in this unit is a coin (sestertius) of Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus found in the now infilled Oyster Beds at Somerton (HER 941). This indicates Roman activity on the banks of the Estuary within this unit, but the coin may have been in circulation for a long time after minting as it was very worn.

Medieval:

Medieval agricultural land use within this unit is evidenced by the remains of north to south orientated ridge and furrow earthworks in three fields to the east and south east of Somerton Farm (HER 4571, 4573 and 4574). In addition, buried gullies, probably representing former field boundaries or drainage ditches, of the same date were recorded in one field (HER 4573). Two medieval find spots indicate further low level medieval activity in the north and south of this unit with a medieval pottery bottle (HER 2349) and an 11th Century Byzantine coin (HER 599) being recorded on the HER.

Post medieval and modern:

The Northwood Tithe Map of 1791 shows the continued use of the landscape around Somerton Farm as agricultural land into the post medieval period, and a metalled track way, an area of midden or waste dumping and a single linear feature recorded in a field to the north of Somerton Farm (HER 4569). The track way would have

connected Somerton Farm with the surrounding fields and the ditch may have served either as a former field boundary or drainage ditch. The midden material is thought to be discarded domestic debris from Somerton Farm. Debris such as this, brought from farms and deposited in agricultural fields, was often used to consolidate the ground and aid drainage in waterlogged areas.

Just to the south east of this field, another metalled track way, an area of dumping and a large pit were recorded here during pipe installation (HER 4570) and are thought to be associated with Somerton Farm. The track way linked Somerton Farm with the wood, Bottom Copse, to the north east. The area of post-medieval dumping exploited a natural hollow for the disposal of unwanted debris, producing a well-drained levelled area of land. The pit may be a former quarry pit for extraction of clay.

The site of a 19th century toll house is shown on the early OS maps as being in the northwestern corner of this unit between 1815 and 1857 when it was replaced by one on land at Love Lane (HER 4533)

The estuary edge zone of this unit shows the importance of the river Medina for industrial activities in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Isaac Taylor's map of Hampshire including the Isle of Wight of 1759 shows the site of a Brick kiln at Medham (HER 2756) and the Ward Estate map compiled around 1815 shows land parcels called "Brick Kiln Ground", "Upper Brick Kiln Field" and "Pit Ground". Although there is no evidence on the ground, this site is part of the Island's varied industrial heritage and would have been deliberately sited to take advantage of the clay deposits and the estuary as a source of transport of the finished products.

Shamblers Brick fields were established by Thomas Wheeler of Cowes in 1846 (HER 2755) and are shown on Ordnance Survey maps of 1866 but closed in the mid-1890s and are shown as "Old kilns" on the OS map of 1897. The site now lies within woodland and nothing was visible on the field survey visit for this project.

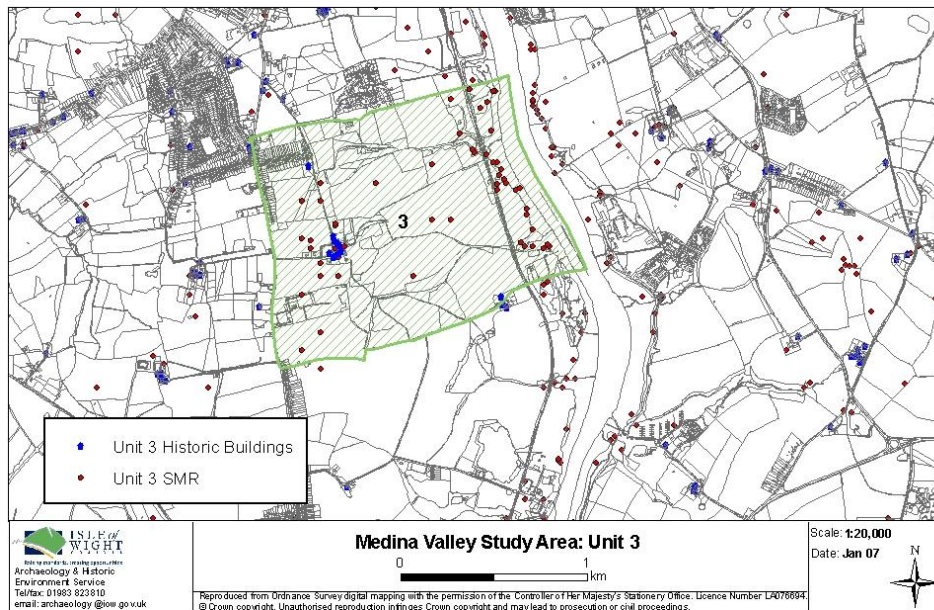
In August 1859 an Act of Parliament gave the permission for the Cowes and Newport Railway Company (CNR) to build a railway between the two towns which was opened on 16th June 1862. Medina Wharf railway station (HER 5300) was opened in November 1878, as a substantial goods yard handling all of the Island's coal imports, as well as other heavy goods such as all the railway's new engines and coaching stock. The railway line was closed in February 1966.

Further evidence of the Medina's industrial heritage is shown in the Local Government Board Report of 1896 entitled 'Wight and Solent Oyster Fisheries'. This shows the oyster fishery in the Medina at Somerton (HER 940) which was leased by the Corporation of Newport to the Medina River Oyster Company. The company's operations consisted of laying down French, Portuguese and Solent oysters in several oyster ponds on the shore of the river at high tide level and operated by sluices. The site visits made during this study showed that the site is now reclaimed as made up land and no evidence of oyster beds remains. However, a revetment of posts recorded during the survey in the upper inter tidal zone (HER 3425) may be associated with the oyster ponds.

The northern part of the landscape within this unit has been modified by the creation of Northwood Cemetery (HER 5857) in the second half of the 19th century and this includes the chapel (HER 5058) and perimeter wall (HER 5059) both built around 1870 and both of which are designated as a grade II Listed Buildings.

A more recent site of interest is the aircraft crash site (HER 5057) just to the south of the cemetery. On 31st March 1917 Marcus D. Manton was test flying a rebuilt Quadraplane when he crash-landed without serious pilot injury but causing severe damage to the aircraft.

3.5 Research Unit 3 – Medham to Pinkmead:



This unit is bounded by Newport Road to the west and follows the entire length of Medham Farm Lane across the cycle track and eastwards in a straight line to the central point of the River, then turns south and follows the river until it reaches a line parallel to Werrar Farm, then turns west and runs along the route of the lane passing Werrar Farm and runs along the southern boundary of Great Werrar Wood and follows the southern boundary to the Agricultural Show Ground until it meets with the Newport Road, turns north and follows the Newport Road until its junction with Medham Farm Lane.

The geology of this unit comprises Hamstead Clays overlain by substantial patches of Pleistocene gravel. The gravel creates a north to south ridge lying 400metres to the west of the Church at Chawton

3.5.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 3

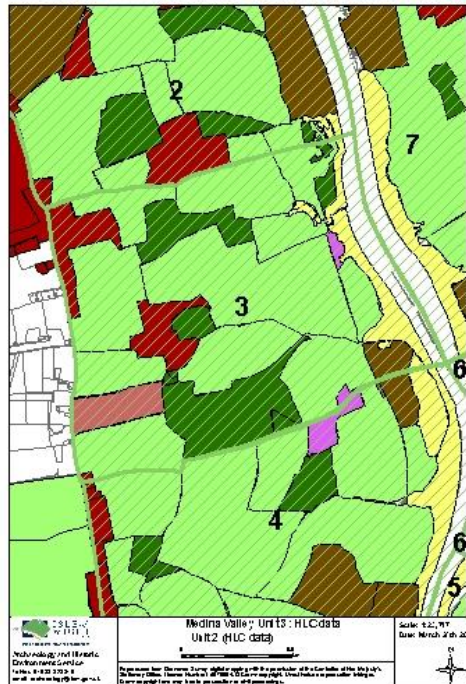


Figure 7: Unit 3 : HLC data

This unit comprises predominantly agricultural land enclosed from waste or common land belonging to Medham, Chawton, Ridge or Crocker Farms (1001, 1006, 1008, 1009, 1011, 1012, 1015, 1062, 1078) with the historic core of Northwood settlement at Chawton dating back to the 12th century at least (1010) and the original site of Medham Farm (1013).

Unit 3 has one small area of residential cluster (1066), an area of Ancient Woodland (319), four areas of secondary woodland (317, 320, 322, 318) and one of replanted Ancient Woodland (308).

Also present are two areas of salt marsh (1064, 1063) and two areas of inter tidal mudflats (1080, 1081), an area of scrubland (1079), the industrial site of a former brickworks (1002) and a small area of scrubland (1079). A military museum (1005) now operates from the site of a former barracks and gun emplacement.

3.5.2 Historic Environment Designations within Unit 3:

There are a large number of sites of archaeological and historic importance recorded on the **Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record (HER)** within this unit. These are listed below with each site given the HER reference number in brackets.

3.5.3 Audit of Historic Environment Remains in Unit 3

Prehistoric:

Palaeolithic:

A Palaeolithic flint scraper has been recorded from a field to the north of Chawton Farm (HER 1262).

Mesolithic:

Mesolithic flints were recorded during field walking in fields to the south of Chawton Farm (HER 5246) and Mesolithic bladelets were recorded during the Seaclean Wight pipeline laying at the Agricultural showground to the west of Great Werrar Wood (HER 4550). In addition a possible Mesolithic tranchet axe and other flint tools were found just to the west of Waterclose Copse (HER 4184). Mesolithic finds are also recorded from the intertidal zone with a mesolithic axe found on the surface amongst accumulated gravels and the survival of peat resting on top of blue/grey silt observed around Pinkmead (HER 2145) and two Mesolithic axe reported to have been found on the southern edge of the same watercourse inlet as the undated prehistoric hearth sites around Pinkmead (HER 5254 and 3663).

Neolithic:

Late Neolithic to Bronze Age flints recorded during Seaclean Wight pipeline watching brief at Agricultural showground to west of Great Werrar Wood (HER 4550). Neolithic implements and debitage has been recorded in fields to the west of the Church Lane track (HER 5251 and 5252) and in fields at the far north-eastern corner of the unit (HER5865), as well as in the fields to the south of Chawton Farm (HER 5246).

Bronze Age

Bronze Age flint tools were recorded from the Agricultural showground in the 1930's (HER 591) and from fields to the south of Chawton Farm (HER 5246), whilst fire cracked flints which are indicative of Bronze Age burnt mounds are recorded from fields to the south of Waterclose Copse (HER 5250).

It is clear that the resources of the River Medina were exploited during the prehistoric period; and the distribution of prehistoric remains in this unit shows the presence of human activity from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age in the landward and intertidal zones. In addition there are flint tools and objects dated to the general prehistoric period recorded from fields to the north (HER1525 and 1262) and west (HER 1523 and 1491) and south (HER 1299, 1490 and 1524) of Chawton Farm

Roman

Roman pottery has been recorded from the agricultural show ground (HER 591), in fields to the east of Sheepwash Copse (HER 5248) and to the north of Chawton Farm (HER 1262). However, the most exciting discovery of Roman remains in this unit was an occupation site discovered during a programme of field walking on the lower slopes of a field which indicated a formerly unknown complex of substantial Roman buildings (HER 5253). The surface evidence cited in this report provides every

indication of a high status building of villa character. This is attested by a large scatter of Roman roof tiles, floor tiles, ceramics and discarded lead.

Medieval:

Medieval pottery has been recorded in fields to the south of Waterclose Copse (HER 5249 and 5250 and 5248).

The church of St John the Baptist (HER 590) was built in the 12th and 13th Centuries and was the centre of the shrunken medieval village of Northwood which survives as building platforms and road layout around the church. The surviving buildings include 17th and 18th century houses and farmhouse and are referred to as Chawton. The church was a dependent of Carisbrooke Priory and the settlement around the church was probably the most northerly within the great medieval forest of Parkhurst. Documentary sources refer to the importance of agriculture around Northwood to the Priory at Carisbrooke and demonstrate the agricultural appearance of the landscape. It is likely that the shift from arable to pastoral farming in the 14th and 15th centuries in addition to the suppression of Alien Priories by Henry V in 1414 in the caused the decline of the settlement.

Post medieval:

The cluster of buildings around Chawton Farm comprises 14 buildings of historic importance including Chawton Farm (HER 10938) which has a north range dating to the 17th Century and a back range dating to the 18th and 19th Centuries and is a Grade II Listed building. HER 10939 is an 18th century cottage, HER 10940 (cart shed), HER 10941 (cowshed), HER 10942 (stable), HER 10943 (granary) and HER 10944 (barn) all date to the 18th to 19th centuries. HER 10945 is a 19th to 20th century stable. The remaining buildings on Church Lane, HER 10946 (cottage), HER 10947 (house), HER 10948 (house) and HER 10975 (cottage) all date to the 18th to 19th centuries.

The site of a post medieval quay is shown by documentary sources to have been present at the northern edge of the intertidal zone in this unit (HER 3704) Shown on the 1866 Ordnance Survey map, the quay is named as “Medham Quay” in an Indenture of 1869 relating to the leasing of marshland (for oyster fishery) by William George Ward of Northwood Park, Cowes to Hugh Colin Smith of the County of Surrey and Cornwall Simeon of Winchester and Robert Few of the County of Middlesex.

Similarly the site of Medham brickworks is shown on the 1866 OS map as having been midway along this unit’s intertidal zone (HER 3668).

A now destroyed army camp is documented as having been located on the site of the Military History Museum, (HER 5091).

HER 3749 is a subterranean rectangular concrete air raid shelter covered by an earth mound, now heavily covered in vegetation, measuring 8.0m x 5.0m. At the north west corner a red brick entrance way with a flight of six concrete steps leads down to the shelter. At the base of the south side, two ceramic pipes protrude horizontally from the mound. There is a similar ceramic pipe on the north side adjacent to the entrance. Another pipe probably exists on this side but is now obscured. About half way up the mound on the south side a tubular metal pipe protrudes vertically from the mound.

3.6 Research Unit 4 – Werrar to Newport Harbour:

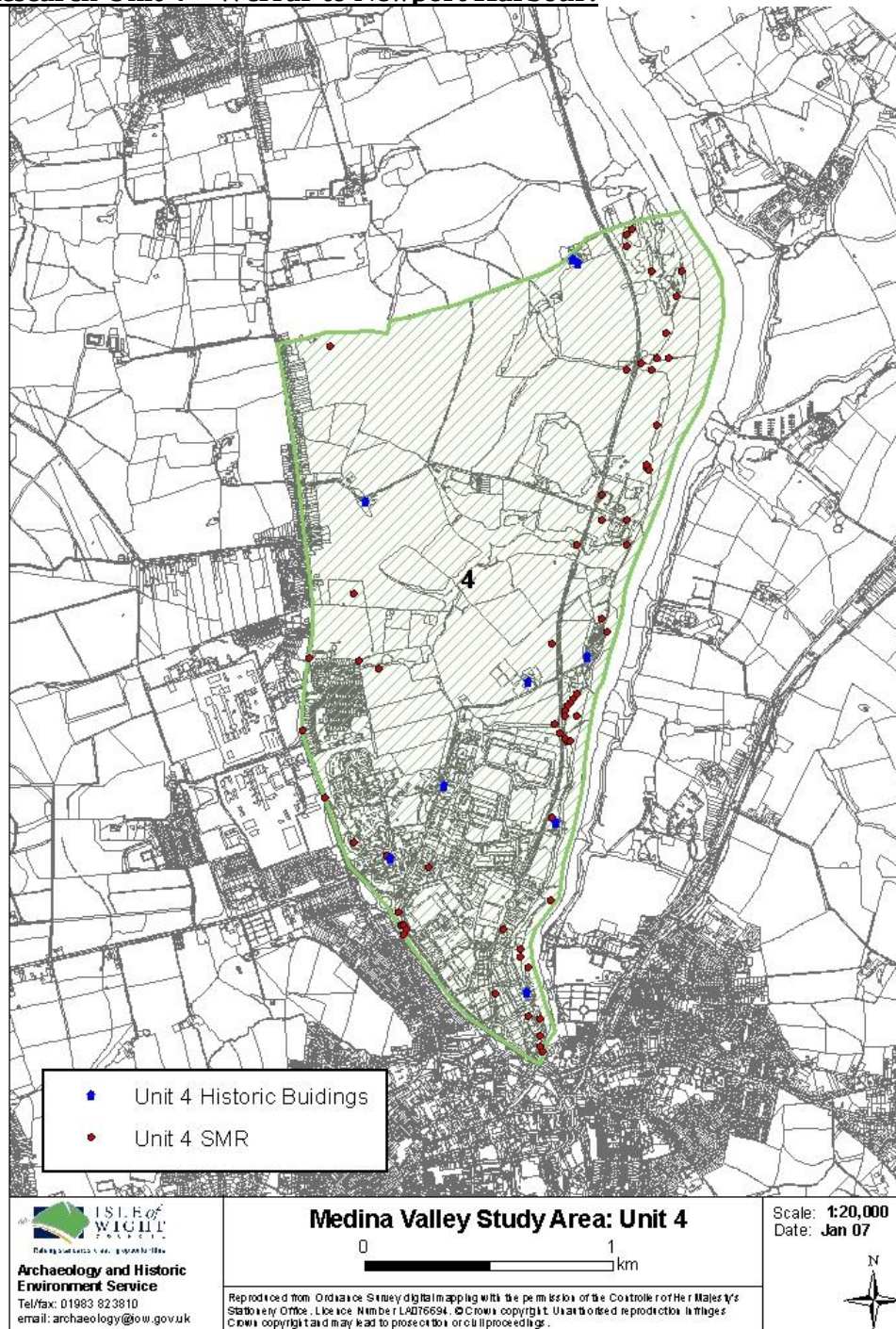


Figure 8: Research Unit 4

The boundaries of this unit start from where the southern boundary of the agricultural showground meets the Newport Road and it follows the southern boundary of Great Werrar Wood and the track past Werrar Farm to the east until it meets the centre of the River. From here it follows the centre of the river south until the rivers extreme tidal reach at The Quay. The boundary then turns north and follows the line of Medina Way across St Mary's roundabout and follows the route of Horsebridge Hill until it meets back up with the southern boundary of the Agricultural showground. The unit includes the relevant archaeological issues relating to the Medina River within the County Town of Newport.

3.6.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 4

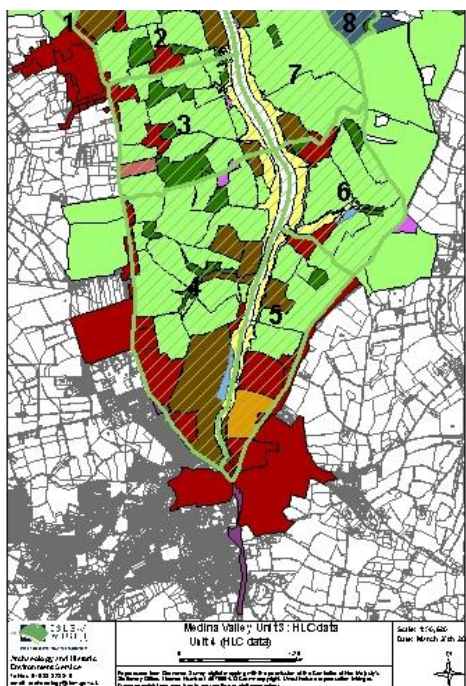


Figure 9: Research Unit 4: HLC data

This unit comprises the agricultural land surrounding Werrar, Dodnor and Parkhurst Farms including possible land enclosed from waste or common ground in medieval times (1007, 1006), fields assarted from woodland (1003) and fields enclosed in the 19th century from heath land (993, 994) or from Werrar Common (991) or other land (995, 996, 999, 1000, 1595 and 1594). Uniquely this unit also contains land which was farmed by the Isle of Wight Workhouse (House of Industry) from 1722 onwards (1488). Woodland within this unit comprises three areas of Ancient woodland (319, 323, 326) and four of secondary woodland (322, 329, 330 and 311). Settlement within this unit is restricted to 19th and 20th century ribbon development (1070, 1071, 1074), housing estates (1485, 1486) and St Mary's hospital (1485). Industrial land uses include an 18th century mill site (1597, 19th century cement works (997), brickworks (1002), waste disposal in a disused clay pit (998) and the industrial estate (1492) developed after the 1950's.

The intertidal zone is characterised by areas of salt marsh (1004) and intertidal mud flats (1081, 3382).

3.6.2 Historic Environment Designations within Unit 4:

The Newport Conservation Area extends to the south side of Medina Way. The Extensive Urban Survey have designated three Areas of High Archaeological Potential within Newport. The Area around the Quay (Area 1) lies within the study area and the site of St Cross Priory (Area 1) and Church Litten (Area 3) lie further to the west and south. In addition, the town centre is designated as an Area of Archaeological Potential and the site of Newport Roman Villa which lies to the south along the River Medina Valley is designated as a site of Nationally Important Remains. The Villa site is also designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are a number of Listed Buildings within this unit and a large number of sites recorded on the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record.

3.6.3 Audit of known Historic Environment remains in Unit 4

Prehistoric:

Mesolithic:

A Mesolithic occupation site was revealed during excavation of clay for brick making at Werrar (HER 952). Land surfaces were recorded with hearths and flint implements including picks, microliths, burins and scrapers. Further remains from this period, including tranche axes and flints were found South of Werrar (HER 975), but a site visit did not reveal any remains that could possibly be archaeological in origin.

Neolithic:

Just to the south of Dodnor cottages, a tree has been observed within the layers of soft grey clay and gravel (HER 3305). Similar trees have been preserved within the silts at Fishbourne beach and have been radiocarbon dated to the Neolithic period. They made up the oak forests which covered the land bridge which linked the Island to England and Europe and which were drowned by rising Solent river levels as the Island became separated from the mainland.

Bronze Age:

A hoard of Bronze Age palstaves (HER 951) were found in Werrar brickyard in 1884 and belong to a common Island form of rather more slender proportions than most similar finds of this date.

Roman:

During the construction of the railway into Newport in 1861, a Roman cemetery was recorded (HER 472). It consisted of around 20 burial urns and 16 amphorae containing cremated human remains and pottery. Other evidence of Roman activity along the river includes the metal detected find of a coin of Domitian (HER 2394) in the western river bank to the south of Dodnor House.

Post medieval:

The Werrar Brickworks (HER 2757) were founded in 1866 by Albert Edward Flux and closed in 1950s, but it is likely that the natural resources of this area were being utilised at even earlier dates as a brickworks is shown on the 1815 Ward Estate map around the location of Pinkmead. A small brickworks yard is shown at St Cross on the OS map of 1862 (HER 2758). It had 3 kilns and one kiln was found on the site during excavations by the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society in 1991.

The longevity of the Medina Estuary's industrial heritage is shown by the location of the Medina Cement Works around an old tide mill which is shown on the 1794 map (HER 963). The tide mill was one of a pair erected on different sides of the river; nick-named in a document as "Botany Bay" and "Port Jackson", they were capable of grinding forty loads of corn a week and built by a gentleman named Porter, originally a pie-man. The tide mill stood at north end of present mill dam which probably provided a reservoir for the steam driven works.

The Medina Cement works (HER 2289) first produced Medina cement in 1840, then Portland cement until production ceased in 1946. Extensive remains of early derelict kilns built of mass concrete have been recorded as part of mitigation works for redevelopment on the site (HER 5651). 11 structures, including the two Victorian multi draw-hole chamber kilns dating to the 1840's were recorded and the records are now held at the Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service.

The railway between Cowes and Newport included a station stop at Cement Mills Halt (HER 5299) and operated between 1862 and 1966. The Halt was originally opened to serve the workforce of the Mills from which it takes its name. A Viaduct (HER 2785), constructed of riveted steel girders with central cylindrical supports originally carried the railway over the waterway and now carries the Cowes - Newport cycle path. Other post medieval industries occurring within the coastal zone include the oyster beds leased by the Corporation of Newport to the Medina River Oyster Company in 1896 (HER 3342). The lease gave the company rights to lay down and to fish for oysters in the Medina at Cowes; but not landward of the "Folly" public house. The company's operations consisted chiefly in laying down in the Medina, French, Portuguese and Solent oysters. In addition, the company had several oyster ponds on the shore of the river at high tide level, with water being let in by sluices. The Oysters for market were dredged up from the river and deposited prior to sale in what was known as the "Ark". This was a wooden house boat possessing a false or moveable bottom, consisting of a cradle with perforated sides which allows the river water to pass freely over the oysters held in them. The cradle was raised or lowered by means of a winch and the "Ark" was moored in the estuary near the ponds. A find has been made in the vicinity by a metal detectorist, who reported a bronze half penny token issued in Newport by the Corporation between 1648-1672 (HER 2519).

The changes to the landscape of this unit from the rural hinterland of Newport to the outskirts of a Victorian County Town are evident at the point where the former railway line crosses the fields to the east of Dodnor Farm. There are some Ridge and furrow earthworks indicating farming earlier than the railway line laid on top (HER 733). The site of a former bridge (HER 2784) and two military boundary stones (HER 4369 and 4370) are also within this unit. The arrival of industry to this area of the estuary made best use of its natural resources, such as the clay lining the gravel terraces along the estuary. HER 601 is the possible site of a clay pipe kiln dating to 1646 to 1680.

The buildings of historic importance still cluster around the small rural settlement which operated in this rural hinterland with the farmhouse at Werrar Farm (HER 13717) dating to 1750-1800 and its grade II listed granary (HER 13718) with its concealed timber frame and the brock stable (HER 13719) dating to between 1700-1800. Dodnor Farm house (HER 11046) also dates to between 1750-1800, as does Dodnor House (HER 11047). Upper St Cross Farm in Dodnor Lane (HER 11044) is a later farmhouse dating to 1800-1850 with its stables (HER 11045)

One of the most interesting sites of post medieval date is the grade II Listed House of Industry (HER 10627) on Parkhurst Road which was erected as a result of an Act of Parliament in 1770 and so is one of the comparatively few institutions built prior to the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. Formed as a workhouse incorporated into part of the hospital, it was built in the late 1760s by the Pritchetts, who were a brick making family in the New Forest area, contracted to supply bricks and tiles for the

building of the House of Industry at Parkhurst. The yard was set up a short distance from the site and the remains of the old clay pit (HER 4143) now form the duck pond at the back of St Mary's Hospital). This was one of the first examples nationally of a workhouse (or institution for the destitute) which served a considerable area - in this case the whole Island - rather than a single community or parish. Some of the original buildings (HER 3949) partly survive and have been incorporated into the modern hospital complex.

The part of the river nearer to Newport shows evidence of more quays. A Hard (HER 2782) is shown at Dodnor on the 1866 Ordnance Survey map, but nothing was visible on the ground. The Victoria County History describes a flourishing shipyard at Hurstake (HER 3364) in the 18th century, but it seems to have fallen into decay at the end of that century. Little London Quay (HER 3299) is shown at Newport Harbour on the 1908 OS map. Carpenters Quay (HER 3300) and Blackhouse Quay (HER 5715) were also at Newport Harbour

In the early part of the Second World War, tank traps were designed and sited at strategic points throughout the Island railway system. One of these lay on the Cowes side of the Cement Mills Viaduct (HER 3496) and consisted of two large pre-cast concrete blocks, approximately ten feet long, two feet wide and four feet deep, with eight pre-cast blocks eighteen inches square and four feet deep. All these were sunk into the ground in the centre of the track, to a planned layout, so that the top surface was level with the top of the sleepers. In each of the blocks was an aperture designed to hold a standard rail metal and specially bent metals would be inserted when the blocks were in position, should a rail block be required. Finally a World War II aircraft crash site (HER 4606) is recorded when a Hurricane N3251 of No.43 Squadron, Tangmere, crash-landed at Horsebridge Hill in 1940

3.6.4 The County Town of Newport:

The limit of the navigable tidal reach is the Quay at Newport , but the Estuary and its valley have influenced the past human land uses including the development of the modern town which lies to the west of the now canalised river Medina which runs south through the County Town and along the river valley bottom to its source near to Chale. A variety of archaeological remains along each side of the valley shows how the estuary was used before and after the County Town grew up and how important the Medina Valley was in the human development of the Island.

Prehistoric:

The landscape of the Britain has been shaped by the many changes of the Ice Ages when huge ice sheets covered the land and gouged out river valleys, followed by warmer periods when animals and plants thrived within the thick forests. It is during the last period of Ice Ages, known as the Pleistocene, that the first humans visited Britain and archaeologists call this period the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) and date it to between 500,000 to 10,000 years ago.

The discovery and excavation of the Palaeolithic site of national significance at Great Pan Farm (HER 877) took place on the gravel terraces of the eastern River Medina Valley slopes in the 1920's. Hand axes and flint tools made by Homo

Neanderthalensis, the forerunner of modern Homo Sapiens, were found as our early ancestors used the gravel terraces as hunting and foraging grounds with temporary seasonal shelters nearby. Recent archaeological evaluation work carried out by the Isle of Wight Council in its role as developer of the Pan Urban Extension has revealed more important information about the use of the gravel terraces by prehistoric peoples. The geological investigation identified four river terraces, probably dating from the Middle to Late Pleistocene within the river valley to the south of Newport. One to the west of the A2030, which is probably the same as that identified as the site of the Great Pan Farm flint working site in the 1920's, two further to the south and a higher level terrace at between 27 and 30m OD. This "staircase" of gravel terraces is covered by a thick layer of colluvium, a hill wash layer built up over many thousands of years, and the recent archaeological analysis has identified the dates at which the terraces were laid down by flood waters resulting from the cycle of ice sheets melting during the warmer interglacials and then freezing during the cold glacial periods. The lowest terrace is the youngest and was formed during the last glaciation, known as the Devensian, between 60,000 and 40,000 years ago. Terraces 2 and 3 may date to between 125,000 and 60,000 BP and 250,000 BP respectively.

At the end of the Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic) the landscape changed from the tundra landscapes of the ice age, into thick forests of oak, hazel and birch and the rising seawaters from the melting ice sheets caused Britain to be cut off from the rest of Europe as well as the Island to be separated by the swollen Solent river around 8,000 years ago. The period between about 10,000 and 4,300 BC is called the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) and fully modern humans made full use of the forested landscapes to hunt and gather animals and food. Between 4,500 and 2,500 BC is called the Neolithic period (New Stone Age) and this was when farming was first introduced, leading to the start of the clearance of the woodland and the first permanent settlements. Archaeological remains from both of these periods on the Island are clustered along the river valleys, initially because of the range of food and resources they provided, including watering large animal groups, and then because of the fertile and rich soils present lying over the gravel terraces.

Roman

The remains of a Roman villa (HER 855) lying approximately 500 m to the south of the town was discovered on the western slopes of the river valley in 1926 when housing development was extended to the south of the town. The Villa site is now designated as a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas act 1979.

Numerous other Roman finds recorded on the Isle of Wight County Sites and Monuments Record show that there was a Roman settlement apart from the villa site in the area. The Roman cemetery at Hunnyhill gives another clue to the location of a Roman settlement as Roman Law forbade human burials to be made within the settlement itself and many Roman cemetery sites were located by the sides of roads leading out of the settlement. This leads us to postulate that the Roman settlement is hidden beneath the modern County town and that the quayside areas were important to the Romans as it is right at the centre of the settlement.

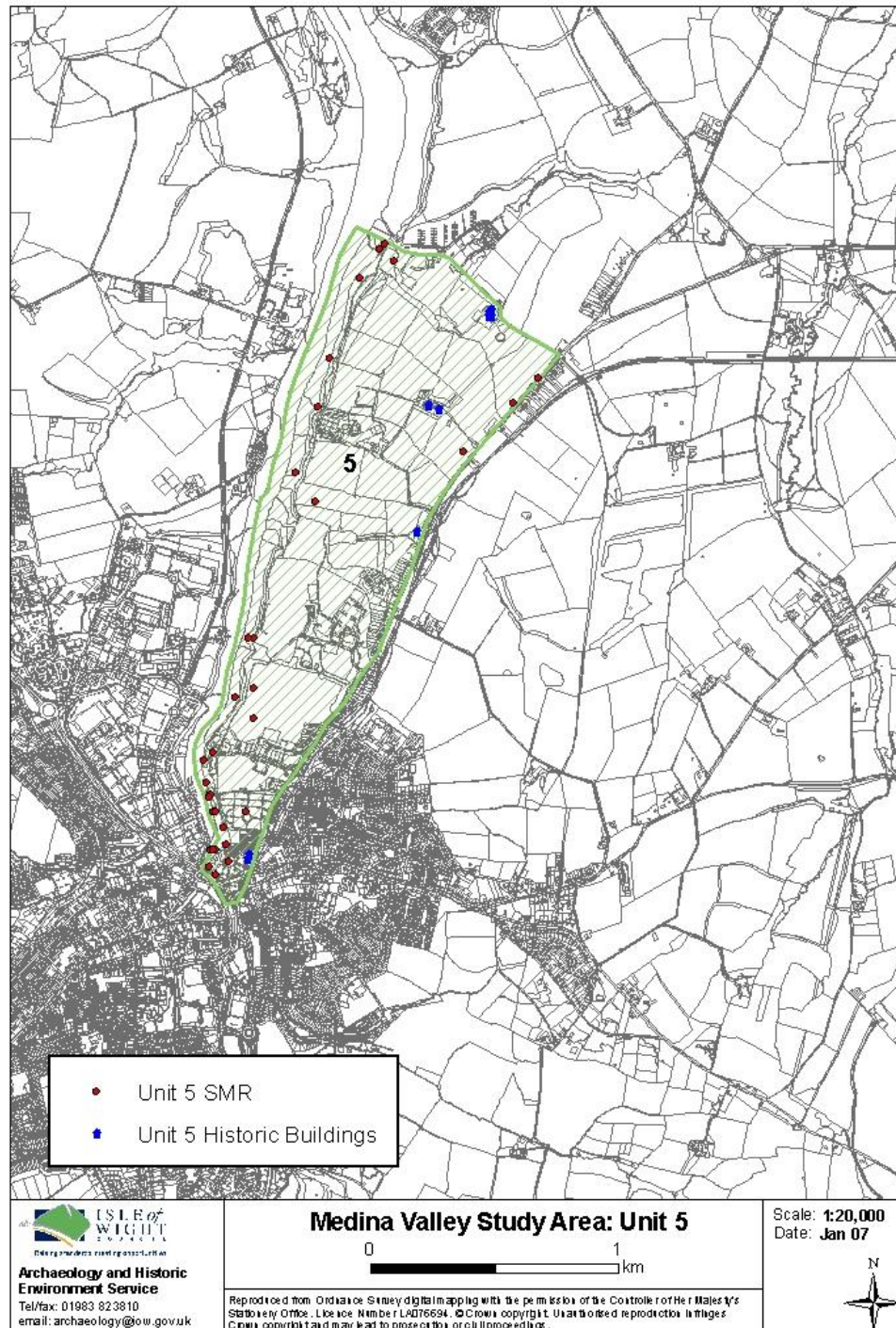
The location of the Roman villa on the western slopes of the river valley is important as it lies close to an important fording point across the River Medina. Roman villas are now thought to have been the centre of rural estates which gathered and exported agricultural resources for the Roman state. A position on the east facing valley slope would have been ideal for the centralised control of the surrounding agricultural landscape on the valley gravels.

Medieval:

The earliest reference to Newport comes in a charter granted to the town in 1180 by Richard de Redvers, Lord of the Island. Newport was a planned Norman town and was set out with streets in a grid pattern, but it is likely that small glimpses of the pre-Norman settlement can still be seen in the street patterns. Quay Street lies at a 45 degree angle to the High Street, rather than being part of the north to south pattern of the Norman streets. It is likely that Quay Street lies on the line of a pre-Norman route from the navigable limit of the Medina towards Carisbrooke, the principal settlement of the Island before the Normans laid out the New County Town. It is also likely that the pre-Norman settlement, thought to have been a fishing village was focussed around the area of the Quay.

The Quay area itself is very important in the development of the town and the location of the settlement at the navigable limit of the river is likely to have been one of the reasons why the town was founded by the Norman's at this location. The Quay would have provided an important focus in the town with traders from the mainland and continent having access to the town and Island from this point. It is highly probable that the quay area also formed the focus for any prehistoric or Roman settlement. Excavations of such areas in other historic ports have shown that the line of the quay often moves out into the river through time due to reclamation. Here at Newport this could have resulted in earlier phases of quays being located behind the quay line and the high potential for the survival of waterlogged timbers and organic materials have caused English Heritage to designate the area of the quay as being of High Archaeological Potential.

3.7 Unit 5 – Newport Harbour to Island Harbour:



The boundaries of this unit start as the River Medina goes under the A3020, follows the road round Coppins Bridge and turns north onto the A3054. It follows the road until it turns west along Mill Lane which the boundary follows until it reaches the entrance to the Island Harbour and goes immediately west until the centre of the river is reached.

3.7.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 5

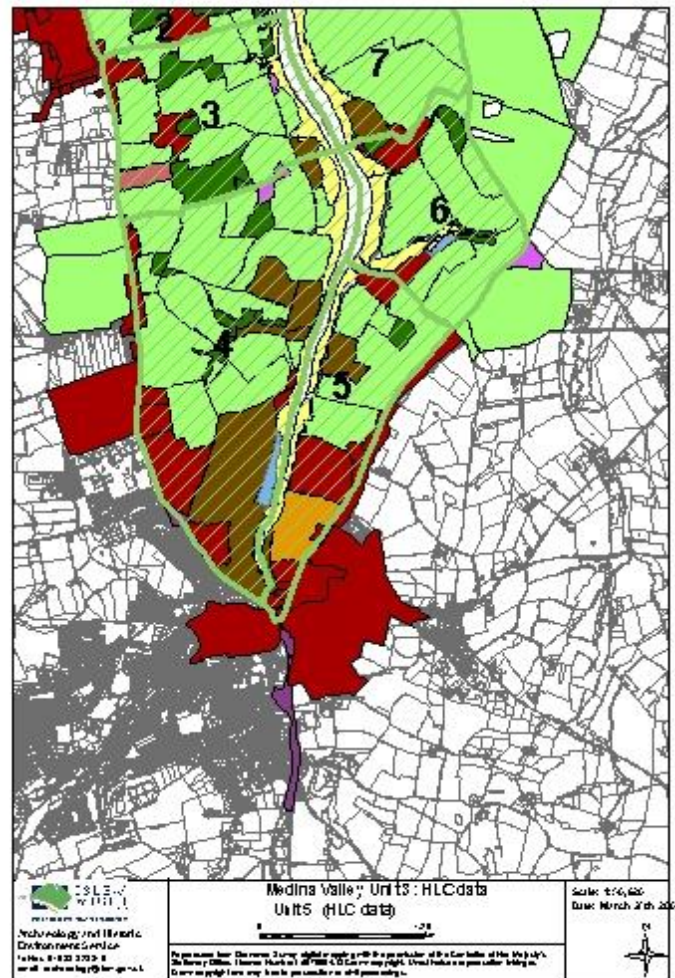


Figure 11: Unit 5: HLC data

This unit comprises early 20th century ribbon residential development (650, 647) and the village around Island Harbour (3388) with residential infrastructure on the north eastern edge of Newport with a cemetery (578), recreation ground (577), school (576), hospital (651) and sewage treatment centre (571).

The remaining field patterns show assarted land of unknown date (573, 570, 575) and land which was probably unenclosed grazing marsh before it was enclosed (574). One area of replanted ancient woodland remains (572) and the entire length of the estuary edge is one zone of intertidal muds.

3.7.2 Historic Environment Designations within Unit 5:

There are a number of Listed Buildings within this Unit and a large number of sites recorded on the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record.

3.7.3 Audit of known Historic Environment remains in Unit 5:

Prehistoric:

A Palaeolithic hand axe (HER 1829) was found near to the river bank within the coastal zone in 1986 and the current field survey recorded a flint flake within the beach gravel in the same area. This indicates the continuation of Palaeolithic activity along the northern gravel terraces of the river Medina. A flint scraper found on the landward zone of this unit in 1920 (HER 954) may indicate more prehistoric use of the gravel terraces and estuary edges, but no further worked flint objects were recorded in the current survey of the area of this find. Another prehistoric flake was recorded as part of the Seaclean Wight pipeline watching brief (HER 4167).

Roman:

The possible use of this part of the estuary by the Romans is evidenced by finds made during the excavations for a gas-holder in 1851. The marshland on which the gasholder was being built revealed coins of Nero, Constantine the Great, Constans and Valens as well as a Roman bottle (HER 861). The site of the gasholder is now built over and nothing can be seen on the site. A further 4th Century Roman coin was found within Seaclose Park in 1960, but no Roman material was noted during general survey along river bank.

The intertidal zone provides more evidence of Roman activity with two Roman coins found around 1907 when the riverside wall was extended (HER 862), but, as the wall is still complete and in use, no further Roman material was recorded within this area during the current survey. Further north a coin of Constantine II was dredged from Medina when extending the quay in 1925 (HER 863). Another earlier coin from the reign of Augustus was recovered from the river bed opposite Hurstake by a fisherman in 1849 (HER 955).

Medieval:

Archaeological remains recorded in fields to the south of North Fairlee Farm, show that this area of good arable land on the slopes of the river valley were probably used for arable farming in this period. The Watching Brief for the Seaclean Wight pipeline recorded a sherd of medieval pottery and shell from a subsoil identified between the plough-soil and natural on the site (HER 4168). This is highly likely to be the product of manuring the fields with “night soil” or human waste from rubbish pits, middens and human cess pits.

Post medieval:

The industrial use of the quaysides as the estuary flows into Newport includes a corn water mill with banks and sluices mentioned in a Lease by the mayor of Newport to John Redston in 1723 (HER 3360). There is no sign of any such mill on the ground, so it is to be expected for a busy and continuously built on quayside area in a county town.

The New Quay at Newport Quay (HER 3302) is shown on the 1908 OS maps and the current field survey identified a south-western end of brick construction, bollards and drinking fountain (HER 3283) still surviving. A red brick air raid shelter (HER 4820) constructed in Flemish bond, is now in use as a harbour master's workshop.

Corporation Quay (HER 3303) is further to the north. A Slipway was also observed (HER 3718) with a lower part of rectangular stone pavers and a concreted upper part.

Further north at Seaclose Quay is a ten ton Hand Crane built in 1928 (HER 3209). This Quayside (HER 3304) is of pile construction with Bollards and a now demolished aircraft hangar (HER 3269).

Hurstake Hard (HER 2783) is shown on the 1866 OS map.

Further north, a hand crane at Medina Harbour (HER 918) is a large hand operated crane with long metal girder jib, capable of lifting 12 tons but virtually disused. The gearing is protected by a sheet metal hood. Alongside is a small steam crane which may have been a fitment of the Medina dredger.

Further up river, the remains of the Ryde Queen paddle steamer, rusting and in poor condition were recorded (HER 3667). The wreck of 'Star Pictor', a Baltic trader also survives as a hulk in poor condition and inaccessible in thick estuarine muds (HER 3267).

A railway tunnel is shown in Fairlee Road on 1866 OS map (HER 5421). Newport Cemetery (HER 3080).

Documentary research by the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society has shown that a shortlived 18th century brick yard was located on this side of the river valley at Fairlee and it may have been opened to provide bricks to build Fairlee House (HER 2760).

The continuation of the agricultural use of the landscape on the east side of the estuary valley is shown within this unit by the two farming complexes which both date to around the same period. North Fairlee Farmhouse (HER 12917 and LBII) was built between 1780 and 1840 and has another farm building (HER 12918) dating to the same period. Binfield Farm, to the north of the unit on Mill Lane, includes farm buildings of the same dates with a pigsty (HER 12905), cart shed (HER 12906), stables (HER 12907) and barn (HER 12908).

Other buildings of historical importance recorded on the County HER within this unit include a group of semi detached houses at 19 and 21 Fairlee Road (HER 14351 and LBII) and 23 Fairlee Road (HER 14352 and LB II) built around 1840. The Roundhouse (HER 14353 and LB II) is also of similar date.

3.8 Unit 6: Island Harbour to The Folly:

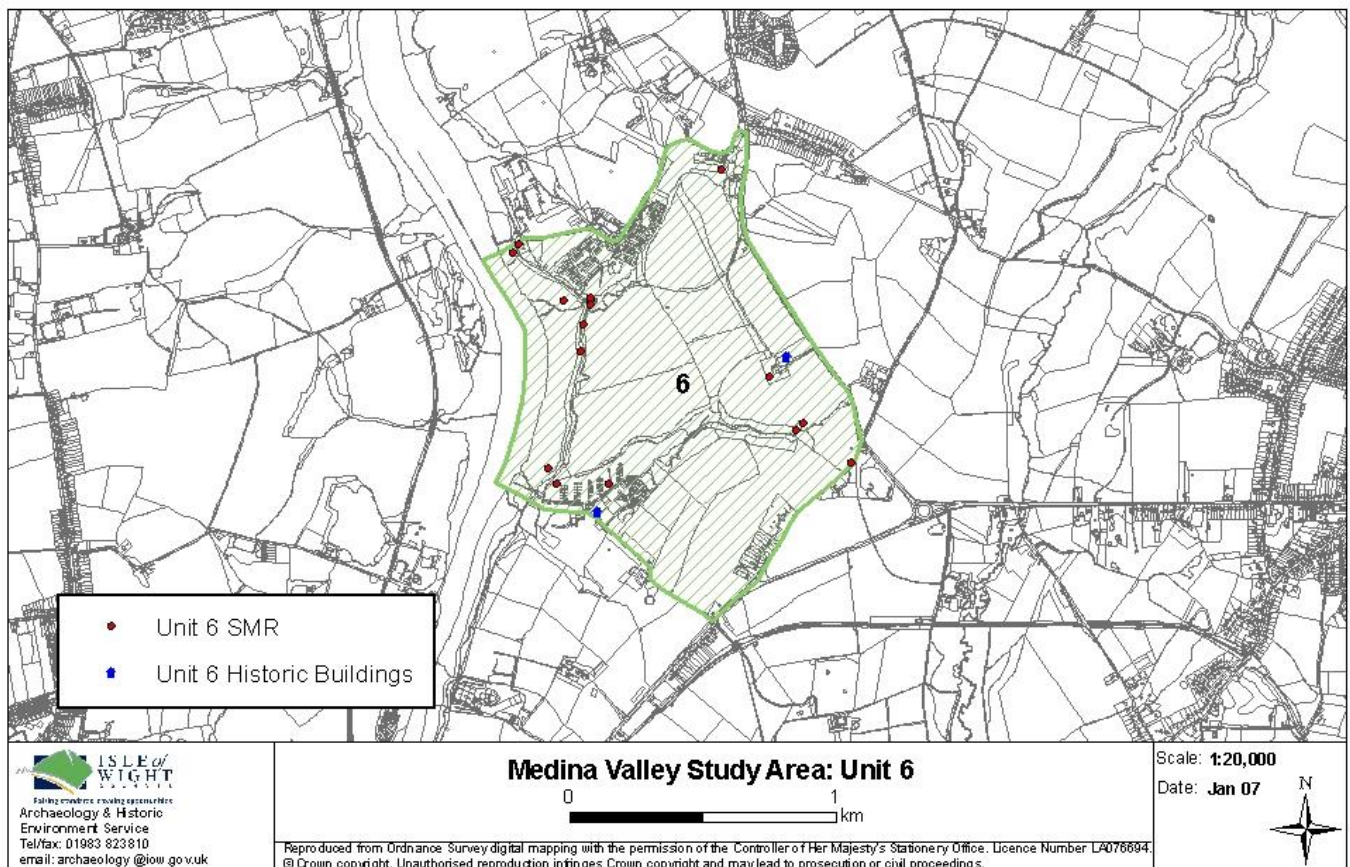


Figure 12: Research Unit 5

The boundaries from this unit start at the junction of North Fairlee Road with Mill Lane and travels north along the route of the East Cowes Road (A3021) as it becomes Whippingham Road and follows this road until its junction with Folly Road, where it turns west and follows the route of Folly Road, past Padmore Farm until it reaches the landing stage at the Folly Public House where the boundary runs out into the middle of the river and then follows the middle of the river southwards until it meets the north boundary of Unit 6 which it follows eastwards until it reached the junction of Mill Lane with North Fairlee Road.

3.8.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 6

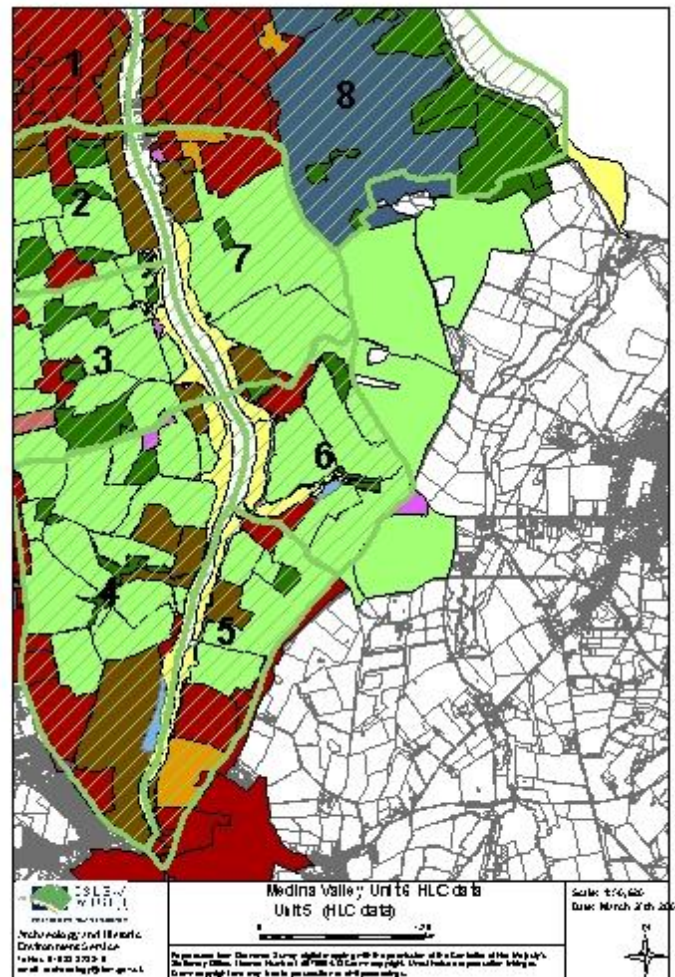


Figure 13: Research Unit 6: HLC data

This unit comprises mainly agricultural land and field patterns show that this land was enclosed relatively early (564, 563,) with possible medieval heath land being enclosed (559) and being cultivated in the 13th century (533).

Other areas show open grazing marshland which was divided into fields by the end of the 18th century (562). Apart from a residential mobile home site (551), settlement within this unit is restricted to Island Harbour (3388) and the Marina (3389) with one area of Ancient woodland (560) and one of Secondary woodland (561) with coastal salt marsh extending along the length of the entire intertidal area of this unit (3378).

3.8.2 Historic Environment Designations within Unit 6:

There are a large number of sites recorded on the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record.

3.8.3 Audit of known Historic Environment remains in Unit 6:

Prehistoric:

The prehistoric remains on the landward section of this unit are concentrated in the Claybrook Rew, a watercourse feeding into the estuary and the existing farming settlements at Heathfield and Padmore Farms.

A Mesolithic tranche axe has been recovered from the east Bank of Medina River north of Binfield Luck (HER 976)

A prehistoric flint scraper of Neolithic or Bronze Age (HER 4185) date was recovered from a subsoil identified between the plough soil and natural by archaeological watching brief recording carried out during the Seaclean Wight pipeline development. Near to this, a flint blade of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date (HER 4201) was recovered from a subsoil identified on the easement. No in situ features were identified, but this shows Neolithic and Bronze Age activity on this eastern part of the valley slopes.

Evidence of multi-period land use and occupation was found immediately to the south of Padmore Farm (HER 4581). This site was located on sand, coarse silt and gravel. This would have been naturally well drained and would appear to have attracted human activity from as long ago as the Late Mesolithic or early Neolithic period, as shown by the discovery of a blade core fragment. A sherd of Early Bronze Age pottery provides evidence of continuing activity, including a Neolithic/Bronze Age pit, and a prehistoric linear feature dating from the Iron Age to the first Century AD. The pottery, fired clay and charcoal from these features suggest domestic debris, although it has been suggested that the low-fired clay fragments might indicate some kind of small scale industrial process as similar organic-tempered material is known from Late Iron Age industrial sites. The presence of archaeological features, some of which contain domestic debris, indicates that there was settlement in the immediate vicinity although the quantity of both the artefacts and number of features recorded does not suggest large scale occupation.

Roman:

This human occupation and activity south of Padmore Farm (HER 4581). also revealed the continuation of settlement into the Roman period with a complex of intercutting Romano-British pits or ditches containing domestic refuse. Two Roman coins have been found with from the River Medina, near to the Folly Inn (HER 974). A further late 2nd Century AD coin was found around the watercourse (HER 2520).

Medieval:

The Padmore Farm (HER 4581) sites also produced a large assemblage of medieval pottery, probably from manuring fields close to the settlement and is evidence of continued occupation within the area which has continued until the present day.

Post medieval

There was once the site of a corn mill on the banks of the river just above North Fairlee, which was known as East Medina Mill (HER 1501). It corresponded to a mill on the western bank, and was built about 1790 by a Mr. Porter of Newport and was termed Botany Bay. This is probably the Mill mentioned in the 13th century grant by Juliana daughter of Richard Le Waleys to the monks of Quarr. However all that remained of this tide mill in 1978 when a survey was carried out was portions of the seawall in which are embedded parts of the waterwheel. This low breast shot wheel was once situated outside the mill in a wheel house. The tide ponds of the "East Medina Corn Mill" are shown intact in maps of 1866. However nothing was visible during the current survey.

More industrial use of the estuary edge is seen in a document dated to 1712 which relates to a dispute over the ownership of oyster fishery in Claybrooks/Heathfield Luck. The attached plan shows location of oyster beds (HER 3689). .

A post medieval lime kiln was located along the Claybrok Rew (HER 4152). This was located in the south west corner of the field (identified on a historic map as "Lime Kiln Ground") on ground sloping towards the stream leading to an inlet of the River Medina. The kiln survived as the base of a circular structure of bricks with a flue on the south-east side, all below the existing ground level. The internal facing bricks had been vitrified. The structure was infilled with brick rubble, interpreted as material from the collapse of the kiln's dome which lay above deposits of ash and burnt lime.

A Hard is shown to have been sites near to the Folly Inn on the 1897 OS map (HER 3312), but it was shown to have been replaced by a modern concrete slipway in the field survey.

The Folly Inn (HER 2797) itself is named after a barge which used to be "the scene of high entertainment amongst the bon vivants of an earlier age". In 1792 the barge had been hauled up on to the shore and built upon. Its position is marked on the Murdoch Mackenzie chart of 1783.

3.9 Unit 7: The Folly to East Cowes cemetery:

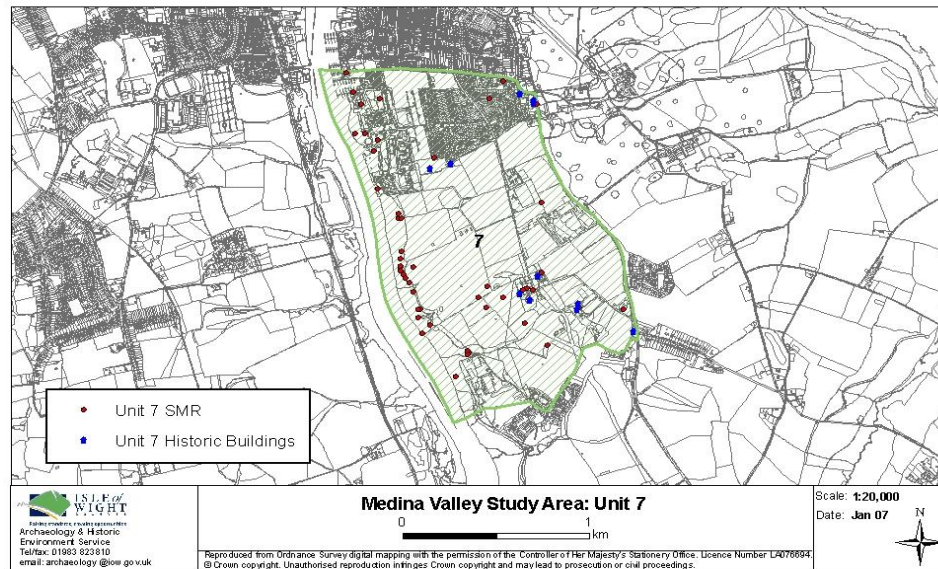


Figure 14: Research Unit 7

The boundaries of this unit follow the northern boundary of Unit 6 to Whippingham Road and follow the route of this until the junction with Victoria Grove and follow the line of that road until it joins the River Medina.

3.9.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 7

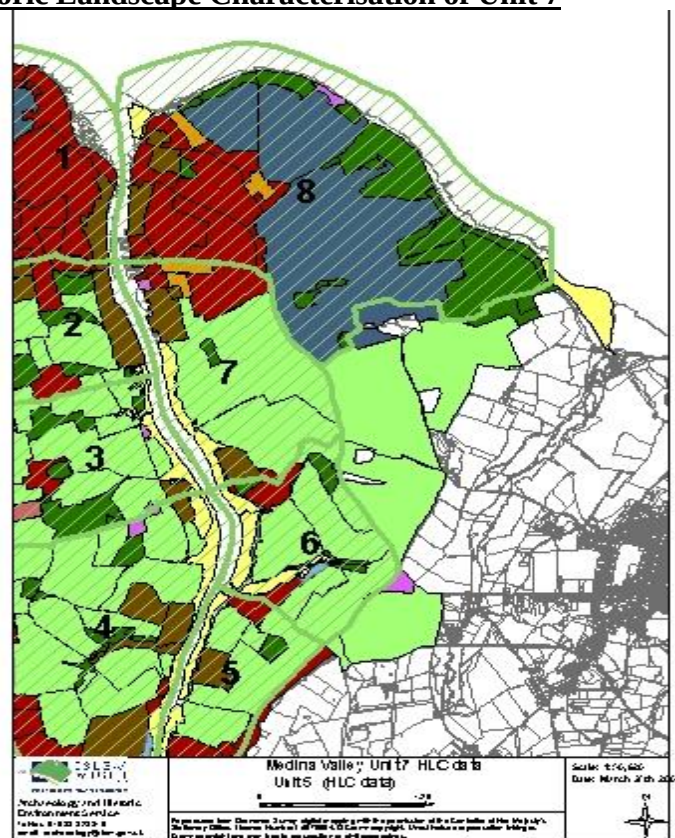


Figure 15: Research Unit 7: HLC data

This unit comprises agricultural land (556, 557) with one area of ancient woodland (560) and two of secondary woodland (553, 552) and the components of the settlement suburbs and infrastructure south of East Cowes with marine industry (554), hotel (555), cemetery (558), fuel depots and works (638), factory complex (637) and post 2nd World War residential housing (634).

3.9.2 Historic Environment designations within Unit 7:

The Conservation Area of Whippingham Church is designated as an area of Victorian rural settlement surrounding the church. There are several Listed Buildings within this Unit and a large number of sites recorded on the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record

3.9.3 Audit of Known Historic Environment remains in Unit 7

Prehistoric:

Three flints of general prehistoric date were recorded in fields to the north of the Whippingham works (HER 4206). North of Whippingham Church, a further assemblage of prehistoric worked flint was recovered, including flakes and a scraper of late Neolithic/Bronze Age date (HER 4207). Burnt flint, which is usually associated with Bronze Age ceremonial activity was also collected.

Site 8: Bronze Age Cooking Pit, Flint Scatter, Ancient Watercourse, Waterlogged Timbers, Tree Clearance Pits and Victorian Culvert

A burnt flint filled cooking pit and an ancient watercourse containing timbers of probable Bronze Age date were recorded found in a large spring line depression just to the north-west of St Mildred's church at Whippingham (HER 4578) during pipe laying works. Evidence of tree and scrub clearance and a flint scatter were also recorded. Pollen analysis of deposits within the watercourse suggests that the contemporary Bronze Age local environment was increasingly of open pasture. The pits, interpreted as evidence of tree and scrub clearance activity, and the thick, reddish-brown colluviation containing burnt flint, would appear to support this finding. There was no clear evidence of a structure of any kind found in the watercourse and all the timbers are assumed to have been washed down the watercourse to their present location. This indicates the potential presence of an important site of prehistoric date upstream from this point.

Another site to the southeast of St Mildred's church was revealed by pipeline development and recorded a series of tree clearance pits, flint tools and debitage (HER 4580). Concentrations of fire-cracked flint within a series of former water courses were also recorded. These strongly indicate the presence of a nearby settlement of prehistoric date. The opposing ridge to the east, on which Padmore Farm is located, showed similar but more prolonged settlement evidence.

North of the Folly Works, a lens of dark earth with gravel and crazed and reddened flint was noted in the low river bank (HER 3686). This is highly likely to be a prehistoric feature. A further possible hearth was recorded at Whippingham where a

lens of humic material containing charcoal and burnt flint was visible within the gravel layer in the river bank (HER 3679).

A peat deposit (4772) has been located at extreme low water by bait diggers at the west end of "Whippingham Quay". The peat is reported to be sealed by a layer of grey silt and has great potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

Prehistoric tree clearance, former water course and flint scatters (HER 4576) were recorded near to Whippingham Church on the west facing slope which flanks the east side of the River Medina with activity possibly focussed around an ancient watercourse. This former watercourse, possibly a spring line channel or palaeochannel would have been an important focal point in the prehistoric periods with the River Medina used as an important source for hunting and fishing, possible from a nearby settlement. A tidal crossing point of the River Medina may have influenced this as a location for prehistoric activity. A periglacial channel was also recorded in this area.

A flint core (HER 3681) and a chert pick (HER 3678) were found in intertidal gravel at Whippingham during the fieldwork survey (HER 3681).

Roman:

A sherd of Roman pottery called New Forest colour coated ware was found in the intertidal gravels during field survey (HER 3680).

Medieval:

The settlement of Whippingham is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD as being a manor held before the Conquest by Cheping of King Edward before it passed to William the Conqueror.

Postmedieval:

St. Mildred's Church (HER 964) at Whippingham served as Queen Victoria's Osborne estate church, but there had been an earlier church present which had been remodelled and enlarged by John Nash. This was quite inadequate for the Royal Family and its entourage and was consequently demolished and rebuilt with Albert Humbert (1822-1877) as architect between 1854 and 1862. The Church, along with its wooden lychgate is a listed building.

The Victoria and Albert Almshouses (HER 14260 and LB II) on Beatrice Avenue were built in 1880 for retired Royal servants. The Whippingham Rectory (HER 14261 and LBII) was built in the early 19th Century.

Buildings of historic importance within this unit include Padmore House (HER 12912 and LBII) built between 1750 and 1800 and Padmore Lodge (HER 12913) built slightly later between 1750 and 1850. The Old Cottage at Whippingham (HER 12901) was built between 1800 and 1850

Kingston Farm may sit in a site which has been the centre of settlement for many hundreds if not thousands of years. The current farmhouse (HER 12904) was built between 1830 and 1870, but has outbuildings, including the dairy (HER 12919) which was built between 1750 and 1850.

During the field survey, a wall was observed running from the river bank to the northern wall of the graveyard at Whippingham Church (HER 3688). This may possibly have been an estate boundary. In addition slight earthworks noted within a field to south west of Whippingham Church (HER 4554). These remain unidentified and undated.

A linear feature extending into river had been observed on aerial photographs (HER 3315) and was investigated as part of this field study. The feature consists of the remains of 2 parallel walls of large rubble, some 80cm wide and 12 feet apart. The walls are collapsing, giving the appearance of linear banks of rubble and it is highly likely to have functioned as a Hard in the post medieval period.

A Hard is shown as “Kingston Hard” on Murdoch Mackenzies map of 1783 (HER 2795) and a Quay and landing place (HER 3337) are shown on the same site on the 1865 1st edition OS map, but the site is now occupied by the Power Station, with jetties and pontoons extending into the intertidal zone. A shipbuilding yard (HER 3338) is also shown on 1897 OS map.

3.10 Unit 8: East Cowes and the Osborne Estate:

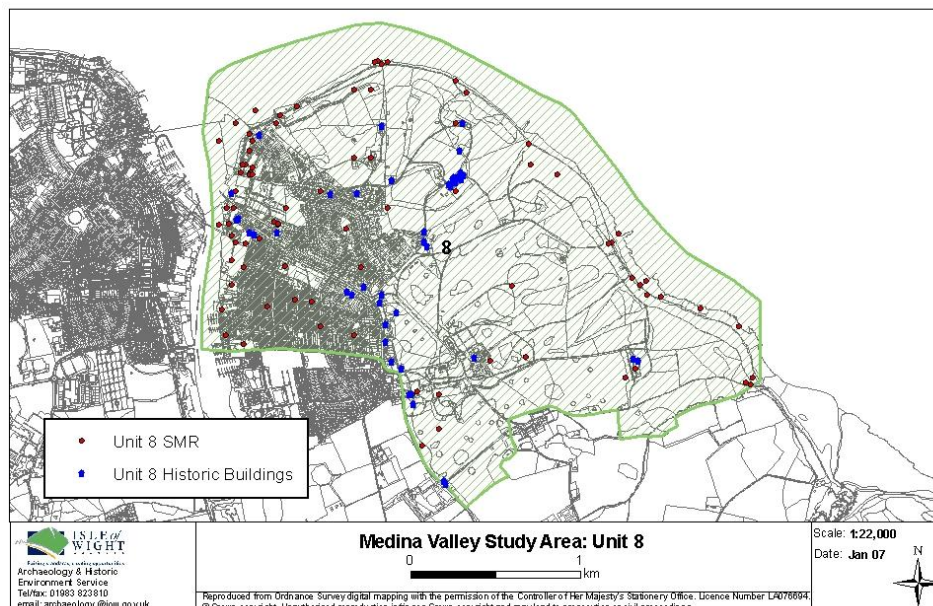


Figure 16: Research Unit 8

The boundaries of this unit follow the northern boundary of Unit 7, then eastwards along Victoria Grove to York Avenue which it follows until the junction with New Barn Road where it turns south along York Avenue until it reaches the edge of the designated Osborne Park at the coastal part of Osborne Bay. The unit includes all of East Cowes and its intertidal zone.

3.10.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of Unit 8

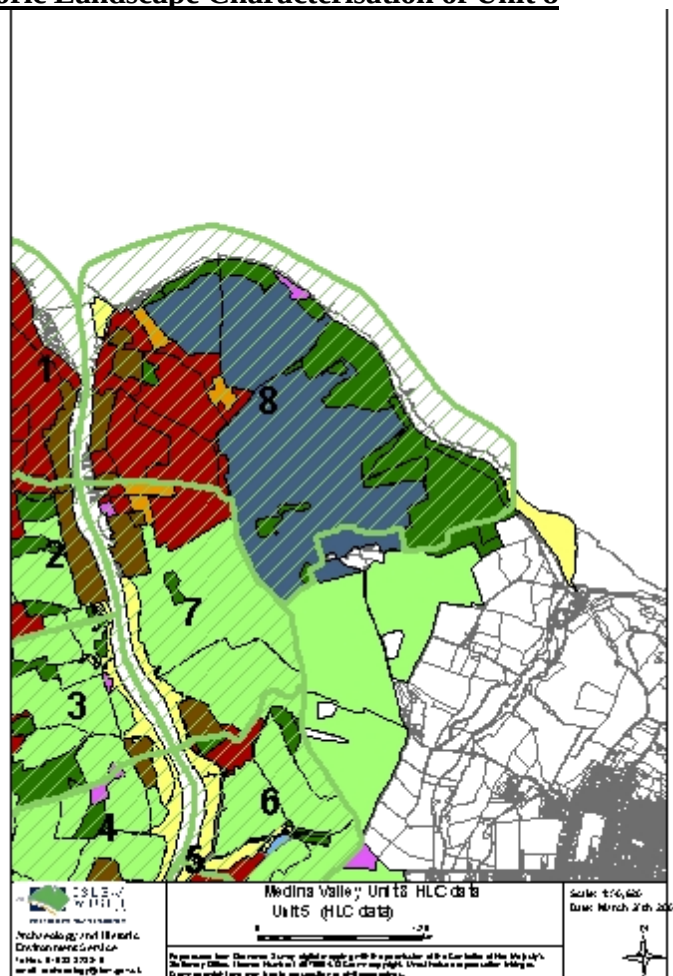


Figure 17: Unit 8: HLC data

This unit comprises the 19th and 20th century settlement of East Cowes (628) with residential clusters (625), housing estates (622), early 20th century ribbon development (623) and housing on former shipyard sites on reclaimed land (631) or on sites of brickworks (633). Land which was once in the grounds of East Cowes Castle (621) and land within the “East Cowes Park”, a speculative mid 19th century residential development which was only partially completed is also now used for residential use (619, 620). Areas of former or current marine industry (632, 630) include the site of Westlands and its predecessors British Hovercraft Corporation and Saunders Roe which were former parkland (626)

With two areas of Ancient Woodland (516, 519) and two areas of Secondary woodland (517, 627), this unit also contains the most formalised of parkland landscapes with the grounds of the late 18th century Norris Castle (518), the 19th century parkland of Springhill (515) and the gardens and grounds of the Osborne and Barton estates which became part of the Royal Estate of Victoria and Albert from the mid 19th century (522).

3.10.2 Historic Environment designations within Unit 8:

There are two Registered Parks and Gardens within this unit and all of the HER entries within both Registered areas, including the intertidal and marine zones have been discussed under the descriptions of the Registered Parks.

The East Cowes Conservation Area covers the Esplanade and there are a number of Listed buildings within the Unit, as well as a large number of sites recorded on the Isle of Wight County Historic Environment Record

3.10.3 Audit of known Historic Environment remains in Unit 8

Osborne Grade II* Registered Park:

The Grade II* Registered Park at Osborne (HER 2453) was created in the mid to late 19th Century and at its most extensive encompassed around 800 hectares including woodland, gardens and agricultural land. The original estate was purchased in 1844 by Queen Victoria with further large areas of farm and woodland acquired by the 1860's. The existing 18th century house was demolished and the palace of Osborne House (HER 10623 and LBI) was built for Queen Victoria with the Royal Pavilion completed in 1846.

Sites of historic importance within the landward zone of the Osborne Registered Park include three 19th century summerhouses (HER 2937, 14173 and 2838), a stone quarry shown on the Whippingham Tithe Map of 1847 (HER 2925) and a purpose built tool shed to house the royal children's garden tools (HER 5061). A miniature fort (HER 5060) was constructed in 1856, in brick with related earthworks - in the manner of the forts built around Portsmouth and Gosport at the time. The miniature fort and later barracks of 1860 were built of small bricks specially made in the Estate brickworks. The Royal children's museum (HER 14293 and LB II) was built between 1845-1850, as was the Swiss chalet (HER 14292 and LB II). Between the main house and the Swiss Cottage is a former ice house constructed in 1845 (HER 1328).

In 1903 Edward VII built separate houses and buildings for the Osborne Naval College (HER 4351) which was closed in 1921 and the buildings were dismantled. A range of stables and associated buildings (HER 3805) and water towers (HER 3804) survive nearby.

The north lodge (HER 14294 and LBII) and south lodge (HER 14295 and LBII) to the Barton Manor Estate were reconstructed around 1850 by Queen Victoria. The carriage arches and lodge at the Royal Entrance (HER 14296 and LBII) were added to the imposing royal estate around 1845.

Because the 19th century landscape of the Osborne Park has been maintained without change and because of the legal protection for the land in association with its Royal owners, there is little on the HER to illustrate earlier human activity. A prehistoric flake of general date has been recorded to the west of Barton Manor (HER 4205) and the site of a possible medieval beacon (HER 942) is thought to lie within this area.

The intertidal zone within the Osborne Registered Park area is important as it is the only part of the estates landscape subject to the continuous change through coastal

erosion and thus affords opportunities for recording new archaeological remains. The evidence for coastal erosion even in Queen Victoria's time is shown by the construction of sea walls in several phases from land belonging to Norris Castle to Kings Quay between 1852 to 1880 (HER 3955).

Prehistoric activity on this north-eastern coast is evidenced by a flint core or hammer stone of general prehistoric date found in the intertidal zone just west of Osborne Bathing Pier as part of the field survey (HER 3640).

Structural remains were recorded in Barton Beach, including a circular dry stone walling feature comprising a low mound with a depressed path running north-south through the centre was recorded to north of path to beach during the fieldwork phase of this project (HER 3621), but its function remains unknown. As does that of an alignment of posts with a revetment of limestone rubble laid edge to edge on south side (HER 3623), but this structure could have been a revetment. An alignment of east-west running posts (HER 3622) were also observed in the intertidal zone and may possibly relate to Barton Hard. A wreck (HER 2269) was recorded on Osborne Beach below Barton Wood. Another hulk was recorded almost completely buried in loose sand in Osborne Bay (HER 3639). A bathing pier is shown on early OS map, with shorter slipway just to east (HER 2774). Osborne Pier is shown on maps (HER 2933) and a feature was visible on aerial photographs adjacent to Osborne Pier but on a more northerly alignment. On the field survey it appeared to comprise a double row of posts as a cross shore alignment (HER 3634), but could not be properly recorded due to the tides.

Also recorded in Osborne Bay was the Queen's Alcove, built in 1869 as a semi-circular coursed stone shelter.. A rectangular framework of large squared timbers (HER 3635) held together by large iron nuts and bolts and clench bolts was recorded at Osborne Bay, but its function is unknown and it is poor condition. Also in Osborne Bay is the Queen's Tea House, (HER 3632) a building of around 1850 in date which combined a boat-house and tea-house.

Norris Castle Grade II Registered Park:

Immediately to the north of the Osborne Registered Park, lies the Registered Park of Norris Castle which is of early 19th century date (HER 2451) and the landscape is likely to have been designed by Humphrey Repton. Norris Castle itself was built between 1795 and 1805 for Lord Henry Seymour.

There are several landward sites of importance within the Norris Castle Registered Park, including a summer house shown on the 1863 OS maps (HER 2936). The main icehouse (HER 1325) for the castle is built into and under the north-east corner of stone base on which the castle stands. A secondary icehouse (HER 1326) lies nearby. The lower part of the elevated tower which now serves as a lodge to Lord Henry Seymour's grounds was probably a look-out house (HER 2710) as it is described as a sea mark on maps and charts of 1759, 1769 and 1794.

Evidence for much earlier prehistoric activity is shown by the discovery of a Palaeolithic axe (HER 1486) in the 1940's from a gravel pit at Norris Castle, on borders of Osborne Golf Links. The axe had been heavily rolled during formation of the gravels indicating that it may have been derived from earlier gravels at a higher level. Although this means that they cannot be used for dating the gravels, it does

indicate Palaeolithic activity on the river gravel terraces similar to that recently discovered at the other end of the estuary valley at Great Pan Farm.

Buildings of historic importance within the Norris Castle Registered Park include the complex of buildings around Norris Castle Farm house (HER 12889 and LB I) and its tower (HER 12888 and LBI) including the south cottage (HER 12873 and LBI) built between 1793 and 1808 and the north cottage (HER 12874 and LB I) of the same date. A farmbuilding (HER 12875 and LBI), barn (HER 12876 and LBI), two cartshed (HER 12877 and LB I; HER 12878 and LB I), a pigsty (HER 12879 and LBI), four sheds (HER 12880 and LBI; HER 12881 and LB I; HER 12882 and LBI; HER 12883 and LB I), a forge (HER 12884 and LB I), a coach house (HER 12858) and three stables (HER 12885 and LBI; HER 12886 and LB I; HER 12887 and LBI)) are also within the complex. Two lodges (HER 14289 and LB II) and one called Fort Norris (HER 14290 and LB II) lie some distance away from the complex.

Norris Castle (HER 10622 and LBI) itself was built in 1799 for Lord Seymour and is an exceptionally fine example of the gothic style of buildings for which it is designated as a Grade I Listed Building.

Only a small number of sites are recorded within the estuary edge zone for the land within the Norris Castle Registered Park. These include a 19th century sea wall (HER 3946), nearly a mile in length and built of Swanage masonry. The site of East Cowes Castle (HER 980) is thought to have been sited near to Old Castle Point and was erected by Henry VIII from the ruins of a religious house at “East Shamblord”. A 19th Century Bathing House (HER 2794) survives in ruins on the beach at this point.

East Cowes:

The remainder of this unit is covered by the town of East Cowes which sits opposite West Cowes overlooking the estuary mouth. A settlement called East Shamblerd is known to have been located around the area into which the modern town of East Cowes has built up, as it is mentioned in the Royal Survey of 1559. From Henry VIII's reign in the late 16th century, a defensive fort was built to protect the Solent from French sea invasion. By the end of the 16th century, a hamlet had developed and documentary sources suggest that a Newport merchant, Robert Newland, set up wharves and warehouses in East Cowes in order to avoid customs requirements at Newport.

The 17th century growth of new markets and trade with the New World increased the use of the Solent for Dutch and English shipping and by the 1620's East Cowes had grown into a significant port with shipbuilding and repair facilities. Documents show that ships being built and repaired in East Cowes were used by the Virginia Company in 1622-3. It is likely that the 17th century shipyards were sited under the present Red Funnel Ferry port and the waterlogged archaeological remains of these structures could survive in good condition in the anaerobic environment below the water line.

The popularity of East Cowes as an embarkation point for supplies and even settlers bound for America and Sir John Oglander reported seeing 300 ships in Cowes harbour in the 1620's.

By the 1690's Joseph Nye had taken over the Newlands shipyard and began to build ships under contract for the Navy. By this time, East Cowes consisted of two streets

of Castle Street and High Street and contained port facilities, wharves, warehouses, ship repair facilities and slips.

From at least the early 18th century, East Cowes was the main port of entry to the Island and from the middle of this century the surrounding settlement had developed with private housing and a customs house ferry service. A phase of rapid foreshore reclamation occurred which may have protected earlier structures and remains from destruction. From the 1740's East Cowes was once again used to build ships for the Royal Navy and by 1799, an estimate puts the town's population at 300. The earliest map of East Cowes dates to 1793 and shows Philemon Ewers ship yard in the south west corner in the area now covered by the Falcon Shipyard. It also shows buildings in the area of the present Castle Street and High Street.

Sites of archaeological and historical importance recorded on the County Historic Environment Record include:

Prehistoric:

A Neolithic polished flint axe was found in 1968 on a building site off Victoria Grove (HER 971). A Neolithic and Bronze Age flint scraper was recovered from Orchard Road.

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned to assess a series of geotechnical cores (HER 6151) as part for recent ground investigations for the East Cowes Project. This discovered that the tertiary bedrock was probably of the Oligocene Bouldnor Formation and was present at variable depths of between 3.8 and 21.25 metres below Ordnance Datum. The bedrock was overlain by sandy, clayey beach/fluvial deposits and then peat deposits which indicate a past marshland or salt marsh which would have provided a semi-stable terrestrial waterlogged ground surface. The organic horizons submitted for radiocarbon dating showed that a mixed deciduous woodland including oak and hazel were present in the later Mesolithic period (6010-5840 cal BC and 5980-5740 cal BC)

A copper high flanged looped palstave belonging to the Taunton phase of Bronze Age metalwork development was recovered during building work at Grange Road in 1990 (HER 2130).

Postmedieval:

A 19th century Ice house from the former East Cowes Castle now survives within a modern housing development (HER 1204).

Frank James Hospital was founded in 1893 as almshouse for aged and disabled sailors (HER 3259). In 1900 the building was put to use as a convalescent home for invalided soldiers, then a cottage hospital and has now been converted to dwellings

St. James's Church (HER 986) with its West Tower by John Nash.

Springhill (HER 3606) was a further small estate situated in an elevated position to West of the Norris estate with view over Cowes harbour and Solent beyond. The estate was purchased by William Goodrich in 1794 and was named Springhill by 1813. Goodrich's son in law, George Shedden owned the property from 1812. The

house was rebuilt from 1863 on site of original house possibly designed by George Repton (assistant to John Nash). The area of former parkland is now pasture with some mature oaks. A stone wall forms the East boundary of estate and part of the former kitchen garden is now a cemetery for the community of nuns who now occupy the house. An R.C. primary school has been built within grounds. Springhill Farmhouse (HER 12857) was built between 1650 and 1750

The Albany Road Barracks (HER 2700) are shown on 1882 Survey and have recently been used as offices by Westland Aerospace.

A Ropeworks (HER 2691) is shown on the chart of 1783, however the field survey showed that the site is now occupied by Coastguard Cottages

Buildings of historic importance within this unit include:

Victoria Cottage on York Avenue (HER 14298 and LB II) was built in 1843 and was occupied by Cubitt during the construction of Osborne House. Arthur Cottage (HER 144299 and LB II) was one of the Osborne estate cottages built in 1850, as was the Prince of Wales Lodge (HER 14300 and LB II) built between 1845 and 1846. Albert Cottage on York Avenue (HER 14172 and LB II) dates to between 1845 and 1846. Cambridge Terrace, on Cambridge Road (HER 14475) dates from 1870. Milfield (HER 14287 and LBII) at 93 Milfield Avenue was built around 1830.

56, Old Road was built as North Lodge (HER 11755 and LB II), between 1798 and 1802 by John Nash, a lodge to his castle and was used as a coachman's house (LB II). The former Robin Hood pub on Castle Street (HER 12859) was built between 1800 and 1850 and is now called the Ship and Castle. The Old Seaholme (HER 12860) was built between 1800 and 1840 and was used for the British Hovercraft Company.

Bridge Cottage at 15-17 Castle Street was built between 1750 and 1850. Bucklands on Well Street (HER 12862) was built between 1800 and 1850. Kent House on York Avenue (HER 12863) was built between 1800 and 1850, 168 York Avenue (HER 12864) dates to between 1830 and 1880 and Powys House at 121 York Avenue (HER 12865) was built between 1880 and 1850. 1-9 Clarence Road (HER 14214 and LBII) is a terrace of houses built around 1830. Osborne Cottage (HER 14297 and LB II) was built in 1856-7 and was the former home of Princess Beatrice and her husband Prince Henry when he was governor of the Isle of Wight.

Estuary edge zone:

Post medieval:

The site of East Cowes Castle (HER 980), as erected by Henry VIII from the ruins of a religious house at East Shamblord, is unknown, but thought to be at Old Castle Point.

Industrial use of the edge of the marine zone is shown by a timber pond (HER 3335) on 1897 OS map. Timber ponds (HER2790) are also shown on an Admiralty chart of 1881 with the land now reclaimed and occupied by a factory. Gas works are shown on 1863 OS map (HER 2791) and the site is now occupied by a factory.

In 1865 the brothers Welch-Thornton obtained approval from the Board of Trade to build a pier and place a pontoon on the waterfront of their property (HER 3207). The pier was later replaced by the Red Funnel Car Ferry terminus.

The location of the Falcon Shipbuilding Yard (HER 2792) is shown on OS 1863 map, but the land has now been reclaimed and lies under a factory. The Cowes Floating Bridge (HER 982) is now a replica of earlier mechanisms used to cross the mouth of the estuary between the tow settlements at East and West Cowes. The first steam floating bridge went into service in 1859. Prior to this the ferry was winched across from Ferry Boat Quay (just south of Trinity Wharf) to the present site at West Cowes. The location of the Clare Lallow Gridiron Yard (HER 2670 and LB II) in Castle Street, is where the former seaplane factory, originally built for J.S. White and Co. for the construction of seaplanes, was launched in May 1913. The Columbine Works (HER 2913) were constructed in 1935 and included a large boat hall for the manufacture of flying boats. In 1958 the company began work on the hovercraft. A Coastguard station was located as shown on 1863 OS map (HER 2710), but the site is now part of Red Funnel car park.

The United Reformed Church on Bridge Square dates to the early 19th century and has now been converted to dwellings (HER 2669).

4.0 Stage 2: Audit of previously unknown survival by detailed archaeological surveys

4.1 Land based remains: Geophysical Survey

The decision was taken at the commencement of the Audit, to carry out the large scale identification of unknown archaeological remains on the landward parts of the Medina Estuary using geophysical survey techniques. This is because of the ability of a variety of geophysical survey techniques to identify below ground archaeological remains without disturbance and to cover a large geographical area of the Estuary land.

Wessex Archaeology have been commissioned to undertake the geophysical survey on behalf of the Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service. Because of local climatic and agricultural conditions, the geophysical survey will be carried out in September 2007 and a supplemental report shall be produced which should be added to this report.

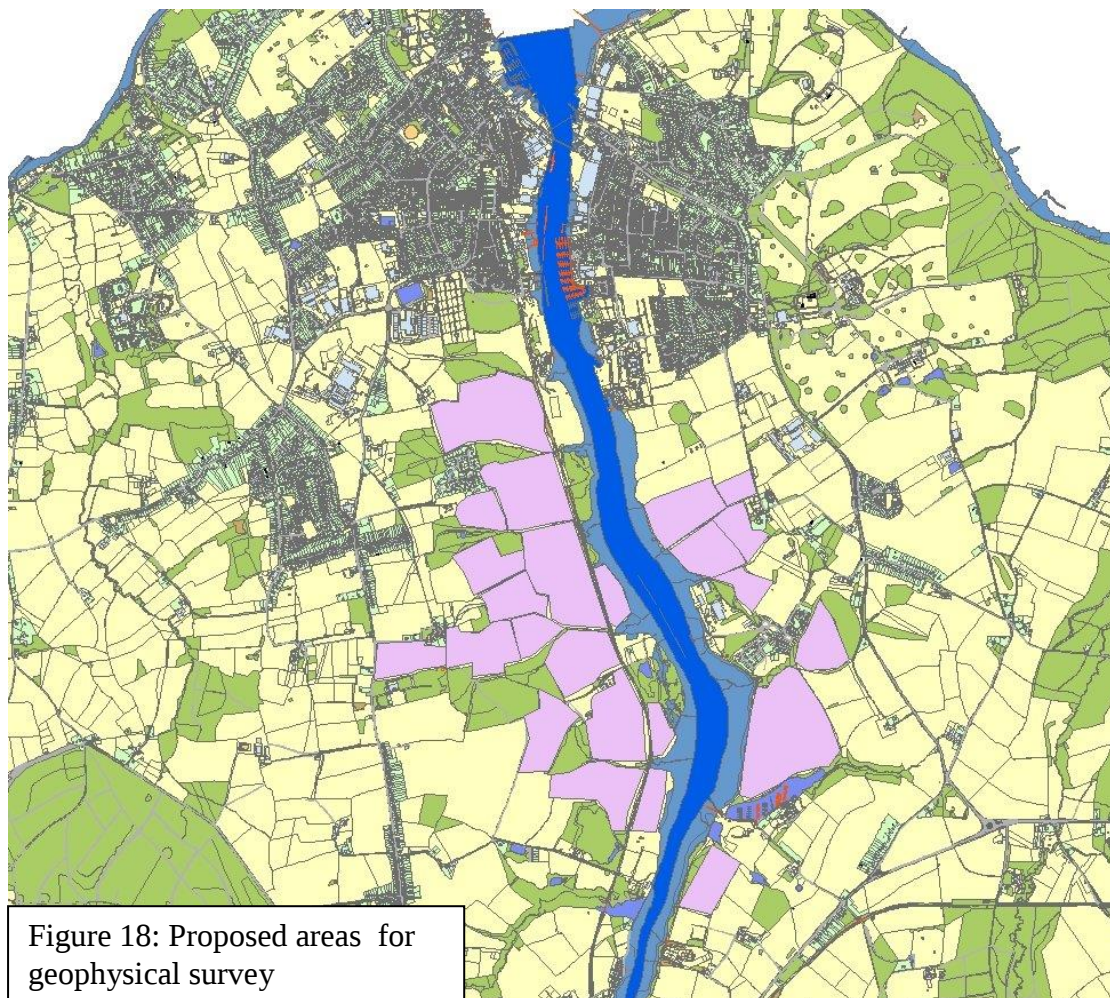


Figure 18: Proposed areas for geophysical survey

The geophysical survey will focus on the areas for shown in purple on the map above which have been identified as having archaeological potential.

The objectives of the Geophysical survey are to:

- Rapidly survey 200 hectares of land already identified as having archaeological potential using reconnaissance Magnetic Susceptibility techniques or Magnetic Gradiometry techniques depending on the local site conditions ;
- Identification of possible archaeological sites for detailed survey;
- Characterisation of any sites through detailed survey using Magnetic Gradiometry techniques;

4.2 Intertidal remains: Archaeological survey of saltmarsh and intertidal mud flats:

Methodology:

The methodology for this part of the archaeological survey was developed and rigorously tested during the 15 year English Heritage funded Wootton-Quarr Project. Initial field visits were carried out to identify previously unknown remains and to identify previously unknown structures recorded in the HER. Further field visits were made to archaeologically record the structures and then to assess the priorities for further archaeological analysis.

Unit 1:

There are three wooden structures of unknown date recorded within this unit and all three lie within the area of Gurnard Bay.

HER 2245 was reported when the east bank of Gurnard Luck was cut back by floodwater in 1994. This exposed a platform of fascicle brushwood with most of the platform lying in grey silt but resting upon compacted sand and gravel and edged by two vertically placed planks. The initial field visits to this site were unable to identify the platform due to the banks of Gurnard Luck being obscured by weed.

HER 3751 is a timber structure in Gurnard Bay comprising longitudinal timbers and large posts in intertidal mud and shingle. The structure was recorded by black and white photograph (see below) and Global Positioning System, but was interpreted by its position and form as possibly being a former coastal revetment. Consequently it was not selected for further archaeological analysis as part of this project.



Figure 19: PRN 3751

HER 5658 was a double post alignment within the intertidal zone to the east of the Bay which was described in Edwin Smith's manuscript of the excavation of Gurnard Roman Villa in the 1860's. There was no illustration of the structure or its location and repeated site visits during this study did not identify any remains relating to this structure.

Unit 2

A cluster of hulks, that is abandoned sea and river vessels, are recorded in the estuary silts at Somerton. They include:

HER 3697 is a Carvel construction hulk of 22metres in length which is lying in deep mud with deck timbers, futtocks and keelson visible.



Figure 20: PRN 3697

HER 3698 is a hulk with only the outline of ribs visible in the silts which is approximately 12m long :



Figure 21: PRN 3698

HER 3699 is a hulk with bow to stern visible from out of the intertidal silts. Approximately 13m long, this boat has deck timbers and futtocks present:

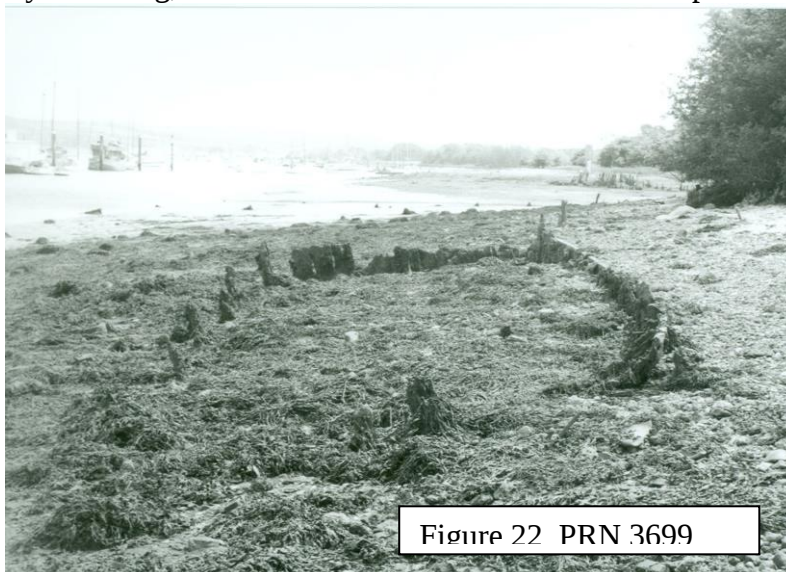


Figure 22 PRN 3699

HER 3711 is a hulk which was observed on another observed on aerial photographs but not readily visible on the ground due to rubbish and timber on the foreshore at this location (HER 3711).

Unit 3

Potential prehistoric hearth sites:

There two groups of as yet undated prehistoric importance around the mouths of the two watercourses which enter the estuary at Pinkmead and Medham. Six prehistoric hearth sites (HER 2146, 3444, 3442, 3423, 3443, 3703) are clustered around the watercourse mouth to the south of Medham.

HER 2146 is a lens of burnt and crazed flint situated in the side of the river bank, approximately 60 cm below the current land surface. The lens apparently rests on the natural and is subject to active coastal erosion.

HER 3423 is a small lens of sparsely distributed burnt flint within the side of the riverbank. Approximately .0m in length and 10cm thick, this deposit lies at 40cm below the existing ground surface and rests upon the natural deposits.

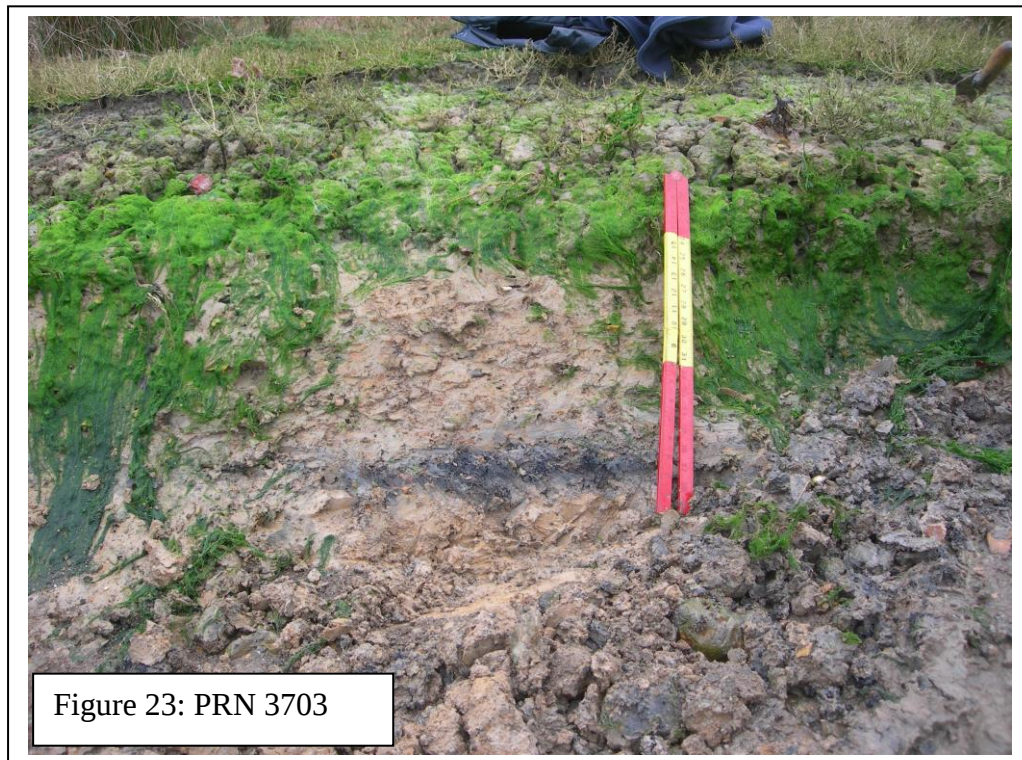
HER 3442 is a hearth observed within the edge of the estuary bank during the 1999 coastal audit.

HER 3443 is lens of very black burnt material visible in bank. This may be a hearth.

HER 3444 is a hearth observed within the edge of the estuary bank during the 1999 coastal audit.

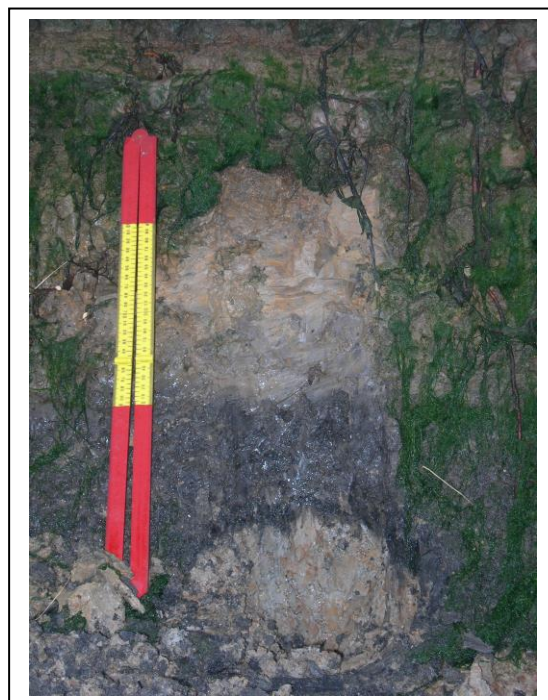
HER 3703 is lens of black earth containing charcoal and burnt flint and clay visible in the low eroding river bank. Burnt flint is present to the north of the feature, spread sparsely through what appears to be natural clay. The feature was traced for a depth of

at least 40cm extending below beach level. A fire cracked blade core was retained and the position was measured using GPS.



Roman feature:

HER 3445 is a Roman feature within the intertidal zone at Medham which was observed as an undated thin lens of organic material in the 1999 coastal audit. By the time this study was carried out in 2006, the feature had been substantially eroded to reveal a substantial Roman feature containing coarse ware.



Undated

wooden structures:

Three sets of wooden post built structures were present within this unit.

HER 3701 is a triangular setting of 6 posts observed in deep mud in the intertidal zone during the 1999 coastal audit. The posts were still visible during the 2006 survey and their position measured using GPS.

HER 3702 is a cross shore line of 3 posts observed in deep mud in the intertidal zone during the 1999 coastal audit. The posts were still visible during the present survey and their position measured using GPS.

HER 3662 is a group of four posts all observed in deep mud within the intertidal zone. They were inaccessible to record or sample due to the thick intertidal muds:



Figure 25 PRN 3662

Undated Hulks

Four hulks (3655, 3656, 3657; 3665) were also recorded within this unit as being visible in the intertidal zone at Pinkmead, they were photographed but not recorded as they were inaccessible due to thick mud.



Figure 26 PRN 3655



Figure 27 PRN 3656



Figure 28 PRN 3657

HER 3665 was a wooden structure lying in the lower intertidal zone to the north of Pinkmead which could have been a hulk, but was totally obscured by weed and mud. It was not photographed because not enough of the structure was visible.

Within the northern intertidal part of this unit, an undated hard was recorded (HER 3700) comprising parallel rows of posts with limestone rubble between them. The southernmost post line has evidence of horizontal revetment timbers and the hard has a steep incline to the river.



Figure 29 PRN 3700

Unit 4

Mesolithic

HER 3650 is a lens of organic silt recorded in the south face of the small creek between the Cement Works and Werrar. Its position was traced using GPS between SZ 50559 92202 to SZ 50611 92199 and the deposit was located approximately 0.5 metres below the surface, underlying orange clay. Traces of organic material and sparse burnt flint fragments can also be observed in the river bank between the creek and the Cement Works.

Unknown structures

HER 3858 is a substantial bank observed on a field visit which surrounded Werrar Marsh, with the remains of a wooden post revetment on the eastern (seaward) side. The Bank has been breached and is subject to coastal erosion. Two further banks are visible within the saltmarsh at its southern end.

HER 3666 is a double line of large squared posts observed crossing the creek behind the railway embankment at Dodnor. The posts are inaccessible but the lines are approximately 2-3m apart and a further row of posts adjacent to the railway was also noted:



HER 3651 is a large carvel-built hulk located in the creek south of Werrar. The iron deck house with six portholes on each side, iron guard rails, bollards and rounded stern have led it to be identified with the Trawler "Yellow Fin" which was berthed in Cowes when it started to take in water. The Harbour master recalls the boat being moved to the creek south of Werrar in case it sank at Cowes. The Yellow Fin had a whaleback bow and a deckhouse supported a wooden bridge. The physical remains of this hulk were not able to be recorded due to inaccessibility in the silts.



Figure 31 PRN 3651

HER 3652 is another hulk lying in the creek south of Werrar. This is a small clinker-built vessel lying in deep mud, and was not accessible for recording. It is, however, a rare example of a Cowes ketch, called the Bee which now survives only as a hulk lying in thick mud. However it was only possible to photograph the remains because of its inaccessibility in the thick silty muds:



Figure 32 PRN 3652

HER 3659, 3660 and 3661 are a further group of three hulks are shown on a 1946 aerial photograph within the intertidal zone adjacent to Medina Cement Works. These now lie buried by material tipped in to reclaim the land in this area.

Unit 5

Undated wooden structures:

HER 3713 is an alignment of squared posts with horizontal revetment recorded crossing the mouth of the inlet to north of sewage works. Five posts were observed on the seaward side of the line, all leaning towards the alignment:



Figure 33 PRN 3713

HER 3709 is a cross shore line of 6 posts observed at Fairlee:



Figure 34 PRN 3709

HER 3707 A feature was observed in the low river bank on the field survey. It resembles a pit containing charcoal and fragments of burnt clay and flint and may be prehistoric in date.

Unit 6:
Undated wooden structures:

HER 3268 is a hulk which was once an ammunition lighter lying in inaccessible thick muds:



Figure 35 PRN 3268

HER 3710 is a V-shaped alignment of closely spaced posts lying to the north of Island Harbour, which may be a former coastal revetment:



Figure 36 PRN 3710

HER 3796 is an intermittent stake alignment was observed within an "oxbow creek". The stakes are partially buried beneath shingle bank at mouth of creek. Traces of horizontal revetment were also noted and a possible hurdle or fascine at the end of an alignment.

Unit 7

HER 3686 is a lens of dark earth a lens of dark earth with gravel and crazed and reddened flint was noted in the low river bank (HER 3686). This is highly likely to be a prehistoric feature.

HER 3679 is a further possible hearth was recorded at Whippingham where a lens of humic material containing charcoal and burnt flint was visible within the gravel layer in the river bank:



Figure 37 PRN 3679

HER 4772 is a peat deposit which has been located at extreme low water by bait diggers at the west end of "Whippingham Quay". The peat is reported to be sealed by a layer of grey silt and has great potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

Undated wooden structures:

HER 3705 was a group of posts observed in the mud on the foreshore in front of the Folly Works which could possibly have been an alignment, however they were inaccessible within the deep estuarine muds:



Figure 38 PRN 3705

HER 3687 is a Hulk noted on aerial photograph, and observed on site visits adjacent to Folly Works, but it was not easily accessible because of the estuarine muds in which it sits:



Figure 39 PRN 3687

HER 3684 is a cross shore double alignment of posts sited about 2 metres apart are visible sticking out of thick mud at Whippingham. There are also various other random posts in the area:

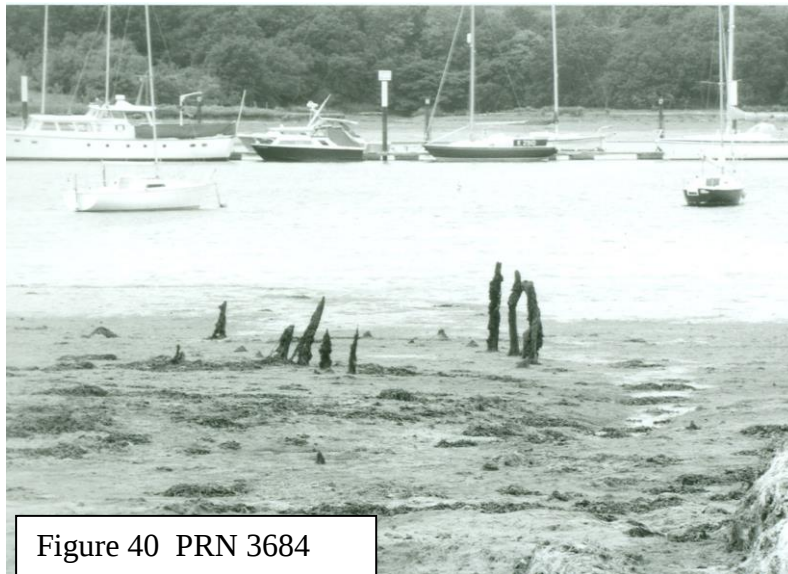


Figure 40 PRN 3684

HER 3683 is a further structure comprising three longshore rows of posts with large stone boulders on the western (river) side. The easternmost row comprises two posts, whilst five posts are visible in the middle row, and the westernmost row consists of twelve posts with horizontal revetments are visible:



Figure 41 PRN 3683

HER 3677 is a group of 3 posts, possibly a cross shore alignment, and was also recorded.

HER 3676, although not wooden, is an undated submerged structure recorded at Kingston and its function is unclear. It is a rectilinear feature consisting of three banks about 20cm high, at right angles to each other, and open to the river:



Figure 42 PRN 3676

It lies adjacent to a group of posts (HER 3675), possibly an alignment, in the lower intertidal zone. A further longshore alignment of posts (HER 3674) was recorded at Kingston. This comprised six oak posts visible through the muds and silts. A double alignment of posts about 1 metre apart also crosses the shore and could possibly be the remains of a jetty (HER 3673). A further group of more than 20 posts were located towards low water in deep mud and were inaccessible (HER 3671). In addition, a curving, almost L shaped, cross shore linear arrangement of posts runs for 14 metres in the intertidal zone (HER 3672). A longshore linear bank approximately 3.5m wide and 25cm high was also recorded in the intertidal zone, but was not able to be dated (HER 3670).

A hulk was observed on aerial photographs on the River Medina, near East Cowes Cemetery (HER 3714). However, the land adjacent to East Cowes Cemetery has been reclaimed and it is likely that the hulk has been buried or cleared.

Unit 8:

Undated wooden structures:

HER 2268 is an alignment of at least 31 stakes running parallel to shore was recorded on East Cowes beach, just above MLW mark. The ragged alignment extends for about 39 metres and the stakes are mostly only just protruding from the sand. Stakes have eroded heads and are around 6 to 8 cm in diameter, round. Sand was only about 1 cm thick, with grey silt beneath. Below c.40 cm, the silt contained much shell. Stake was embedded to a depth exceeding 50 cm.

4.3 – Underwater remains: Marine Archaeological Survey

The Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology undertook an assessment of the marine archaeological environment of the Medina Estuary, Isle of Wight.

This assessment undertook a review of a wide range of available marine datasets including geology, sedimentology, historic charts and available geophysical reports. Further information was obtained from the Isle of Wight Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record.

A geophysical survey of the Medina Estuary, using bathymetry, side scan sonar and sub-bottom profiling to identify geophysical anomalies was also undertaken.

The sub-bottom survey identified prehistoric landsurfaces and palaeochannels occurring intermittently along the entire length of the Medina Estuary. While the side scan sonar survey identified 164 anomalies many of which were associated with yachting activity or seabed features although several could represent cultural material.

The results of the marine dataset research and geophysical are contained within the report which is inserted into this Historic Environment Assessment on the following pages:

5.0 Stage 3: Provision of interpretative data by scientific analysis

5.1 Paleoenvironmental assessment

Palaeoenvironmental assessment is a term used to describe the collection of techniques used to identify and interpret the microscopic and macroscopic environmental remains which survive within archaeological deposits and soils.

Dr Rob Scaife, a leading archaeological environmental specialist, has been contracted to carry out a programme of palaeoenvironmental assessment of selected features and deposits within the intertidal and marine zones of the River Medina. These include potential prehistoric hearths, a Roman feature and the nationally important Mesolithic site at Werrar. If certain types of remains survive, the following analysis will be attempted on it:

Soils and sediments will be assessed by soil micromorphology techniques to assess the old land surface and possible buried Roman soil which runs along all of the sites on the west and possible the east bank;

Seeds within the inter-tidal peats and any archaeological deposits will be identified and analysed to provide a picture of the environment and landscape of the river valley during different periods of human activity;

Pollen analysis will also identify a picture of the environment and landscape of the river valley during different periods of human activity;

Diatoms are microscopic algae which are found in virtually every habitat where water is present. Diatom analysis will identify the fossils and remains of these creatures in order to reconstruct the environment of the inter-tidal sediments during different periods of human activity;

The identification and analysis of marine and terrestrial mollusca will allow a picture of the micro-environment of their habitats to be built up during different periods.

A supplementary report will be submitted when the results of palaeoenvironmental assessments have been completed.

5.2 Radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon dating will be carried out on suitable organic material samples collected from structures, features and deposits. This technique is extremely specialist and can only be carried out at a limited number of specialist laboratories which have extensive waiting lists.

A supplementary report will be submitted when the results of the radiocarbon dating assessments have been completed.

6.0 Stage 4: Constraints and Opportunities

Historic environment remains are a fragile and finite resource. Unlike animal or plant habitats they cannot be replaced once they are destroyed and consequently a robust system of mitigation has been set in place by the English Government in 1990 with the publication of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Planning and archaeology. This has set the management of historic environment remains firmly within the local government planning process and allows curatorial archaeologists to advise the local planning authority that when there is a likelihood that potentially important archaeological remains lie within a potential development site, the developer should provide the results of a pre-determination archaeological evaluation so that the local planning authority can make an informed decision about the mitigation required by the development's impact on the historic environment remains.

There is a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ for sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not, and accepted mitigation measures to ensure this include refusal of planning permission for the whole or part of a development, sympathetic foundation design and change to allocations of open space or undisturbed areas.

Planning conditions allow a suite of different mitigation measures to be required by the local authority to mitigate a development's impact on regionally and locally important historic environment remains. These range from archaeological watching brief during development to full excavation and recording before development work starts.

The historic environment remains recorded during this study will be protected by their addition to the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record. This definitive database of all known archaeological remains on the Island is used by the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Archaeologist to identify sites for mitigation works.

Other modern human activities destroy and damage archaeological remains, including ploughing of arable land which has recently been shown to destroy substantial Roman buildings over a period of little more than 100 years.

Coastal erosion is a large factor in the destruction of archaeological remains within the River Medina intertidal and marine zones, and is exacerbated by river traffic and yachting activities as shown in the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology Report.

However, the Isle of Wight Council does not want to preserve these historic environment sites at the expense of the development and improvement of the Estuary and its future uses. Regionally and locally important archaeological remains can be "preserved by record", that is – if scientific excavation, recording and analysis of the remains are carried out by experienced professional archaeological contractors in advance of development, the information they provide can be preserved as an archaeological record and lodged within the County Historic Environment Record.

6.1 Opportunities for community archaeology work

Opportunities exist for local archaeology and heritage societies to get involved in future archaeological work including the following:

- 6.1.1** fieldwalking of all arable fields by systematic grid method in order to locate any spreads of artefacts which might indicate buried archaeological remains;
- 6.1.2** geophysical survey of areas not included in this study;
- 6.1.3** archaeological recording of potential prehistoric and roman remains revealed by coastal and tidal erosion along both river banks;
- 6.1.4** archaeological recording of hulks and wooden structures within the intertidal and marine zones with research to identify the names and careers of abandoned river craft such as the Cowes Ketch, “The Bee”;
- 6.1.5** the production of a leaflet and guided and non guided walks.

6.2 Development mitigation for Historic Environment remains

A mitigation map showing areas of National, Regional and Local importance of the known historic environment remains will be produced as a supplementary report when the remaining data has been provided.

Prior to this being ready, the General Historic Environment issues have been identified below:

- 6.2.1 National, Regional and Local Historic Environment designations including Conservation Areas; Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings; Registered Parks and Gardens; Areas of Archaeological Importance, Historic Environment Record sites must be taken into account during any development proposals or management plans drawn up for the Estuary;
- 6.2.2 The Requirement for preservation in-situ for nationally important archaeological remains and structures;
- 6.2.3 Requirement for preservation in-situ and proper treatment of any human remains discovered;
- 6.2.4 Requirement for Pre-application archaeological evaluation for areas of high archaeological importance and regional archaeological importance;
- 6.2.5 Requirement for Conservation Area Consent for buildings within designated Conservation Areas;
- 6.2.6 Requirement for Listed Building Consent for all designated Listed Buildings;
- 6.2.7 Requirement for mitigation measures of full excavation, building recording or watching brief for locally important archaeological remains and structures;

6.3 Areas of Archaeological Importance already identified by this study

- 1) Gurnard – An unbroken sequence of remains from Palaeolithic to Gurnard Roman villa; including Bronze Age human burials;
- 2) West Cowes – medieval quay and 13th century Port of Shamlord, 17th Century urban historic core of town with very high potential for coastal and riverine quay deposits and structures, post medieval marine industries including White's shipping yard, ropeworks and Cowes Crane;
- 3) Shamblers Copse to Medham Lane – Neolithic land clearance with Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement nearby, Medieval farming settlement at Somerton Farm, 19th century industrial sites including brick kilns at Medham and Oyster beds; Cluster of hulks in river bed at Somerton,
- 4) Medham to Pinkmead – Mesolithic hearths, one Roman site, undated wooden structures and hulks in intertidal zone at Pinkmead and Medham, Neolithic and Bronze Age remains including probable Human Burial mounds; possible Roman Villa site; 12th Century historic core of Northwood settlement at Chawton; post medieval quays and industrial sites;
- 5) Werrar to Newport Harbour – Nationally Important Mesolithic occupation site at Werrar; Excellent anaerobic preservation of waterlogged Neolithic trees at Dodnor, wooden structures and hulks in intertidal zone, Bronze Age palstave hoard at Werrar; important industrial archaeological sites at Medina Cement Works, Werrar brickworks; Bronze Age, Roman (including cemetery) and 12th Century (planned town) settlement at Newport with designated Areas of Archaeological Importance including Newport Quay with potential for medieval quay structures and deposits, 18th century industrial sites including quays;
- 6) Newport Harbour to Island Harbour – undated wooden structures in riverbed, possible prehistoric hearth; post medieval industries including water driven cornmill, various quays and harbour; Ryde Queen paddle steamer
- 7) Island Harbour to the Folly – wooden structures in intertidal zone; continuous Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval to modern activity around Padmore Farm; 18th century cornmills, oyster fisheries and lime kilns;
- 8) The Folly to East Cowes Cemetery – Neolithic/Bronze Age settlement activity around Whippingham, important peat deposits, undated wooden structures and possible prehistoric hearths in intertidal zone; Settlement at Whippingham since Domesday Book (1086 AD) at least
- 9) East Cowes and the Osborne Estate – 16th century East Cowes Castle and settlement of East Shamblers; 17th century Port for Virginia Company, likely reclaimed land of 17th century former shipyards, marine industries, 19th century settlement of East Cowes; Registered Parks and Gardens at Osborne and Norris Castle.