

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



Newsletter

*Spring/Summer 2017
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MANAGEMENT MATTERS

I would like to begin by highlighting a few people for their contribution.

Firstly, Dr. Anthony Preston, who is stepping down from the Management Team and as Leader of Manor Green Park Group, as well as from his position as Trustee and Honorary Secretary when replacements have been found. Anthony has made a huge contribution to the management and development of the Group, over many years, and his experience, knowledge and commitment will be greatly missed – thank you Anthony!

Secondly, we should all thank Peter White and Dave Haldane for leading the refurbishment of our storage container at Southend Farm. Their perseverance and practical experience has proved invaluable in developing this facility for the benefit of the whole Group.

The FLOW team is now complete and I'm sure many of you have now met Kate and Chris. Kate is developing better induction procedures for our volunteers and working with a professional film maker to produce a short film to promote the Group – so watch this space. And Paul Sadler – our latest recruit, as Fundraising Officer – has already succeeded with a grant application to Greggs. We are certainly very fortunate to have recruited such a strong team.

Thanks to Selsey Town Council, we now have our own office above Selsey Town Hall. It is still being fitted out but the FLOW team is already using it regularly. It is intended that it will become a key centre for volunteer work. Do contact me if you would like a tour.

Last but not least, the Management Team have developed an Action Plan to guide the Group's work for the next five years (2017-22). It can be found in the Members Only section of the website. A couple of things that we've identified are the need for new members of the Management Team and volunteers to develop community fundraising initiatives, to assist Paul. If you are interested in either of these roles, do get in touch.

Anyway, do have a read of the plan and pass any comments back to me. The Management Team greatly values your thoughts and ideas.

Have a great summer!

Joe Savill

THE EDITOR WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE GROUP'S THANKS TO:-

Vitacress for their support for MWHG and the Eileen Savill Award,

Nature's Way for their generous donation of £1,500.

Greggs for their generous donation of £500.

Pete, Dave and volunteer team for their hard work converting a large, empty container into an excellent tool and equipment store.



COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

It's been a fantastic year so far and a pleasure to work with so many inspiring people across the local area.



Photo © 2017 Felicity McStea

The beginning of the year we continued work on the hedgerow at Mile Pond Farm, working with and supported by Felicity McStea and the team. This has been an excellent project, creating and maintaining a wildlife corridor at the back of The Apuldram Centre.

In the Southbourne area we have trained a range of people on hedgelaying, planted hedgerows at Tuppenny Barn, Southbourne Recreation Ground and worked with school groups planting at Bourne Community College. We have supported the 'clean-up' day and attended the Spring Show at Tuppenny Barn.



Photo © 2017 Felicity McStea

Planting at Southbourne Recreation Ground

Hedgerow are essential wildlife corridors and with the pressure of developments, these vital strips have recorded over 1,500 species of insects, 600 species of plants, 65 bird species and 20 mammal species.

Early spring we took a group of residents from Roussillon Park for a very muddy walk to Fishbourne Creek to observe some of the 55,000 winter wading birds. Migrating winter waders fuel up and rest at Chichester Harbour before flying on and back to Africa. The pressures on these international important birds is a difficult balancing act as our green spaces are compromised and pressures increase. We all should be mindful of the impact we have on our greenspaces and the wildlife it supports.

With support from Chichester Harbour Conservancy we produced additional monthly updates on winter wading birds for the on-site seasonal posters. Up-to-date and regular information is an excellent way to highlight the importance of the site and engage with the local and visiting people on how to reduce disturbance to wildlife.

The butterfly feeding station workshop at Graylingwell Park was well attended and every child (with a little help) took away their creation to help wildlife in their own garden. With over 15 thousand gardens in the UK we can encourage wildlife by planting native species, providing different habitats and allowing wild areas to flourish, which in turn become stepping stones for wildlife crossing our landscape.

I continue with meetings and partnership working, which includes the Service Level Agreement which I implement on behalf of the group; Southbourne Environment Group; Solent Recreational Mitigation Project (SRMP) - Dog Initiatives Meeting; Police Wildlife Crime Officers and other local groups.

We have had the fantastic assistance and expert knowledge of Dr. Alison Barker (entomologist/volunteer). We have taught a range of wildlife topics within Southbourne Junior School, which have included; Barn Owl session; Bird box making; Greenshank ringing project/game (with assistance from Chichester Harbour Conservancy); Solar Boat Trip (where we were lucky enough to see a seal); Pond dipping; Ponds and Plant and Trees & Insects.

There is always so much to learn and I continue with my training, passing my NEBOSH (H & S) exam and attending the 'Intro to ArcGIS 10', an excellent mapping system.

I have highlighted the pressures on wildlife and the work we all do within the project to enthuse people on the importance of biodiversity and how to make a difference with talks to horticultural societies at Bosham, Chidham & District; Bognor & Donnington.

As my role comes to an end in the near future I am working hard to enable sustainability within the community and I have been fortunate to enable 1st Aid Course Training for Southbourne volunteers.

The project is as much about the local community as it is about wildlife. We are all guardians and working together we can improve biodiversity for future generations to love and enjoy, whilst making friends and working with likeminded people.

Sarah Hughes

THE CONTAINER

To help solve our storage problems, in the spring of 2016 the MWHG was offered free of charge a 40' container. This generous offer was made by Vitacress based at Runcton, near Chichester. Vitacress is a large international horticultural grower and supplier of salad and herb crops to major retail outlets.

MWHG has been working together with Vitacress to advise and help with identifying the natural habitat on land surrounding the companies premises.

Their offer of a container was eagerly accepted and a team of volunteers led by Pete White and Dave Haldane prepared a site with permission of Will Fleming at Southend Farm, Sidlesham. As soon as the container arrived on site our volunteers set about repairing, de-rusting, priming and topcoating our new storage facility. Finally, after hours of hard work, spread over many months during spring of 2017, our container, complete with its interior racking, is now ready for business.

Many thanks to Vitacress for their kind offer and to all our volunteers who gave up their time to make the project possible and which has now solved the group's storage problem.

Peter White



Photo © 2017 Jane Reeve



Photo © 2017 Dave Haldane

LEAN AND GREEN

We all have an obligation to ensure our carbon footprint is minimised and Natures Way Foods is constantly seeking long-term, sustainable solutions for our business processes that will look after the earth. We have been awarded the ISO 14001 award for Environmental Management Systems and the ISO 50001 award for Energy Management and have dedicated teams across the business to ensure we reach our targets. These ISO awards provide a framework for our energy management system and demonstrate our commitment to reducing environmental impact. The benefits are not only to the environment and our energy reduction schemes have resulted in cost-savings across the business. We are measured against the Food and Drink Administration's (FDA) Climate Change Agreement and we are exceeding targets to reduce energy consumption, water usage and carbon emissions.

One example of our commitment to these principles to reduce energy usage and increase productivity was to install highly-efficient LED lighting in our manufacturing sites. The previous lighting was not only costly but one expired bulb could bring production off-line for 2-3 hours while the repair was made. The innovative, engineering team engaged a local lighting specialist and found a solution to install the new LED lights in the existing lighting housing which has made a significant reduction on our carbon footprint, production lines are more efficient and our running costs are greatly reduced. We are saving the equivalent energy of 160 homes per year and Natures Way Foods has committed to investing a further £250 million in energy reduction projects.

Many food processing companies install chemical treatment plants in order to process their waste water. However, we decided to find a more environmentally-friendly way to filter and recycle the water from our manufacturing units by installing a reed bed.

The reed bed treats the waste water, which is stored in a reservoir and used by a third party to irrigate lettuce crops that come back to us. In this way, we've created a 'virtuous water cycle' that treats waste water in an ecological way and reuses it efficiently.

Using water from one of our manufacturing sites, Natures Way Foods has created three wildlife ponds to support local flora and fauna, including the endangered water vole.

The raw material waste, i.e. cores, peelings, outer leaves, stalks and stems from the three NWF manufacturing sites is collected and is composted to be used as fertiliser for the fields where Natures Way Foods buys its lettuces. This is another way we have created a cycle for the goodness from the earth to return to the earth.

Natures Way Foods is very proud of the "zero to landfill" policy in place and recycle, re-use or re-distribute everything from waste metal to wellington boots to toner cartridges.

We don't just tick the boxes when it comes to our green policies. One of the values that underpins the decision-making and business objectives at Natures Way Foods is "Proud of how we do Business" and we really are committed to a sustainable future.

Stephanie Jones

FOSSIL DETECTIVE

Last summer my husband and I decided to go for a short walking holiday in the Yorkshire Dales at Kettlewell. We both love this part of the country and have visited nearby Malham Cove and Gordale Scar many times. I remember two things from my first visit here back in the 1970s, an exciting first sighting of a great crested grebe on Malham Tarn and being rather surprised that limestone pavements, that I had learnt about for my geography “O” level, actually existed. Here I was hopping across the fissures between huge flat slabs of rock as the mysterious language of “clints and grikes” actually took physical shape in front of my eyes. Now, almost 50 years later and armed with three years membership of the Malvern U3A Geology Group under my belt, I hoped to discover more.

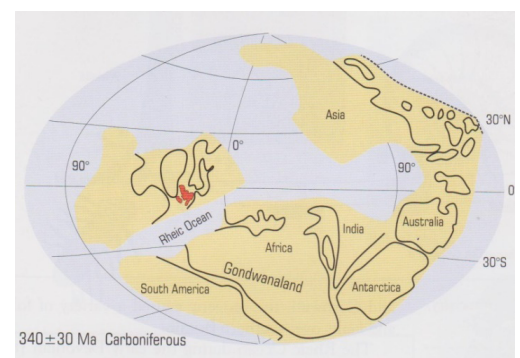
Kettlewell village lies in the picturesque Upper Wharfedale valley where drystone walls border the ancient packhorse routes which lead up to wilder open moorland. Closer inspection of these walls, with my new trusty hand-lens, revealed that amongst the chunks of limestone there were also blocks of sandstone – something I had not expected! And later, on the track in front of me, I found a fist-sized piece of a fossil.



I now had three questions I wanted to answer;

- what geological time period did the rocks belong to
- why were both limestone and sandstone rocks present and,
- what was the fossil?

A guidebook to the Yorkshire Dales identified the rocks as belonging to the Carboniferous Period, laid down around 330 million years ago when the future UK (shown in red) was aligned near the equator, and would have had a tropical climate.



Limestone indicates a marine environment where the calcareous remains of millions of sea creatures gradually built up as they dropped to the sea floor. These were subsequently buried beneath deposits of sandstones, mudstones and shales deposited by muddy river delta systems draining into the sea. This cyclic sequence of rocks found in the Yorkshire Dales is now known as the Yoredale Series. The rock type and depth of each layer was influenced by global climatic and sea level changes.

Subsequent periods of glaciation also helped shape the landscape into that which we see today. The terracing of the hillside seen in the top picture reflects the variation in hardness of the rock types and their susceptibility to erosion.

The presence of reef deposits within the limestone layers, with fossils of marine creatures such as crinoids, corals and brachiopods, indicates that they were laid down in warm, clear, shallow waters with low sedimentation rates. This is the type of environment with similar fauna today.

A shift towards increasingly non-marine conditions is indicated where the rock sequence becomes mudstones, siltstones and the coarser sandstone material.

As I was attending a fossil group class I showed my find to Paul Olver, who easily identified it as a species of rugose coral named *Lithostrotion junceum*. Rugose corals had a skeleton made of calcite (a form of calcium carbonate) that is often fossilized. Like modern corals the, now extinct, rugose corals usually lived on the sea floor or as part of a reef structure.



Photo © 2016 Maggie Smith

Some corals, including *Lithostrotion*, could form large colonies. Although there is no direct proof, it is inferred that these corals possessed stinging cells and tentacles to help them catch small prey.

A complex arrangement of internal radiating plates (septa) is diagnostic of rugose corals. They also always have a central rod (columella) which supports the septa running up the centre of each corallite. I can show you these features in my fossil in a close-up photograph I took using our new microscope and camera, which I am very pleased with as a first-time user.

magnification
x 20



Photo © 2016 Maggie Smith

So, all my questions answered – job done!

Maggie Smith

Note: 'Rugose' is from the latin word for wrinkled. These corals generally have a wrinkled surface.

THE MIXON - PART OF THE SELSEY PENINSULA (LATIN), OR CHERRONESOS (GREEK)

Its Name

Mixens – late 17th cent
 Myxon – speed 1610
 Mixons – 1765 Anson
 Mixims – 1766 Mackenzies
 Mixen – 1784 Warpoole
 Mixon – 1805 Steel
 Peninsula – Latin, Cherronesos – Greek

Its Formation

The Mixon is essentially a form of limestone outcrop which, because of its ‘uniqueness’, has its own geological name – Mixen rock (note spelling, adopted by geologists). The limestone is composed of fossil foraminifera, a unicellular organism belonging to the Kingdom ‘Protista’ (protozoa), of which there are two distinct types. The one you may recognise is the planktonic form, which swim in large numbers within the upper surface of the open sea. The other, as its name batholith indicates lives at the bottom of the sea living on the sediments of the sea floor. In this respect there are also two types, one being mobile - hunting along the sea floor for food, or non-mobile (sessile) form, which may, or may not, be fixed but wait for food to flow to them living as they did on the continental slope. The most prominent foraminifera being *Faasciolites* (formally termed *Alveolina*- with an ovoid shell about 5mm long), *fusiformis* and *Nummulites variolarius* (Nummulitic limestone was used in the construction of the pyramids). Foraminifera range from the Ordovician to Recent Period (see fig 1). Some foraminifera species secrete a shell, called a ‘test’ composed of calcium carbonate or chitin (less common - a derivative of glucose, and similar to cellulose but which aids strength and support), others construct the ‘test’ by sticking particles, like sand, together.

Fig 1 Geological Eras [simplified]

design and layout © Dr. Anthony Preston

Length	Era	Period - with length MY	Epoch - with meaning	Million Years MY	
65	Cenozoic	Quaternary - 2MY	Anthropocene - <i>period of recent man</i>	0.002	- The Epoch of the impact of modern human #
			Holocene - <i>wholly recent</i>	0.012	- Post glacial deposition
			Pleistocene - <i>almost recent</i>	2	- Genus Homo appears - glaciation
		Tertiary - 63MY	Pliocene - <i>more recent</i>	7	- Temp drop - dogs 5.62MY
			Miocene - <i>less recent</i>	26	
			Oligocene - <i>little recent</i>	38	- Grasses become abundant
			Eocene - <i>dawn of recent</i>	54	- Mixon & Bracklesham Beds formed - primitive horses
		Palaeocene - <i>ancient recent</i>	65MY		
160	Mesozoic	Cretaceous - 71 MY		136	- Birds 113.2 MY Dinosaurs become extinct circa 70 MY
		Jurassic - 54MY		190	
		Triassic - 35MY		225MY	- Dinosaurs appear
360	Paleozoic	Permian - 55MY	Pennsylvanian Mississippian	280	
		Carboniferous - 65MY		345	- coal forming forests
		Devonian - 50MY		395	- Forests appear
		Silurian - 35MY		430	
		Ordovician - 70MY		500	- Southern England & France under water
		Cambrian - 85MY		585MY	- First animals with hard skeletons
	Precambrian			4,000MY	- Oldest known rocks about 3,500MY

The MY for Period are a guide only as they change depending on source

The MY column is correct so Cenozoic Era was 65MY long & started 65MY ago

The geological time scale was established during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Cenozoic means *new life*
 Mesozoic means *middle life*
 Palaeozoic means *old life*

last Ice Age period in Britain was 11,000 yrs ago
 5,000 years ago Britain was covered by an extensive deciduous forests

The Mixon rock itself was ‘put down’ during the Eocene period, about 45my ago, at the same time as the limestone of the Paris Basin was laid down, although this was a different limestone form.

From the Cambrian period (Cambrian from the Roman name for Wales, and the oldest system of rocks in which fossils can be used for dating) to the middle Eocene (fig1), Selsey, along with most of what was to be the UK was covered by a warm shallow sea, apart that is during the Triassic, when the sea on the eastern side of Britain retreated as far as the tip of what was to become the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton water. These warm shallow conditions provided the perfect environment that allowed for the development of the marine species foraminifera that, eventually by their death, was to form the Mixon. The name Mixon derives in various ways, but comes down, basically, to smell and shape as the Old English name for a midden – a dung heap - was mixon, and as it tends to the shape of a cow pat when broken off. The stone easily breaks off in water and can be rather soft, but hardens on contact with air. My sample can be hit with a hammer and rings. It is also possible to see the many shells of the foraminifera. The map of the shoreline in the Roman period about 2000 years ago, shown in fig 2, depicts the position of the Mixon outcrop some 2km offshore. It also shows that Selsey was very much an island although some would argue that if the river is taken into account it is still. It is unfortunate that the Reverend J. Cavis-Brown, Rector and Vicar of Selsey in 1906, indicated that Selsey actually extended as far as the Owers Bank, but was not able to prove it as there were no historic records for this. Although the landmass did extend over a width of 7km as indicate on the drawing (fig2), detailed analysis of the ocean floor indicates it did not extend as far as the Outer Owers, which would be around a further 6-7km from the Mixon, but it might have got to the Medmerry Bank on the west side and into the Park on the east. The remnants of this outcrop, that would have formed part of the Roman coastline, are the rocky outcrops of what are known as ‘The Grounds’ or ‘Malt Owers’ to the south west and ‘The Mixon’ about 1.5km to the south east of the ‘Bill’ as shown on Admiralty Survey charts and fig2. We are here, talking about ‘recent times’.

© Dr. Anthony Preston

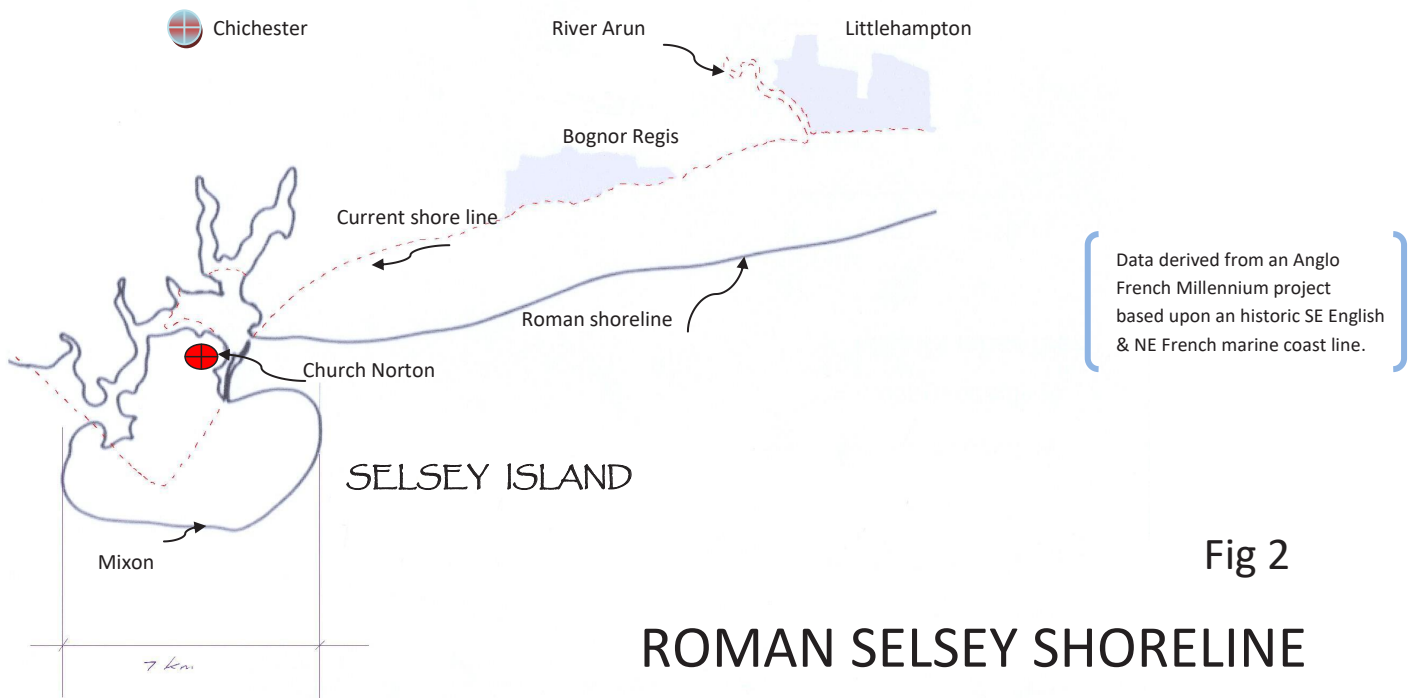


Fig 2
ROMAN SELSEY SHORELINE

Circa 2000 yrs ago

Two million years ago during the Pleistocene it would have been possible to walk from Selsey to Normandy or Jersey across dry land. Alternatively you could have walked to the North Sea, the land bridge to France only being washed away when the North Sea broke through around seven thousand years ago. This was the last remnants of an area named Doggerland (there are a number of sites on the web just type Doggerland maps); it is believed from marine excavations that the 'land bridge' was colonised by hunter gatherers with signs of villages being found.

The outcrop of the Mixon, which prior to the extensive quarrying, stood about 6m above sea level and proved very useful to some of the locals of the area as a building material. It is very likely that this is the high land encountered by Wilfrid on his way back to Albion (Britain)¹ from Rome when they ran aground on the shore and '*... a host of pagans approached, their chief priest took up his stand on a high mound ...*'² unfortunately the priest was killed from a sling shot that went through his forehead, fired by a frightened companion of Wilfrid. It is also possibly the Mixon outcrop that Bede records Wilfrid later rescuing the people of Selsey, where he, Bede, indicates '*it is said that forty or fifty men, wasted with hunger, would go together to some precipice or to the seashore where in their misery they join hands and leap into the sea, ...*'¹ It is very possible that Mixon was still part of the Peninsula (Latin), or could we go for Cherronesos (Greek)? Looks like they jumped from the Selsey Cherrynose!

The Mixon as Building Stone

It is difficult to say when the quarrying of the Mixon outcrop first commenced. It is, however, unlikely it commenced on any significant scale, if it did, before the Roman conquest in AD43. It is possible it was worked (quarried) under the directions of the Romans, who were, without doubt, established builders, as, although the first earliest finds at Fishbourne Roman Palace were timbers dating from about this time, Mixon stone was found, later, in foundations and must have originated from a local Roman quarry, although no mention is made of a quarry at Selsey in '*The Map of Roman Britain – Ordnance Survey 3rd ed 1956*'. Wallace³ indicated that material may have come from the northern side of the Mixon. This would have made it easy to transport to Fishbourne by sea. Although cost was not involved, my PhD work that considered the transporting of quarried stone for Chichester Cathedral showed that as it would have been harder to transport by road transportation was twice that of the quarry extraction costs (where most of the initial carving would have been carried out and shipping by sea costs were the same as quarrying costs), even though the quarry may have been the reason for the construction of the Roman road from Selsey to Chichester which is marked in the OS reference above, but it could also have been as a result of the villa at Sidlesham (SZ8597 OS ref above). Selsey Bill was considered a minor settlement. Wallace suggested that there were no indications of marine erosion on the rock and thus surmised it had been recovered from above the water line. It may, however, have been '*worked*' as most seen today at Fishbourne and in other Roman structures do show signs of marine activity. Recent work (2000) has suggested that the Roman sea level was much closer to today's level, being around 2m below levels then at Langstone Harbour, in around 2000⁴.

Although small amounts had been quarried over time it was still being taken when the rock could be obtained at low tide. Then around the early 19th century it was being worked on a much larger scale. Being soft when wet and hardening when dry it would be simple to extract, but boats would be needed to get to the outcrop. By around 1827 local witnesses indicated that it was becoming an important business for some individuals, with the proposed Hayling Island Bridge and associated causeway encouraging the increase in quarrying. By the end of 1820's boats, in the order of several tonnes, were being used for transporting the stone. Some boats were constructed specifically for the purpose, transporting in excess of 20 tonnes each trip. The quarrying was becoming a problem and resulting in the loss of a safe haven for anchorage in 'The Park' area. By 1830 quarrying was banned.

Arguments and petitions against the ban of quarrying

The Vicar of Sidlesham, Edward Goddard, together with a local surveyor and land agent, one Clement Hoare, raised a petition (known as a memorial) in 1827 against the cessation of quarrying on the Mixon (by this period it had become a felony to remove stone from this outcrop). Goddard and Hoare's argument was that failure to quarry the stone caused a hardship on the local community of Selsey. It is noted that the Vicar Goddard was also a supporter of smugglers, many of whom were members of his 'flock', and was known to raise objections to the established laws against smuggling, encouraging litigation against such laws. There was a Royal Naval presence, named 'the Royal Navel Coast Blockade', commanded by a Captain Mingaye of HMS Hyperien, which was based at Newhaven and operated along the Sussex coast, specifically as an anti-smuggling operation between 1817 and 1831. This petition of 1827 (the 'Second Memorial'), which had lain open for 'any' signature at the Swan Inn (now a shop), which was in East Street in Chichester, for a number of weeks, had indicated that only about a 'square yard' of stone a day was being extracted. As an aside the Swan had burned down twice, once before 1817 and again in 1897. It was a Westgate Brewery pub and the brewery itself went up in flames in the 1970's which I observed (in 1700 the Swan Inn was only one of three properties to have sash windows and had been recorded as being on site since before 1527).

David and Anne Bone⁵ have estimated that between 5000 to 9000 cubic metres of stone was removed, mostly between the six year period 1821 to 1827 (9,000 cubic metres equals circa 18,000 tonnes). Over 7000 tonnes were estimated to be used for the construction of Hayling Island Bridge in the 1820's (it being opened in 1824). If for now we say an average of 7000 m³ was extracted over the six years, which is 1166.6m³ per year, or 3.196m³ per day, which equals approx. 4.5sq yards. So they were taking out far more, over four times, than the petition of 1827 stated!

Claims were made that the rock was required for numerous projects and that excavation should continue to meet those various construction projects. It was shown, however, that a Mr Hopkins who was a butcher, with a contract to supply the Royal Navy, actually had several hundred 'tons' of rock which had a price of 3s 6d per ton and he could not sell (in 1820, 3s6d would be worth £13.87 today -2016, so, 100 tons would be £1387.75 at today's value. In 1827 this 3s6d would increase to £15.62 per ton [imperial not metric] thus 100 tons would be £1563 so, several hundred tons would be considered a tidy amount). The original complaint that the removal of the stone was an actual hazard to the safe anchorage within the 'Park' (it has been established that this was, at the time, the only safe anchorage for shipping from the Isle of Wight to Eastbourne) was upheld and it remained a 'felony' to quarry stone from the Mixon. Captain Mingaye was very supportive of the local fishermen of Selsey and their need for a safe harbour and had an understanding of the size of the fishing fleet and its need for clear navigational aids, indicating that the Mixon provided protection to around forty fishing vessels, which employed around 150 individuals. He also indicated that the fishermen of Selsey were well known to the Royal Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth having come to the aid of Naval vessels coming within the Owers and needing assistance on a regular basis throughout the year particularly in winter. They were also known for sending many a young expert to serve in the Royal Navy. The Admiralty supported Mingaye in his application against the removal of more stone from the Mixon and indicated to the Treasury that considerable harm would be caused to shipping by further removal of stone, and that after an examination by HRH, as it had been determined that the 'reef' was in fact the property of the Crown and not the lord of the manor, Lord Selsey, they would not therefore comply with the Memorialists request.

Readers can see Mixon stone in the Selsey church, St.Peter's, which is constructed from the same rock as used in the barn (fig 3) and wall at the start of School Lane Selsey, the buildings across the road and it is used within many of the older houses in Albion road and Fisherman's Walk Selsey as well as other buildings within Selsey.



Fig. 3



It is also found within St. Wilfrid's Church Norton and most of the South Aisle wall of the Church of The Holy Trinity, Bosham⁶, and within the South wall of St. Peter and St. Mary's church Fishbourne. A number of the older churches in the Chichester area have Mixon stone somewhere in their construction. It even crops up as a facing stone at the Roman Palace Fishbourne.

Once you get your eye in you will start to identify it in a number of local locations.

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- 5 Bone, David and Anne 2014, *Quarrying the Mixon Reef at Selsey, West Sussex, Sussex Archaeological Collections vol. 152*, pp 95-116.
- 6 Tim Tatton-Brown 2006 *A new survey of the fabric of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Bosham, West Sussex, Sussex Archaeological Collections vol. 144*, pp 129-154.

Dr. Anthony Preston

INTRODUCTION TO KATE HAMPSON

I'm Kate and I am the FLOW Project Communication and Engagement Officer.

My passions are nature, family – husband Colin and daughter Ava, music and long countryside walks. I also enjoy meeting people and the company of others. You could say that I have the perfect job!

As a girl, my most prized possession was a picture book with cut out pages that when layered one atop the other made a wonderfully rich scene of a mist-laden woodland walk replete with rutting stags, badgers and brown hare. I grew up in the pancake flat Cambridgeshire Fens where aside from towering poplars that mark field margins and ark in the 'fen blow', few trees can be found. It wasn't until I graduated and left to work as a Field Studies Tutor in the undulating North Norfolk countryside, that I discovered the evocative landscapes that I had pored over in my well-thumbed book. When I moved to Sussex I felt instantly at ease. And 12 years on I couldn't imagine being anywhere else!

I have worn several hats; at a Zoo, promoting recycling and walking, leading children climbing and caving, and overseeing visitor services at Pagham Harbour. I was fortunate to be at Pagham for ten years, enjoying the restful beauty of the area.

I find motivation in the idea that much is possible when a community commits to restoration and conservation of shared spaces. I am delighted to bring my experience to FLOW, a landscape-scale project, not bound by reserve boundaries – mobilising communities, co-ordinating efforts for a long-term regional approach.

Kate Hampson

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOUNDATION

In October 2011 I approached the Environmental Law Foundation, ELF, for help in drawing up the MWHG objection to the proposal for the Gi-normous greenhouses made by Madestein at Almodington. I then attended an ELF Planning Workshop in Eastbourne which outlined the requirement for evidence, the material considerations which could be taken into account at a Public Inquiry and those issues which would not be considered. I then drew up a letter objecting to the proposal on behalf of MWHG and Jane Reeve and I daily attended the Planning Inquiry supported by MWHG members. As you'll be aware the Planning Inquiry refused permission for the glasshouses on the grounds used by Chichester District Council in August 2012.

In the area of Wisborough Green, West Sussex, we have had occasion to use the ELF services again. As their 25th anniversary was approaching their Patron, Prince Charles, hosted a reception for the group and I was invited to attend as a member of a local voluntary campaigning group which had relied on ELF. Prince Charles toured the room at Clarence House and I was able to raise the importance of protecting the Water Vole population, England's rarest mammal, on the Manhood Peninsula.

Jill Sutcliffe



INTRODUCTION TO CHRIS DRAKE **FLOW FIELD OFFICER**

Hello! Currently live in Worthing with my girlfriend Claire.

Starting from a very young age, I developed a real passion for wildlife conservation, from roaming rivers looking for Otter prints to being a young Ornithologist. I also gained knowledge quite late in my working career.

September 2006, I started my degree in Environmental Management and four years later successfully graduated June 2009. During this time, I developed a real understanding for site habitat management planning and conservation practices.

This developed my skill and understanding to write a site management plan at Rye Meads RSPB.

October 2009-January 2010 myself and Claire spent 4 months traveling North America, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. Over this time, we spent many weeks in scientific research area in the rain forest monitoring Ant Eaters. Moreover, we also experienced nesting Olive Ridley's Turtles and two species of Sloth in their natural environment. January 2010, I started my first volunteer post at BTCV. With my passion for hard work, leading volunteers and habitat conservation, I was granted to opportunity to lead 10 volunteers on several habitat improvement work days. Working closely with Croydon Council, I was given the opportunity help out with Bat Surveys at South Norwood County Park.

After 12 months or so, I had to take full time employment at Keep Britain Tidy and Waste Watch. After this time, I was offered a position with the National Trust as Coastal Education Warden on the South Downs at Birling Gap. This was a short 6-month contract and allowed me the opportunity to run Chalk Downland Wildflower Walks, Beach Rock Pool Events and lead School Groups Bat Surveying. After my six month contract, I decided to enhance my skills with a week's Phase One Habitat Surveying at the Fields Study Centre.

Following a short period out of work I took on the role as Wildlife Recruiting for the London Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. Over time, I developed a method to communicate effectively with volunteers and members of the public. With my passion for the Natural Environment, I developed a bed of experience in the conservation sector. Later in 2012 I received notification for a post as Environmental Ranger at South East Water. During this time I completed 1000m of hedge laying, CS30/31 Chain Saw, Brush/Strimmer Cutter, Ride on Tractor and Hedge Cutting. I also gained experience in Butterfly, Reptile and Newt Surveys. I have also gained experience improving habitat for Dormice and developing a sound level of understanding of Dormouse mixed habitat.

On seeing the advert for FLOW Field Officer, I relished the opportunity to share my experience with the Manhood Team. With my strong passion for wildlife conservation, I wanted to put my knowledge into good practise and work with passionate people who share common values. I feel very privileged and lucky to work for such outstanding volunteers and employees.

As to my interests, what can I say? I love the great outdoors, walking and skiing in the mountains and travelling to various National Parks around the world. I cherish working with local communities. Currently I have a VW camper van and drive it across Europe sleeping in National Parks and by deserted beaches. I love open swimming and cycling around various parts of the world. I enjoy volunteering for various conservation groups and passing on my practical experience to all. I take part in the seasonal bird and Butterfly counts. Of course, I enjoy reading and relaxing taking in nice views!

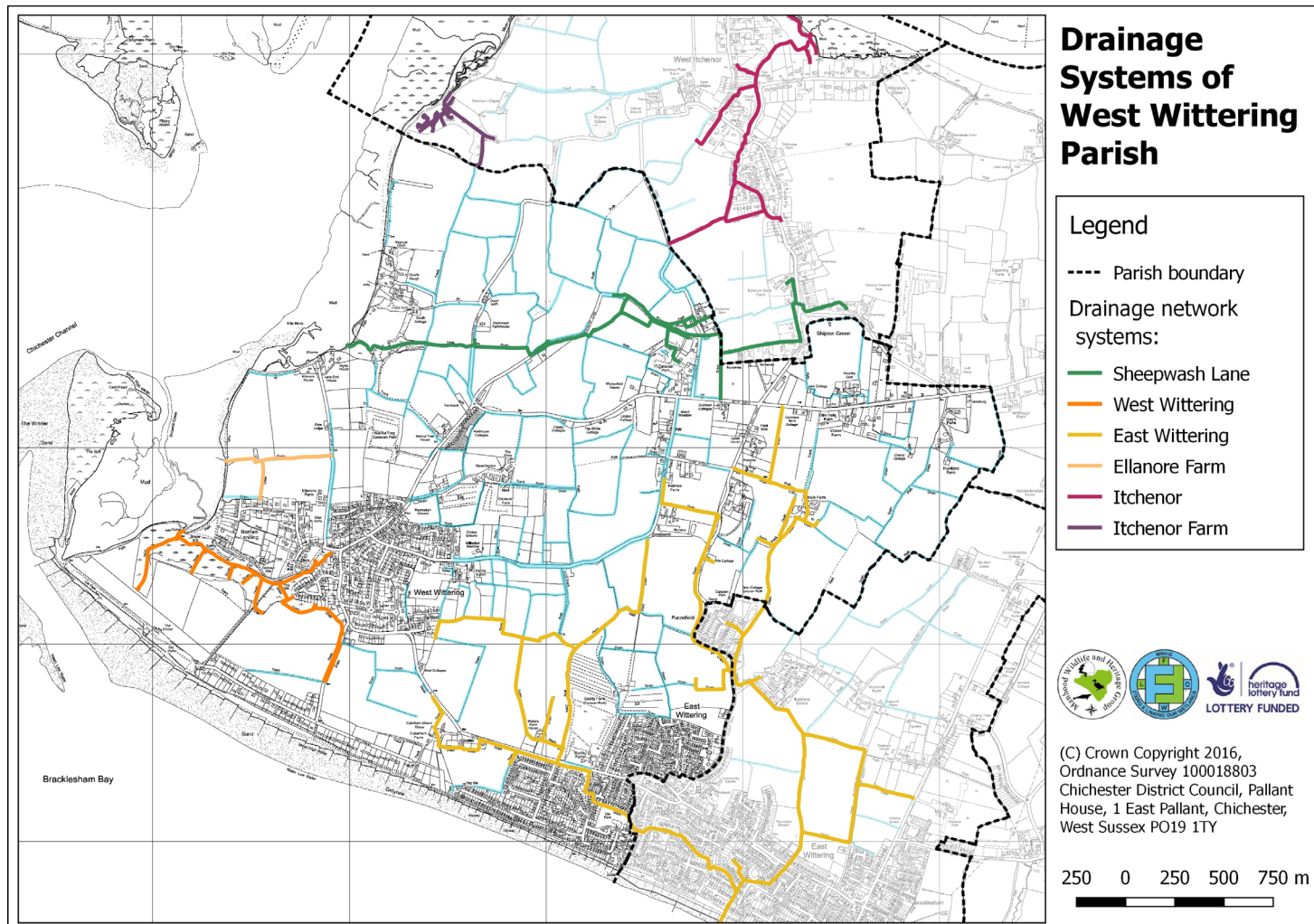
Chris Drake



THE MWHG HLF FLOW PROJECT UPDATE MARCH 2017

The Pilot Phase in West Wittering

Between October 2015 and June 2016, the Parish of West Wittering was used as a pilot study area to carry out a comprehensive survey of the ditch system and to create accessible maps that illustrated the information.



An extensive report can be seen at www.mwhg.co.uk in the West Wittering Management Plan. The total length of ditches surveyed was approximately 49.64km, and unsurveyed was 2.31km, and the total length of hedges surveyed (where next to ditches) was 12 km.

Since October 2016

Since successfully receiving the bulk of the grant and the go ahead to work until December 2020, East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish has been the focus. A main landowner in West Wittering, with land in East Wittering, gave access to his land and shared knowledge about neighbouring farmers and tenants. Some ditches have been mapped but there are still more to do. An information event took place at Bracklesham Barn on the 8th December for local residents to come along and a large-scale map was marked up with information. Approx. 5 ponds have already identified as having potential wildlife value if they could be improved, and also to tank water.

While carrying out survey work in East Wittering and Bracklesham we have been working in West Wittering, targeting those ditches and ponds that were identified as opportunities, and either working directly with landowners who will be carrying out the work, using volunteers or engaging contractors. We are in the process of recovering 4 relic ponds and wetland areas, and there are 2 new ponds to be dug out this winter. We have been advising Birdham Parish about linking a series of ponds up to increase the holding capacity of the system that flows into Birdham Pool so that during high tide and high rainfall the roads do not flood. In West Itchenor Parish we are working with the West Manhood Flood Group to improve drainage and the biodiversity value of the village pond.

Free hedge trees to the value of £2000 were sourced from the TCV and Woodland Trust and distributed to farmers in Donnington, Sidlesham, West Wittering and Almodington for use to fill in gapping and create new hedges – improving wildlife links and reducing flooding.

The future work schedule

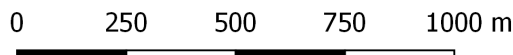
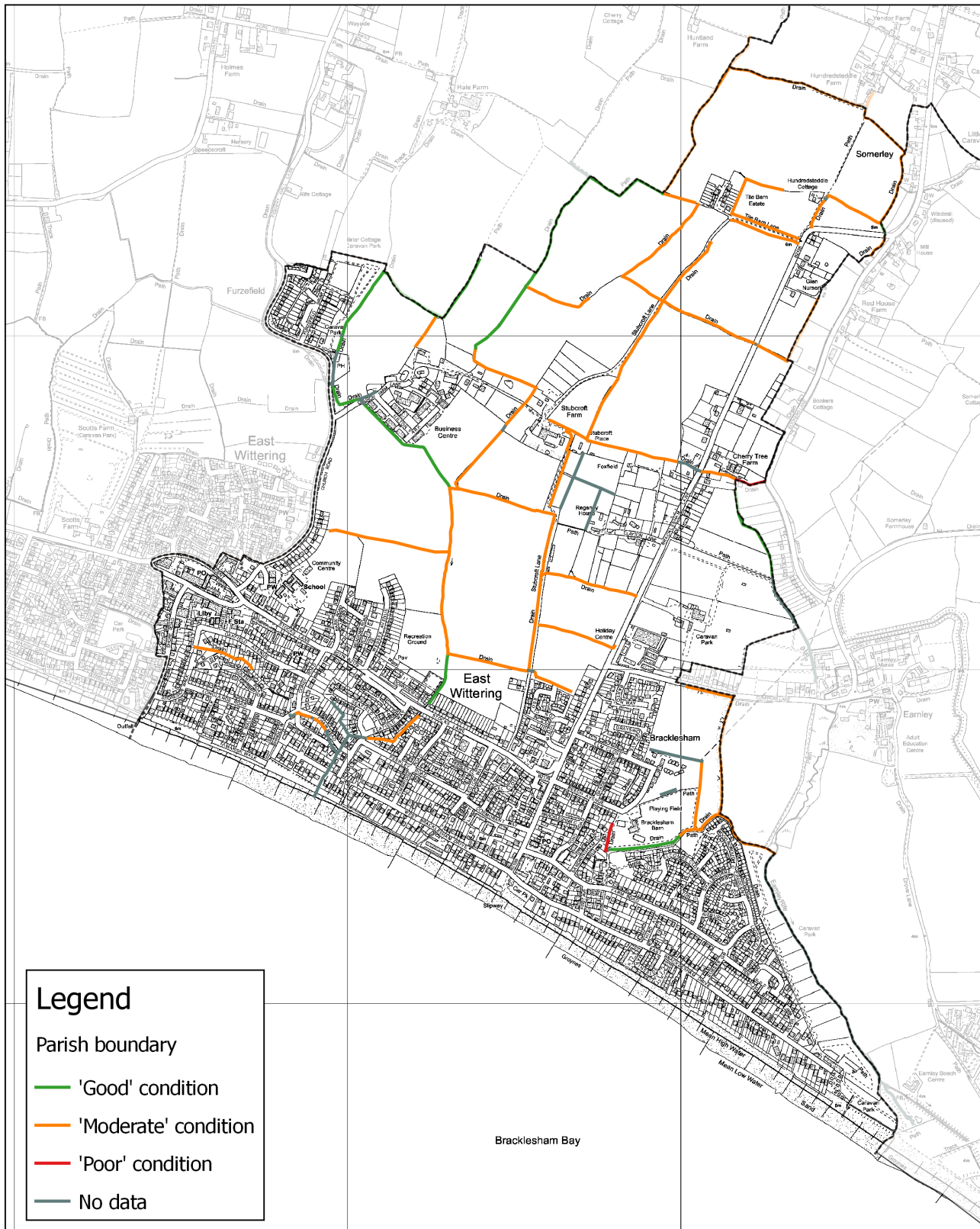
The schedule for ditch and hedgerow surveying over the four years is:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	West Wittering	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
February	West Wittering	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
March	West Wittering	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
April	West Wittering	Earnley	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
May	West Wittering	Earnley	Sidlesham	Hunston	Apuldram
June	-	Earnley	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
July	-	Earnley	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
August	-	Earnley	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
September	-	Sidlesham	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
October	Start up	Sidlesham	Selsey	N Mundham	MP summary report and an event to mark project finish
November	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Selsey	N Mundham	
December	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington	

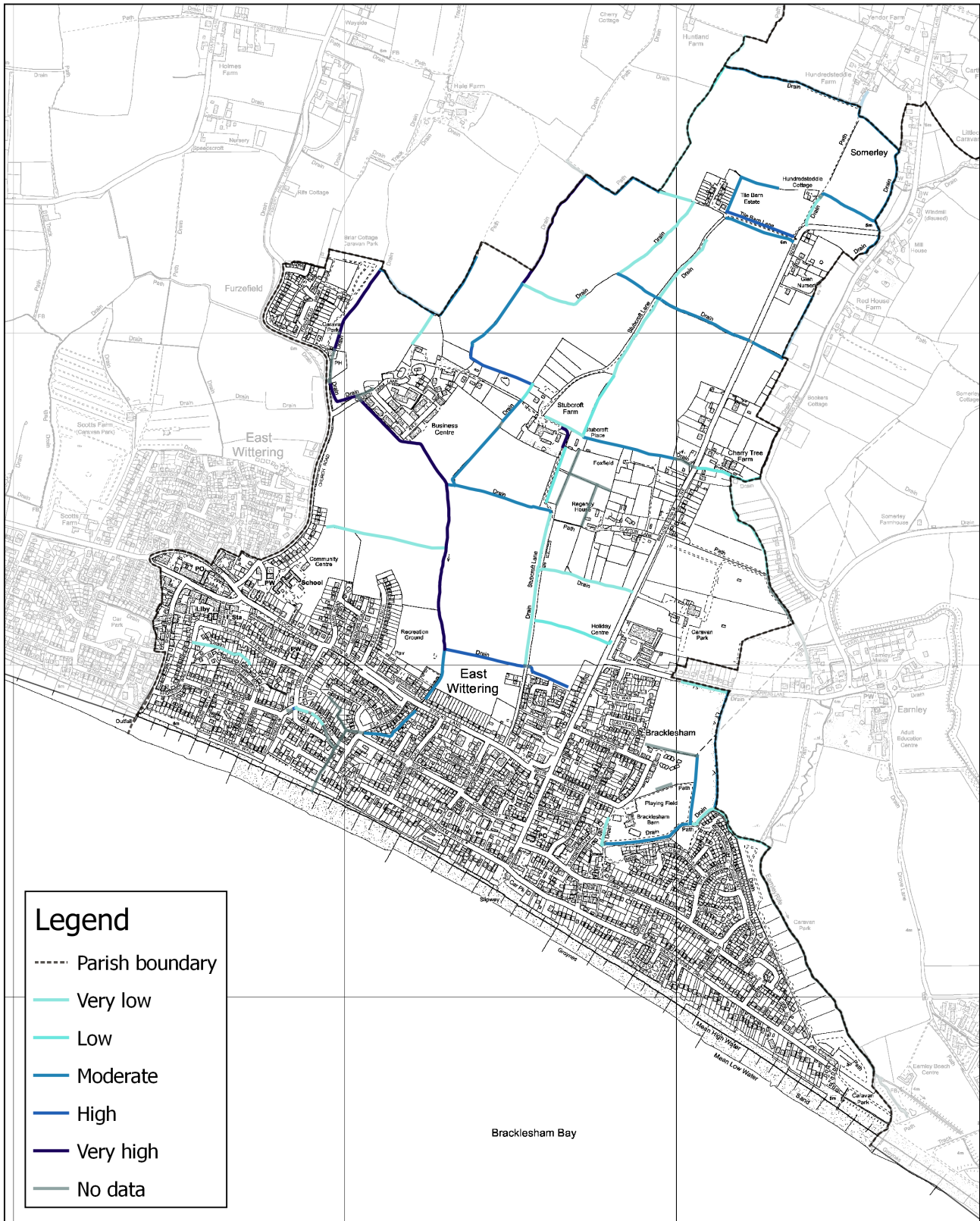
This is a tight schedule and represents the survey work - it will require a great deal of volunteer help, especially in the bigger parishes of Sidlesham, Earnley and North Mundham. The key support in each parish is the Parish Council and their help in identifying landowners and historic flooding and drainage information. While the surveys take place, there will be work in other parishes to carry out identified improvement works, to build relationships with new landowners, to help in drainage or biodiversity projects, to act as an advisor in riparian management and to publicise the FLOW project.

The FLOW project now has a bigger team with a part time Communications and Engagement Officer, Kate Hampson, to take on volunteer recruitment and management as well as publicity and social media. We also have a new Field Officer, Christopher Drake, who will continue heading up the survey work, identifying areas for improvement, and creating maps.

Condition Assessment of Ditches Surveyed in East Wittering



Approximate Measure of Capacity of Ditches in East Wittering



(C) Crown Copyright 2016, Ordnance Survey 100018803

0 250 500 750 1000 m

VOLUNTEER NOW!

Kate Hampson, Communication and Engagement Officer, recently attended the latest Arun and Chichester volunteer bureau's 'Volunteer Now!' workshop on behalf of MWHG. At the event a number of local volunteer organisations were promoting their missions and hoping to recruit new volunteers. The organisations represented included Chichester Conservation Volunteers, Chichester Ship Canal and the Weald and Downland Museum. Representatives had the opportunity to showcase their work and to talk to potential volunteers. A short inspirational film was shown that had been commissioned by the volunteer bureau, and featured beautiful scenes of Selsey's Manor Green Park and our very own Dr. Anthony Preston.

Volunteers are at the very heart of Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group. You are our Trustees, you organise work parties, produce our newsletters, complete our wildlife surveys, support our members, write our blogs and make the teas to keep us going! You are essential to all that we do. An enormous thank you goes out to all that help the group on a regular basis. As a small community-led charity, it is our aspiration that everyone who helps us feels valued and part of the team. The Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of how well the group represents and involves local people.

Anyone who is looking to give back to their community but doesn't know where to begin, volunteering with MWHG is a great way for you to discover more about your local area, learn about native wildlife and to enjoy meeting like-minded people. There are many ways to support the group, from becoming a member, to donating your time. Everyone is welcome to attend the regular volunteer tasks, which happen all around the Manhood Peninsula throughout the week. Visit our website www.mwhg.org.uk or email hello@mwhg.org.uk to find out more or to register your interest.

Kate Hampson



MWHG information stand at the volunteer event.

ASHE GROUP

In all, comprising some sixteen acres, Earnley Grange is the latest site that A.S.H.E. has the pleasure of surveying and working on. An annual wildflower patch is in the making and the seeds will hopefully be sown this week. Jane and her team have made a hedgehog break, and the dewpond will be surveyed as soon as sufficient rain falls. There is a beautiful walled garden in which we identified well over a hundred moths last year, and an orchard with mixed fruit trees is in the planning stage. Grange rife runs behind the property and meanders over the fields to join the Medmerry site. This lovely venue has so much to offer and we are very fortunate that the owners are welcoming and friendly and all aspects of wildlife are very important to them.

Veronica Wilkes

SIDLESHAM'S HERITAGE TRAIL

A new property is currently being built on a former LSA smallholding. The former LSA house is to be dismantled later this summer, transported to the Weald and Downland Museum where it will be stored and then re-erected once funding becomes available.

Godfrey Shirt lived in the house from the 1950s. He was a manager on the LSA responsible for Central Services, including transport. LSA lorries transported some of the first buildings to the Weald and downland when it was being set up in the 1960s. Godfrey was a founder volunteer at the museum and has a bench dedicated to him on the site.

The LSA exhibition, including our film, is still available at The Novium in Chichester (free entry) and will transfer to the Weald and Downland in the autumn.

Bill Martin

SWALK



SWALK at The George, Eartham circa 1900

Sidlesham Walk & Lunch Klub (SWALK) has now completed 86 walks.

Recent outings have visited The George at Eartham and The Boat House Cafe at Chichester Marina via the Chichester Ship Canal from Hunston.

A photograph on the wall of The George suggests we weren't the first walking group to visit the pub!

Bill Martin



Photo © 2017 Bill Martin

VISIT TO KNEPP ESTATE, 15TH APRIL 2017

Our visit to the Knepp Estate and Safari was fantastic and I am still in awe of all we saw and learnt.

We arrived at the Estate and were immediately impressed by the artwork in a pile of logs! We had a welcomed cup of tea whilst Sophie, our guide for the afternoon, gave a brief history of Knepp Castle and estate and we then all climbed into an open-sided vehicle for the safari.

The land has been allowed to return to the wild by being left to the natural habits of free roaming animals. All possible barriers across the Estate have been removed and animals were chosen to be as close as possible to the original wild stock. Careful research meant English Longhorn cattle, Fallow, Red and Roe Deer and Exmoor ponies have been introduced to replicate the herbivores and Tamworth pigs to do the work of the wild boar. Both wild boar and the species of cattle which has been bred to most replicate the Auroch are too aggressive for an area crossed by public footpaths and bridleways, so compromises did have to be made. However, scrub is controlled by the grazers and areas of ground regularly turned over by the pigs enabling diversity of plants and habitats in a way similar to times before man started to farm it.

We were able to see for ourselves the transformation in land which had been intensely farmed only a few years ago. Large open areas of well-grazed land with small shrubs, wonderful old oak trees with areas taken over by willow, hidden ponds and ditches and old coppiced areas where the pigs had broken up the carpets of bluebells making a more natural and patchwork effect of wild flowers.

Most of the herbivores evaded us, but we had lovely sightings of the Fallow deer and were very privileged to see a Tamworth mum with her two-day old piglets! Buzzards, song-birds and butterflies were all enjoying the spring sunshine and I am sure there were many other happy creatures which we failed to see.

Thank-you, Jane, for arranging such a delightful and inspiring trip.

Sheila Wilkinson



PRESS RELEASE

NEW FUNDING TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ON THE MANHOOD PENINSULA SECURED

Working with local industry partners, the University of Chichester Business School has secured a grant of £69,000 from the Rural Development Programme for England Growth Programme to develop the visitor economy on the Manhood Peninsular.

The Sustainable Tourism on the Manhood Peninsula Project will develop a new Destination Management Plan, and support the formation of a new Tourism Partnership for the area. The project will be conducted over a 12-month period between January and December 2017, and seeks to strengthen the sustainable rural tourism offer that, whilst supporting an increase in visitor numbers and associated spend, ensures that the beautiful coastal and inland landscapes of the Peninsula are managed and enjoyed sustainably. The Project Coordinator, Dr. Jorge Gutic, said “the project provides an exciting opportunity to support the sustainable growth of the local economy on the Manhood Peninsula, by identifying existing and new opportunities to develop sustainable tourism, as well as the infrastructure and support needs that local businesses require in order to achieve their full economic potential”. Dr Andy Clegg, Chairman of Visit Chichester, which is also supporting the implementation of the project echoes the comments of Dr Gutic. “Visitor spending on the Selsey Peninsula exceeds £100 million and the project provides an exciting opportunity to further enhance the value of the visitor economy”. For Carolyn Cobbold, project leader for the Manhood Peninsula Partnership, protecting the character of the area is paramount. ‘The peninsula is one of the last remaining areas of rural coastal plain in the south of England. Bordered by the sea, Chichester, Medmerry and Pagham Harbours, and Chichester Canal it is home to a rare and diverse range of wildlife habitats and stunning environments. This project aims to increase tourism whilst respecting the area’s fragile environment”.

A key part of the programme will be working alongside existing tourism businesses, identifying opportunities for new entrants and establishing wider collaboration across the sector to enhance the visitor experience, and business competitiveness. The project has wide stakeholder support from local community and government organisations, including Visit Chichester, Selsey Town Council, the Manhood Peninsular Partnership, Arun District Council; Chichester District Council and Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

For more details please contact:

University of Chichester – Dr Jorge Gutic - J.gutic@chi.ac.uk
Visit Chichester – Dr Andy Clegg – a.clegg@chi.ac.uk
Manhood Peninsular – Carolyn Cobbold - trcobbold@msn.com



MEMBERSHIP FORM

BE PART OF A GROUP DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF YOUR WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE

Membership benefits include:

A stronger voice in support of local wildlife and heritage / Free/subsidised training / Insurance cover / Newsletter / Social Events

Surname.....Forename(s).....Title.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Tel No.....Mobile.....

Email address..... Date.....

Members are invited to make **donations** in April each year. The suggested donation is £10 for an adult; £5 for concessions (OAP, retired or on benefit) and £12 for family with members aged 18 and over.

REMEMBER this is only a voluntary donation. You do not have to pay to be a member of the Group BUT we do need the form back in order to keep records of the Group's members.

Donation £..... (If paying by cheque please make it out to 'Manhood Wildlife and Heritage')

The Group welcomes your support, however you are able to give it, if just as a supporter please tick.....

If you wish to take an active part, and for you and the Group to gain the most from your membership, we would be grateful if you would tick boxes for areas where you might like to participate and provide some information about your skills, etc.

Practical activities: conservation work, wildlife surveys, construction for wildlife	
Heritage and historical research and recording	
Writing/editing for projects, newsletter	
Artwork, photography for projects, newsletter, displays	
Promotion – talks, events, displays, website	
Administration, fundraising, membership support	

Additional Skills, Knowledge or Experience you may have (this does not have to be directly related to wildlife or heritage)

.....
.....

How did you hear about us.....

If you would prefer not to have your photo taken when on working parties or other activities with the Group please tick

IMPORTANT. Please note that in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1984 you are advised that details will be held on a database to enable Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group to undertake its normal administration duties and to provide a membership list. Neither copies of the Membership List nor the basic database will be made available to third parties. Under the provisions of the said Act 1984 you have the right to object to your details being recorded, used or circulated to other members. Please notify the below mentioned in writing of any such objection.

Please return this form with any donation to:
Mr Joe Savill,
28 Vincent Road, Selsey, PO20 9DQ

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage
Registered office: 55 High Street, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 0RB
Company No: 07629112 Registered Charity No. 1147335

WALKS LEAFLETS OUTLETS

Our walks leaflets can be purchased from the following places:-

Chichester District Council, Selsey Office
Hunston Post Office (Tramway Walks only)
Raycraft, High Street, Selsey
RSPB Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
Selsey Printing and Publishing
Selsey Town Council Office

MWHG Website

www.mwhg.org.uk

At the moment, the only section which is regularly being updated is the “Current Programmes” page. New content and updates are regularly required for example on wildlife, heritage, etc.

All contributions welcome.

email: website@mwhg.org

USEFUL WEBSITES

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group -
<http://www.mwhg.org.uk>
Recording the changing seasons -
<http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/>
Local wood recycling - http://www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk/services_recycling.htm
Local - Bags made from 100% recycled clothing - <http://www.thegreendoor.co.uk/>
Sussex Bat Group -
<http://www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk/>
UK moths - <http://ukmoths.org.uk/>
Bug life - <http://www.buglife.org.uk/>
Mammal Society - <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal/>
Green shop - <http://www.greenshop.co.uk/>
Environmental calendar -
www.countmeincalendar.info
Swift Conservation -
<http://www.swift-conservation.org/>
Wildcare Shop for products relating to ecology, Park management or conservation. -
<http://www.wildcareshop.com>

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to become a member please either download the form from our website or email chairmt@mwhg.org.uk

EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS:

newsletter@mwhg.org.uk

Copy date for next issue 10 November 2017



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**



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