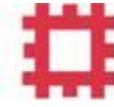


Hillforts in the Chilterns: Understanding & Conserving their Significance



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True it is, however, that the Chiltern Forest, forming a strong and impenetrable country, abounds with evidence of the care once bestowed by its inhabitants on camp and fortification. They were a warlike people, who once on these natural ramparts were driven, in self-defence, to study their rude art of war.+

ANTIQUITIES OF THE CHILTERN HILLS, By THE
REV. W. J. BURGESS, M.A.

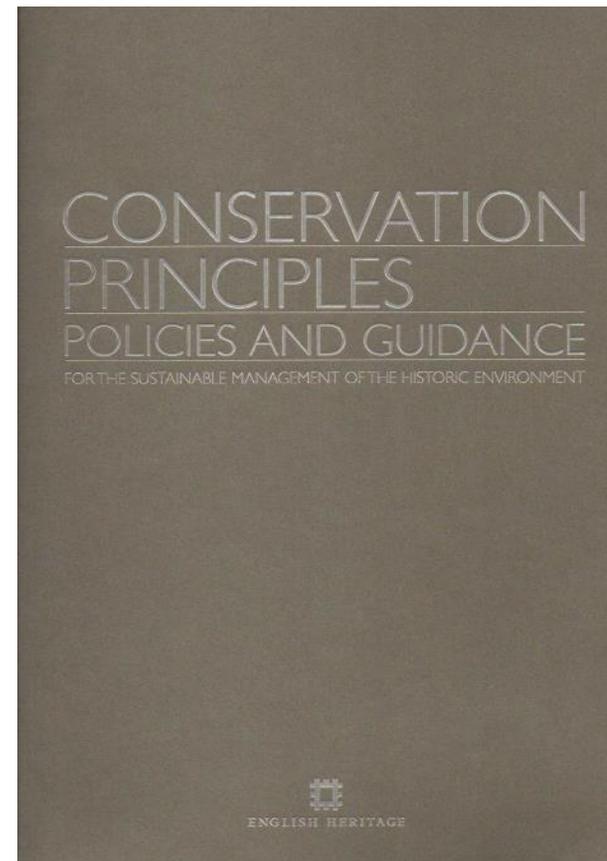
(Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society 1854)

Conservation Principles



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- “ 6 Conservation Principles
- “ 4 Heritage Values
- “ Assessing Heritage Significance
- “ Managing Change
- “ Applying the Principles



The Six Conservation Principles



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1. the historic environment is a shared resource
2. everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment
3. understanding the significance of places is vital
4. significant places should be managed to sustain their values
5. decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent
6. documenting and learning from decisions is essential

Cultural & Natural Heritage



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Cultural Heritage

Inherited assets which people identify and value as a reflection and expression of their evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions, and of their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of others

Natural Heritage

Inherited habitats, species, ecosystems, geology and landforms, including those in and under water, to which people attach value

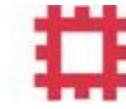
Heritage Significance & Values



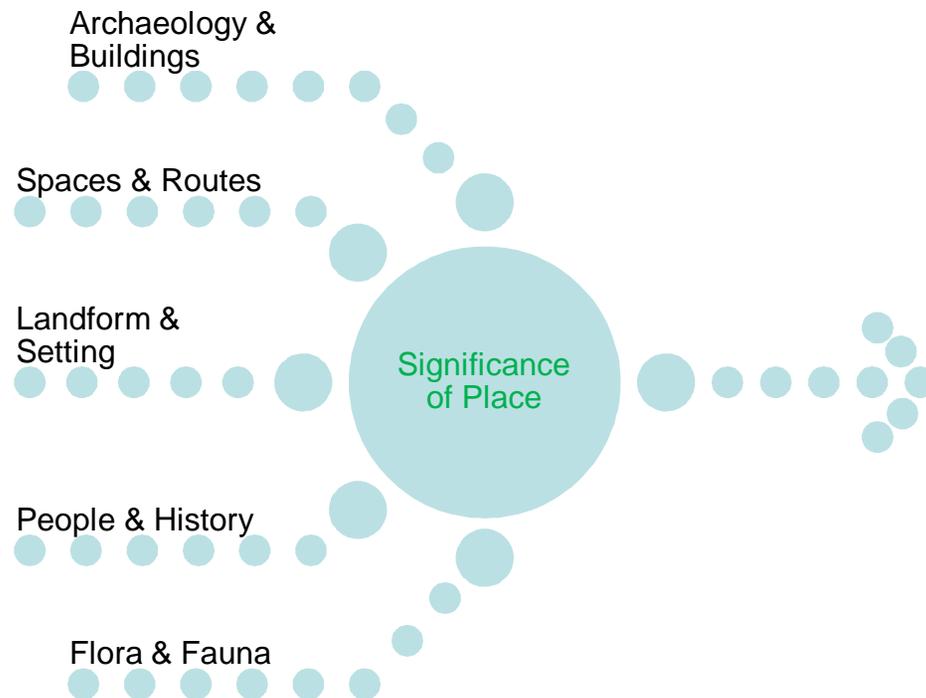
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- “ The idea of 'significance' lies at the core of conservation principles.
- “ Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, be it a building an archaeological site or a larger historic area such as a whole village or landscape.
- “ **Evidential value:** the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- “ **Historical value:** the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present - it tends to be illustrative or associative.
- “ **Aesthetic value:** the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- “ **Communal value:** the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

Relating Conservation Principles to the Chiltern AONB Management Plan



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- ❖ **Conserve and enhance the natural beauty**
- ❖ **Increase understanding and enjoyment**
- ❖ **Foster economic and social well-being**

Hillforts as persistent places



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Again, the traveller from High to West Wycombe cannot fail to notice the fine situation and commanding strength of the earthwork on West Wycombe Hill. This interesting work is circular. The agger is very clearly defined, and within its girdle stands the Parish Church, as once did the ancient village, although for purposes of shelter or of water, or both, it has since quietly sunk down into the valley below.+

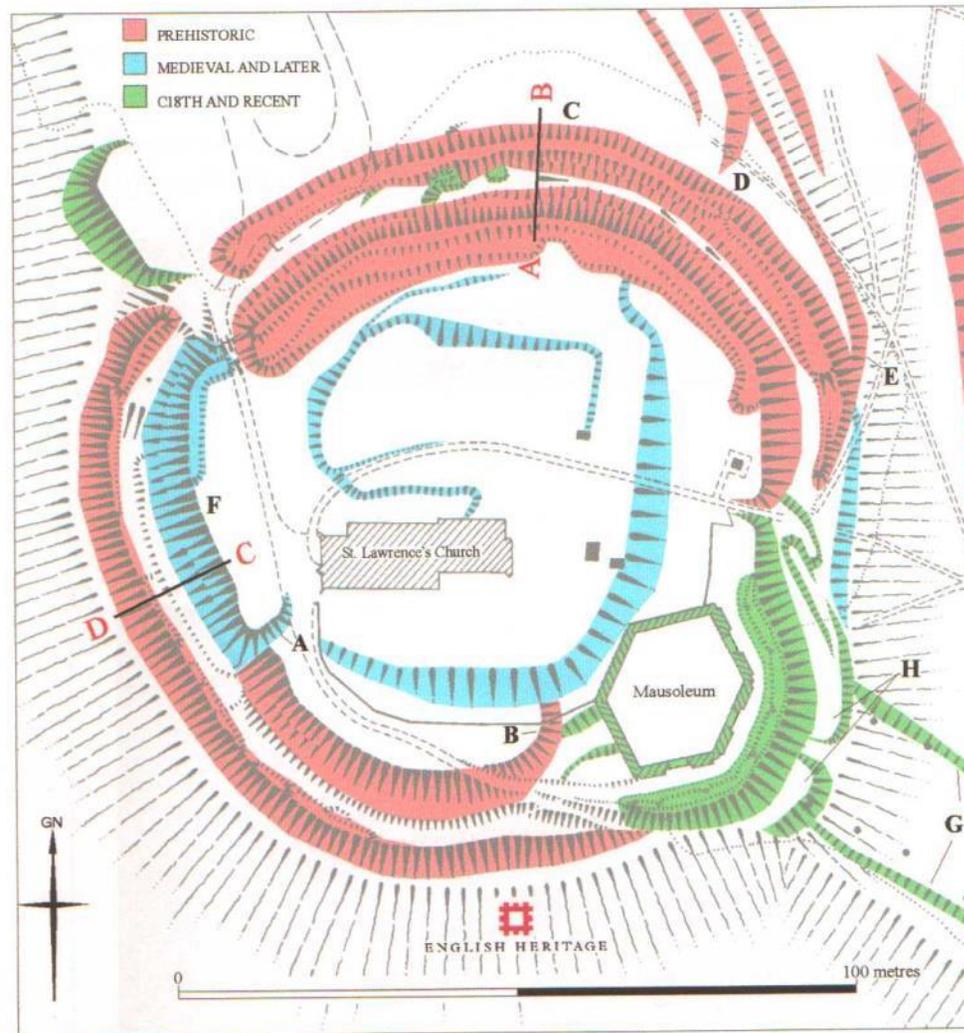
REV. W. J. BURGESS



Survey of West Wycombe Hill



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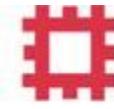
St Lawrence Church



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Dashwood legacy



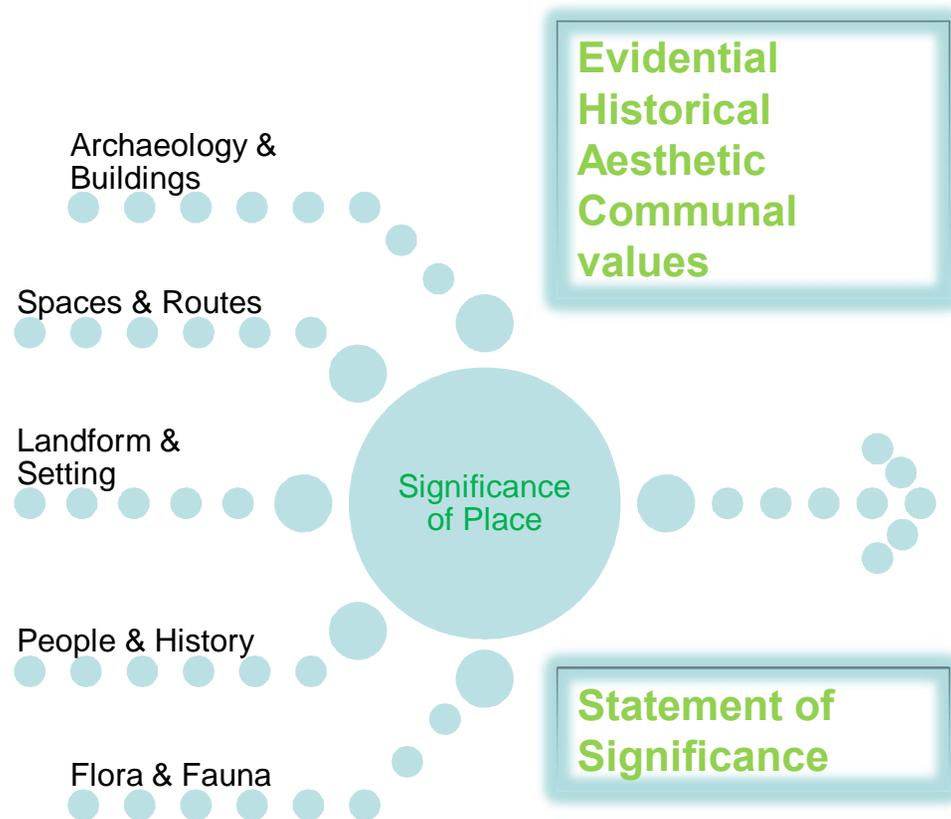
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Using Conservation Principles ð



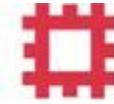
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Actions to:

- ❖ **Conserve and enhance the natural beauty**
- ❖ **Increase understanding and enjoyment**
- ❖ **Foster economic and social well-being**

The Statement of Significance

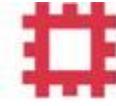


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A statement of significance of a place should be a summary of the cultural and natural heritage values currently attached to it and how they inter-relate, which distils the particular character of the place.

- “ Understand fabric and evolution
- “ Who values the place, and why
- “ Relate heritage values to the fabric
- “ Consider relative importance of those values
- “ Contribution of associated objects and collections
- “ Contribution made by setting and context
- “ Compare with other places sharing similar values

Possible actions ..



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- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Repair
- ✓ Survey (non-intrusive)
- ✓ Interpretation

- ? New work or alteration
- ? Restoration
- ? Archaeological excavation

Intervention to increase knowledge of the past



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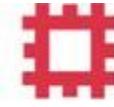
Intervention in significant places primarily to increase knowledge of the past, involving material loss of evidential values, should normally be acceptable if:

- a. preservation *in situ* is not reasonably practicable; or
- b. it is demonstrated that the potential increase in knowledge cannot be achieved using non-destructive techniques; and is unlikely to be achieved at another place whose destruction is inevitable; and is predicted decisively to outweigh the loss of the primary resource.

If acceptable, an intervention demands:

- c. a skilled team, with the resources to implement a project design based on explicit research objectives;
- d. funded arrangements for the subsequent conservation and public deposit of the site archive, and for appropriate analysis and dissemination of the results within a set timetable;
- e. a strategy to ensure that other elements and values of the place are not prejudiced by the work, whether at the time or subsequently, including conservation of any elements left exposed.

Benefits of intervention ò



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