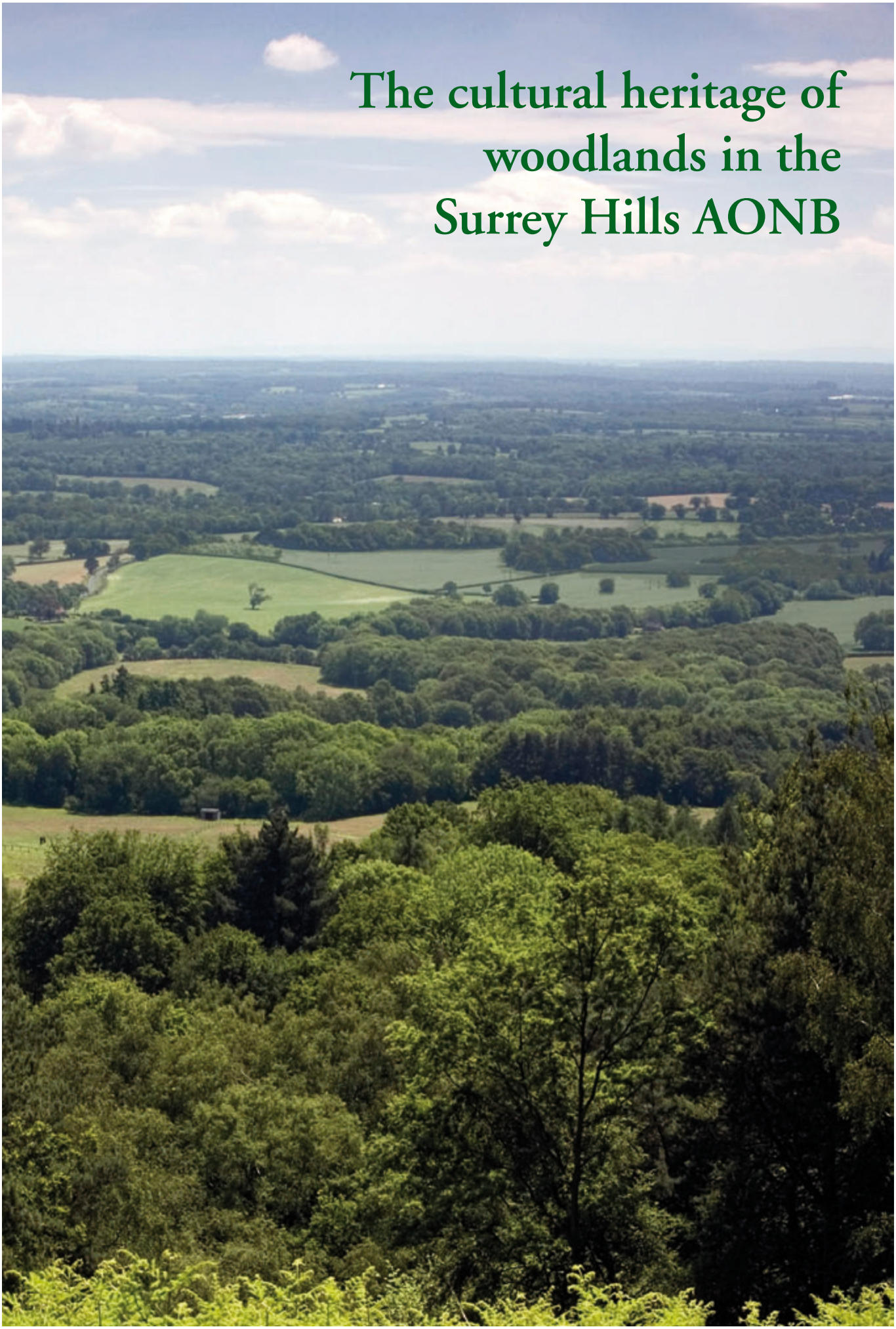
The cultural heritage of woodlands in the Surrey Hills AONB



View across the Weald from Leith Hill in the Surrey Hills (Photo - PM)

The Cultural Heritage of Woodlands in the Surrey Hills AONB

Description of the Surrey Hills AONB

The Surrey Hills AONB was designated in 1958 and covers 42,210 hectares (25%) of the county of Surrey [1]. It stretches from the county boundary with Kent in the east, where it meets the Kent Downs AONB, to the county boundary with Hampshire in the west. The hills themselves comprise the North Downs chalk escarpment and the Greensand outcrops of the Weald. These uplands are cut through by the river valleys of the Mole, Wey and Tillingbourne [2]. The AONB is a richly textured, diverse and dramatic landscape, modified and managed by human intervention over thousands of years.

Geology and Soils

The Surrey Hills comprises part of the Wealden anticline created about 65 million years ago when the layers of sedimentary rock (laid down in a marshy plain inundated by the sea) were uplifted by earth movements which also created the Alps. The anticline or dome was raised high above sea level. Its long axis (215 kilometres) stretched from the Bas de Boulonnais in France through Kent into Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire [3]. Over the following 20 million years the dome has been eroded rather like an onion, revealing a very varied geological structure. The oldest exposed rocks lie in the centre of the Weald and dominate the High Weald AONB. The youngest lie around the outer edge of the Weald in the Thames valley and North Kent Plain. The Surrey Hills comprise the outcrops of the relatively harder rock of the western half of the chalk ridge and the sandstones of the Greensand deposit. Drift deposits in the Surrey Hills are confined to alluvium in the river valleys and the capping of Clay-with-Flints in the Downs.

Topography

The differential erosion of the sedimentary rocks has produced a striking and dramatic landscape. The North Downs escarpment dominates the Surrey Hills, running from Farnham and the Hogs Back in the west, above Guildford, Dorking and Reigate, towards Oxted in the east, where it continues as the Kent Downs. South of the chalk escarpment are the Greensand Hills with the dramatic 'Devil's Punchbowl' at Hindhead, and the high hills at Leith and Blackdown. Geologically, these are the continuation westward of the Chart Hills in Kent. Between the two hills running east from Guildford is the Tillingbourne Valley, a part of the Vale of Hollingbourne which continues into Kent, towards Ashford and thence to Folkestone. The valleys of the Wey and Mole cut through the Surrey Hills on their way north to the

Map 7. Woodland cover in the Surrey Hills AONB

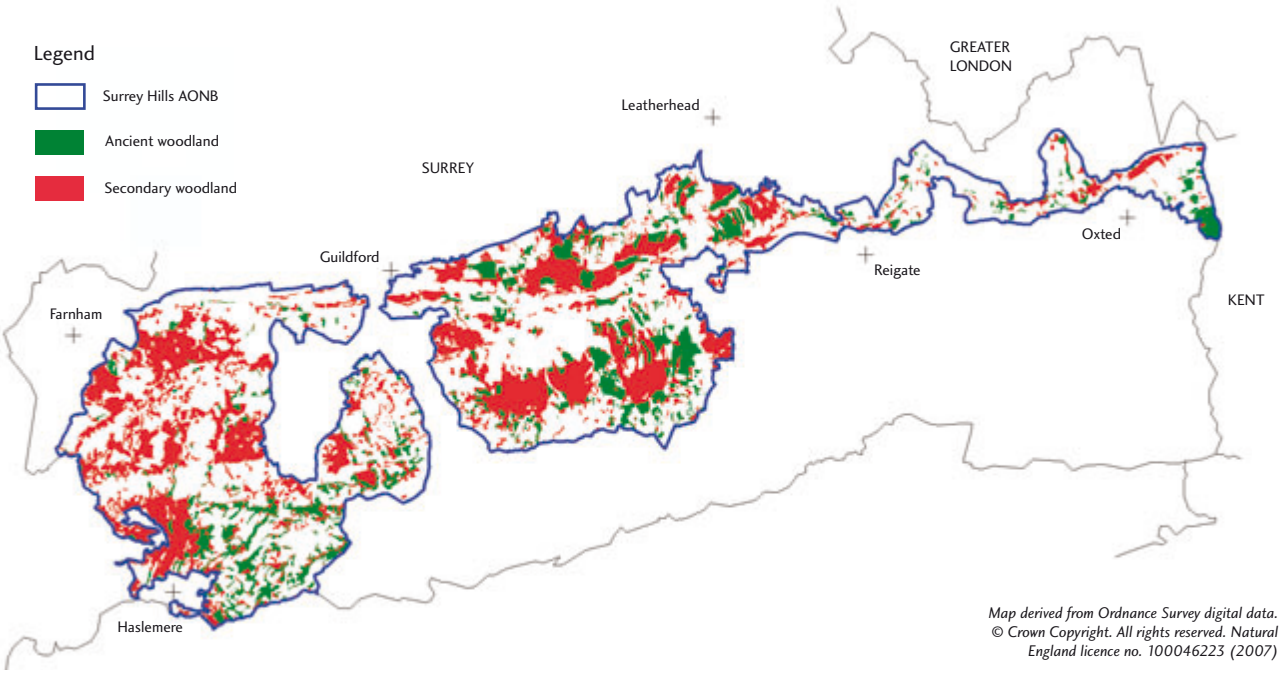


Table 3. Woodland types in the Surrey Hills AONB (woodlands > 2 hectares)

Woodland type	Area (hectares)	% of AONB woodland resource
Broadleaved	6,612	40.3
Coniferous	3,562	21.7
Coppice	344	2.1
Felled	1,138	6.9
Ground prepared for planting	41	0.3
Mixed	4,229	25.8
Shrub	170	1.0
Young trees	313	1.9
Total	**16,410**	**100.0**

Source: Derived from the National Inventory of Woodland and Trees, Forestry Commission, 2000

River Thames. The southern edge of the Surrey Hills is marked by the northern edge of the Low Weald, a gently undulating landscape with dense coverage of woodland and trees [4].

Extent of woodland type and distribution

The Surrey Hills is one of the most wooded AONBs, with almost 40% of its area covered by woodland. Ancient woodland covers nearly 12% of the AONB area [5], and internationally important yew and box woods survive on the North Downs at Box Hill, designated a Special Area of Conservation. The clayey soils in the Low Weald are dominated by woods of ash, hornbeam and oak. The chalk hills support woods dominated by ash, beech and yew, and the sandy soils on the Greensand have oak, birch and Scots pine. Many of these woods were once managed by coppicing, but actively coppiced woods now only contribute to about 2% of the woodland cover (see Table 3, above). As a management type, coppice has been neglected for many years resulting in a loss of landscape character, biodiversity and historic interest [6].

The decline in traditional methods of managing the farmed countryside such as grazing of downs, commons and heaths has also led to an increase in the amount of secondary woodland and scrub developing on previously open landscape. Thus the overall character of woodland in the Surrey Hills has altered considerably since the beginning of the 20th century, with high forest, mature plantations and overmature coppice leading to dense, often impenetrable woodland. This, together with the dense scrubbing over of once open land such as downland and heaths has contributed to the heavily wooded nature of the landscape.

Woodland Landscape Character

Woodland is the defining feature of the Surrey Hills. The Low Weald is characterised by ancient woodland comprising extensive networks of sinuous gills, small woods and shaws, akin in part to areas of the High Weald AONB. In addition, modern plantations of conifers are sometimes intermixed with ancient woods.

The Greensand Hills have some of the largest extents of wood managed as high forest covering former commons, as at Hurtwood and Leith Hill, and to the west around Farnham. Associated with these commons are smaller enclosed woods of ancient origin.

On the chalk hills are again large tracts of 18th and 19th century forest plantations as at Netley and Ranmore. Further east the chalk is characterised by narrow shaws and extensive areas of scrub. Yew and box woods are a characteristic element of the landscape around the Mole Gap at Mickleham. These woods were once more extensive across the Downs escarpment, but grazing and cultivation have now reduced them to localised habitats.

Wotton, in the Tillingbourne valley, which runs through the Surrey Hills, was the home of John Evelyn. He was one of the first people in the 17th century to look at woods and their management in a professional manner. The wooded hills and designed landscape at Wotton were partly the inspiration for his book 'Sylva or a Discourse of Forest-trees', first published in 1664. John Evelyn came from a family who had made their money out of, amongst other things, gun powder. The works in the Tillingbourne valley were set up by the Evelyns and the kilns consumed vast quantities of wood, not just for fuel and construction but also for charcoal to make the gun

Beech, yew, and ash woodland at Box Hill, near Dorking in the Surrey Hills (Photo - PM)

View from Box Hill in the Surrey Hills towards the Weald (Photo - PM)

powder with. Evelyn alludes to the intensive cutting of the underwood for the gun powder works influencing the diversity and quality of the woods.

Other large historic landowners in the locality include the Bray Family who own the Shere Estate and who also in the past managed adjacent estates such as Albury on behalf of their owners. The vast conifer woods covering the Hurtwood are forestry managed self-sown Scots pine and other coniferous species.

Introduction

The Surrey Hills is essentially a landscape of 'margins'; it lies on the margin or edges of the Weald proper – a ring of hills overlooking the Low and High Weald. The hills themselves comprise poorer upland soils, which were utilised as land 'marginal to' but integral with the main settlements in the valleys and dip slopes. Generally farms and villages were located on the more fertile and easily cultivated soils.

This was once a much more open landscape than seen today, with much of the woodland cleared in the prehistoric period. Historically, it has been managed by grazing and low intensity farming, with the remaining woods enclosed and managed for underwood and timber. Essentially the main components of the cultural landscape were in place by the 14th century. However, cessation in traditional management, especially grazing of commons and heaths, and coppicing, has resulted in the development of large tracts of high canopied woodland covering formerly open land.

In the 20th century, there was a cessation in many of the traditional grazing systems, with the economic and social links with home farms and parent manors broken by changes in ownership and fragmentation in land use. This has resulted in the spread of encroaching woodland and scrub, and with coppice developing into high forest. This is why there is more secondary woodland in Surrey Hills than the other AONBs. A further feature of the Surrey Hills are the numerous north-south routeways which traverse the landscape and along which goods and products from Weald passed to London and vice versa.

Prehistory

The traditional view of a poly-climax of high forest covering the whole of the landscape around 8000 bp has been questioned in recent years by the role of free ranging wild herbivores, such as aurochs, deer and swine which lived in the woodland [7]. The very variable edaphic, drainage, topography and geology of the Surrey Hills probably resulted in locally dominant trees occurring on the hills compared with the valleys. It is postulated that lime dominated the hill tops, with oak and elm on the gault clay and scarp face of the greensand, and oak on the Weald clay [8]. Areas of waterlogged conditions were likely to have supported willow and alder carr. However, it was probably unlikely that the Surrey Hills were covered with a dense blanket of trees but rather that a more open wood with the characteristics of a 'wood-pasture' type landscape existed.

Woodlands on the Surrey Hills preserve some fine examples of prehistoric monuments. In particular are the round burial mounds of the Bronze Age (c. 2,500 - 700 BC) and the hillforts or ditched enclosures of the later Iron Age (c. 600 BC). Burial mounds, as well as being cemeteries, are also generally thought to have been located on prominent open ground by the local community in order to make a 'statement' or mark some form of territorial control. Where such mounds still survive extant they are usually found in woodland. Two examples are located at Box Hill, on the crest of the Downs escarpment. Nearby are traces of a 'Celtic' field system on the slopes of Box Hill overlooking Mickleham. Further east at Marden, a similar situation occurred. A small cemetery of at least four or five burial mounds was once located in what is now Woldingham Golf Course. The field was called 'Barrowleys' in the 17th century. Adjacent to the golf course and surviving in a small area of ancient woodland are the extant remains of a possible prehistoric field system, with some of the former prehistoric lynchet boundaries in use as wood boundaries as well as marking the ecclesiastical parish boundary [9]. Extensive 'Celtic' field systems also survive on the Leatherhead and Mickleham Downs, further to the west.

The Surrey Hills has a number of fine hillforts occupying prominent positions overlooking the Weald. The only hillfort surviving on the chalk hills is at Caterham

overlooking the Vale of Holmesdale in the east of the Surrey Hills. Hascombe, Holmbury, Felday, and Anstiebury are all located on the Greensand Hills. Their origin and use is still under debate, but it is thought that the hillforts served several functions, not only as places of refuge in times of conflict, but also as places where the redistribution of goods such as timber, querns and iron could be controlled. The suggestion is that a number were built either in or adjacent to wooded environments where timber or wood was needed not only for construction but possibly also for fuel. The latter may have been required for the other commodity valued by the local communities, iron, brought up to the hills from open mines in the Weald. The iron was transported either in the form of iron stone, which was then smelted and worked on site, or as lumps of smelted iron, which was then reforged into tools, etc. at the hillforts. Another suggested use for the forts, as possible evidence from Felday suggests, is as seasonal pastoral camps and enclosures for stock, and for the herdsmen that looked after them[10].

There is very little apparent visual evidence in the Surrey Hills for the use and management of woodlands by the Romans and Romano-British. However, given the number of fuel-based industries, such as pottery, tile, iron, and glass, as well as the fuel needed for heating the villas and larger farmsteads, a managed and organised woodland industry must have been in existence.

Medieval Period

The marginal character of the Surrey Hills with the fertile vale of Holmesdale was probably well established by the time Roman administration had collapsed after AD 410. The resulting cessation in social organisation probably resulted in rural communities being thrown back on their own resources, leading to the rise of multiple agrarian estates with a reliance on self sufficiency. The process of transhumance, which was developing in nearby Kent, was also becoming a feature of Surrey, with the Surrey Hills providing areas of commons or 'staging posts' on droving routes reaching into the Weald proper.

The main settlements to the north of the chalk hills and in the Vale of Holmesdale claimed common territories further south. Evidence of this process can be seen in the shape of some of the historical ecclesiastical parishes which straddle the Surrey Hills, such as Wotton, Abinger, Effingham, and Bookham. All have settlements which go back to prehistoric times and are recorded as established at the time of Domesday (1086). Towards the end of the Saxon period, the decline and breakup of the transhumance system coincided with the spread of settlement into the Weald, with permanent farmsteads being established, a process which was well developed by the time of the Conquest, and which continued into the 12th and 13th centuries.

As with the North Downs in Kent, the chalk hills in Surrey were generally an area of wood-pasture and pastoral farming set in a wider farmed landscape, where the upland farms were founded by yeoman gentry rather than the large landowners [11]. Polesden near Ranmore on the chalk hills may have originated as a summer pasture, a 'den' with the 'poles' referring to coppice wood. Thus a temporary summer grazing pasture in woodland evolved into a permanent farmstead. Ranmore was formerly woodland belonging to the Abbot of Chertsey and may have originated as a wood-pasture common as indicated by the associated 'hatch' names [12].

Across the chalk hills the medieval landscape was a mixture of large commons and areas of wood-pasture, with settlements with open arable fields, enclosed pastures and small, enclosed woodlands. Evidence for the management of woods at this time is very slim. Given that buildings were in the main constructed of timber, the conservation and active management of woodland was likely to have been an integral part of the land use of estates and manors. It is probable that two management regimes were practised in varying degrees; enclosed coppice woods with standards, and unenclosed wood-pasture. Enclosed coppice woods enabled a regular supply of poles and underwood for fuel, tools and building materials. The new regrowth had to be protected from grazing stock and wild herbivores, hence

Remains of the ramparts of the Iron Age hill fort at Holmbury Hill in the Surrey Hills (Photo - PM)

Manor, parish, and hundred boundary at Great Ridings Wood, near Effingham in the Surrey Hills (Photo - NB)

the need for banks and hedges. By contrast, 'wood-pasture' enabled stock to graze within a woodland environment but with the advantage that timber could also be harvested regularly without subsequent damage to new shoots. It is probable that many of the heaths and commons across the Greensand Hills operated under a wood-pasture type system. Today, ancient pollards, descendants of the medieval woodland, may be found in remote corners of these commons.

Place names are also a clue to past land use, for example Pasture Wood near Abinger. The wooded origin of many parts of the Surrey Hills can also be traced through names with Saxon or Old English suffixes, such as 'falod' or 'fold', a place to enclose stock. These indicate a 'swine pasture' and occur mostly in the south of the Godalming, Blackheath and Wotton Hundreds [13]. An indication of widespread woodland clearance in the early medieval period comes from settlements with hurst or 'hyrst' in their name indicating a wood or wooded eminence. The recording of a wood by name suggests that it was a prominent landscape feature and occurred in some form of isolation from other woods.

Sites of ancient woodland bounded by wood banks may have been enclosed in the early medieval period and thus the boundary of the wood may be contemporary with the nearby church or even pre-date it. For example, running through Great Ridings Wood on the chalk dip slope of the North Downs near Effingham is a fine example of a common edge wood bank. It also functioned as the manor boundary (between East Horsley, Dritham, and Byfleet cum membris), parish boundary (between East Horsley and Effingham), and hundred boundary (between Woking and Effingham), and thus as a feature in the landscape may pre-date the nearby medieval churches at Effingham and East Horsley [14].

Coppice wood with standards was probably the main form of management of many of the enclosed woodlands in the Surrey Hills. A ready supply of poles and timber was needed for domestic and industrial use. Local communities demanded woodland products as did the expanding 'metropolis' of London. Actively managed coppice was vital for maintaining a ready supply of fuel and faggots, not only for local industries but also for supplying the expanding city populace of London. Carriers would probably have taken daily loads into the town from woodlands not only in the northern part of Surrey but also from the chalk dip slope coppices.

The 14th and 15th centuries saw a rise in the number of timber-framed buildings, which required large timber and shaped beams. The buildings were mainly constructed of oak, with other species used for wattles, supports, etc.

Post-medieval Period

The Surrey Hills contains a large proportion of manorial 'waste' lands; uplands of heaths, commons and chalk downlands where extensive grazing and common rights were the traditional forms of management. These originated in the medieval period from the former swine pastures and commons. Piecemeal enclosure and settlement especially by artisan and itinerant craftsmen led to some fragmentation and shrinkage but overall the commoning management continued into the post-medieval period.

The 17th and 18th centuries saw a decline in the Wealden

Hazel coppice with oak standards near Leith Hill in the Surrey Hills (Photo - PM)

industries such as iron and glass when coal replaced charcoal as the preferred fuel. Alternative, more specialised markets were found for underwood, which preserved the continuity of many coppices at this time. Charcoal was still in demand for gunpowder, for use in in distillation, and for hop drying. Underwood itself was also required for the various specialised nursery and horticultural growers that were establishing themselves in the north west of the county. Tanning, leather and numerous other crafts and small industries all still required timber and underwood in various forms, as well as the expanding hop industry.

Much of the archaeological evidence found in all types of woodland today in the Surrey Hills generally dates from the post-medieval period. This includes the living cultural features. Ancient pollards, coppice stools and stubs are a common feature of many ancient coppices and former commons. Stubs themselves are often associated with earth banks, be they agrarian or of woodland origin (see Gazetteer of Archaeological Features Found Within Woodlands).

As with woodland in the Kent Downs AONB, lynchets are a frequent element of woods found on both the chalk and to a lesser extent the Greensand Hills. These subtle earthworks can be seen in woodland across White Down by Netley Heath and in valleys in the Hurtwood. Lynchets are formed by the down slope movement of soil particles collecting against a linear boundary. They can vary in size from a few centimetres to over a metre or more (see Figure 4, page 51).

Similarly, flint and chalk quarries are closely associated with woodland on the chalk hills. Chalk was an important source of fertiliser in the form of lime as well as its use as a mortar and lime wash. The woodlands along the North Downs are pitted with pits and quarries of varying sizes. Some, as at Betchworth, were on a commercial scale, with kilns, packing areas, etc., whilst others were small, servicing the local farms. It is likely that much of the lime produced from these so-called 'flare kilns' was used to improve the acidic soils on the Greensand. Small lime kilns were usually constructed of a single hearth and their remains can be found in woods. The chalk was fed into the top of the kiln, a fire lit in the hearth below and the resulting lump lime dug out from beneath. This lime was in the form of the 'quicklime' and had to be 'slaked' with water in order to enable it to be used as a fine powder.

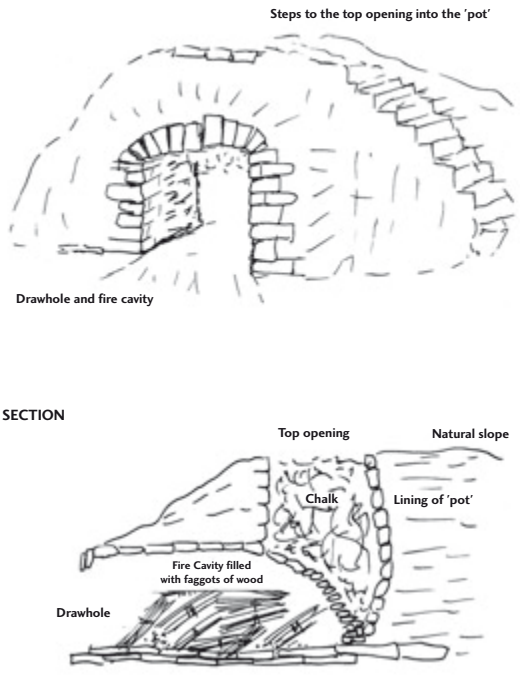
Other quarries found in the Downs are former flint pits. The 18th and 19th century saw a rise in the construction of brick and flint buildings. Flint was either used in its natural state or more usually 'knapped' to make regular-shaped blocks. Examples of these type of construction can be seen at East Horsley, where the Earl of Lovelace created the gothic Horsley Towers with its flint and brick park wall, lodges, gates and farm buildings. Flint was also used as hard core to repair roads. In contrast, in the Greensand Hills, the extensive pits and quarries here are where stone was quarried or sand dug. Here 'ragstone', a soft ferruginous sandstone, was dug for local buildings.

Charcoal hearths are more likely to be found in woods in the Greensand Hills, rather than on the chalk. Oak and hornbeam, favoured species for turning into charcoal, are more frequently found here. The gun powder works in the Tillingbourne valley required large quantities of charcoal both as a fuel and also to mix with the saltpetre powder (potassium nitrate) and sulpher (brimstone).

The Evelyn family held the sole trading licence to produce gun powder for the Ordnance Board in the early decades of the 17th century [15]. Their mills were at Wotton and Abinger and John Evelyn had the sole trading right to saltpetre produced in this country. The East India Company founded the works at Chilworth further downstream on the Tillingbourne, producing gunpowder from saltpetre imported from India [16]. Charcoal would have been obtained locally. However, by c.1880 a smokeless gunpowder was developed using charcoal made from rye straw instead of wood.

The steep and undulating topography of the Surrey Hills has led to the development of many deep, incised hollow ways traversing the slopes of the chalk and Greensand Hills. It is possible to trace the former drove ways linking the primary settled lands to the north of the Downs escarpment with their 'common swine pastures'

Figure 1. Sketch of a simple 'flare kiln' (NB)



Hollow way near Wotton in the Surrey Hills. Likely to be an ancient drove way, the hollow way also marks the parish boundary (Photo - PM)

in the Weald. Hollow ways are created by the wear of 'soft' rocks by the passage of feet, hooves and wheels exacerbated by water erosion from rain. Today, many of these hollow ways form part of the statutory public access network. Where they traverse the chalk, ancient yews and beech line the edges. On the greensand, the yews are generally replaced with hornbeam.

Surrey has played an important role in the defence of the country. The Hills provide a natural defence line by which to protect London. During the threat of invasion from France in the 1890s a ring of forts (or rather mobilisation centres) was constructed on the Downs escarpment as a defensive line around London. Several of the store houses survive, some of which lie within woodland, as for example at Box Hill [17]. Second World War pill boxes as well as anti-tank obstacles may also still survive in woodland.

However, the use of many woods and heaths in Surrey for training soldiers both in home defence and the allied armies, as well as camouflage for equipment (especially armaments) is evident from the earthworks which still survive. Across the Hurtwood on the Greensand are slit trenches, fox dug outs and former anti-tank defences scattered amongst mature conifer plantations.

The long dry valleys on the dip slope side of the North Downs provided suitable sites for rifle ranges. Traces of the butts for the range used by the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment in the late 19th century can be seen in woodland at Marden Park[18]. The target mound is also present, in an open glade of chalk grassland.

The 18th and 19th centuries saw a rise in the influence of the gentrified landowners on woodlands. The increasing prosperity of London as a trading centre and the hub of the growing empire led to a rise in the number of wealthy business men, merchants and financiers. Having made their money in 'The Wen' (William Cobbett's name for London), these prosperous entrepreneurs were looking for country retreats and estates for their pleasure and relaxation.

Numerous former farmsteads soon acquired the status of a country gentleman's estate, where outside money was used to create 'scenic' and 'picturesque' landscapes, modifying the countryside with exotic tree planting, plantations, water features, and so on. Existing woods were replanted and new ones created, for example at The Rookery at Dorking and at country villas along the Mickleham valley. Towards the western end of the Surrey Hills, around Hindhead on the acidic and well drained soils, specialist gardens and nurseries were established in order to grow and propagate the exotic plants being brought in by the Victorian plant hunters, such as Joseph Hooker. Rhododendrons were a firm favourite. Today, *Rhododendron ponticum* has invaded many woodlands, to the detriment of the native flora. It is also expensive and difficult to eradicate. At Hindhead, large areas of the former heath are being reclaimed from woodland, scrub and rhododendron as part of heathland restoration schemes.

As well as new gentry appearing on the scene, the existing landed families also benefiting from the increased wealth were returning from 'Grand Tours' of the continent with new ideas for designing and formulating pleasure grounds. John Evelyn's 'Sylva'

Box Hill fort in the Surrey Hills. Built in 1899, the fort was one of a line of 13 mobilisation centres built to protect London from the threat of invasion from across the channel (photo - PM)

provided advice on planting and management of trees and forests, together with the ideas of designers such as 'Capability' Brown and Humphry Repton. The influence of this process can be seen in the Tillingbourne Valley, where several of the large estates occur, such as at Albury and Shere. Another line of country properties lies along the dip slope of the North Downs, for example at Clandon. The desire was to create vistas and views which extended beyond the 'park pale' and into the wider landscape.

Derelict coppice woodland in the Surrey Hills (Photo - PM)

A further process taking place in the landscape in the 19th century was the enclosure of many of the open commons and heaths, where traditional manorial rights were being extinguished, and where the opportunities for agricultural labourers and craftsmen to rent or acquire small plots of land were diminishing. It was the decline not only in the grazing of heaths and commons, but the processes of turf and furze cutting for domestic fuel which allowed the encroachment of woodland over many of the former open spaces. Today, many are covered in mature woodlands used for amenity purposes. The public perception is now of an enclosed wooded landscape, which can have a negative effect on attempts by landowners and conservation organisations to undertake management programmes which involve tree felling and scrub removal.

Management issues and threats concerning the cultural heritage of woods

An important management issue for the cultural heritage of woodlands in the Surrey Hills is the lack of management, particularly coppicing. The introduction of adverse and unsustainable management practices can also lead to damage of the wood and its cultural resource.

Fragmentation of ownership

A large proportion of woods in the Surrey Hills are in public or charitable ownership, or with open access agreements in place for woods in private ownership. Thus the threat of fragmentation is not as great as for example in the High Weald or the Kent Downs. However, it is still a real issue, with areas of woodland being subdivided and sold off in parcels to private individuals (who often live many miles away from the site) who wish to own a small piece of wood. Subsequent use of the wood may not be sympathetic and can lead to a decline in the condition of the flora and earthworks. Multiple ownership of a wood can also lead to conflicts and disparate management activities.

Lack of understanding of wood and tree care

With many small woods coming into the hands of 'amenity owners', there can be a lack of knowledge concerning sustainable and good practice with regard to management and the care of trees. A lack of cutting can be just as detrimental as too much. Woodlands which abut equestrian facilities can also suffer, either as an informal manure dump or from overgrazing, resulting in bark stripping and removal of ground flora where the fencing is insufficient.

Policies for enhancement of conservation of the woodland cultural resource

These are taken from the Surrey Hills Management Plan 2004-2009:

Woodland Management Policies

W1. Woodland owners and managers will be supported to sustainably manage all ancient woodlands, and other woodlands that contribute to the landscape character.

LP5. Research ancient woodlands and other woodlands of high environmental quality and secure funding for management.

W2. Markets for timber and other high and low value forest products will be identified, promoted and supported in order to generate incomes to help sustain appropriate woodland management.

LP7. Identify, promote and support markets for timber and other high and low value forestry products including wood fuel.

Yew, beech, and ash woodland at Box Hill in the Surrey Hills (Photo - PM)

W3. The wider importance of woodlands and the need for management, including the felling, replanting and coppicing of trees, will be disseminated to woodland owners and managers.

LP8. Increase the understanding of the management of woodland amongst woodland owners and managers.

W4. The benefits of removing inappropriate trees and woodland, particularly for the restoration of heathland, chalk grassland and the reinstatement of views, will be supported and promoted.

LP4. Identify and map significant Surrey Hills' views.

E7. Promote the benefits of removing inappropriate trees and woodland.

Vision for historic and cultural heritage

HC1. A wider understanding of how the Surrey Hills landscape has evolved will be achieved by promoting the interpretation of the AONB.

E1. Promote the interpretation of the Surrey Hills.

HC3. Valuable historic landscape features that contribute to the character of the Surrey Hills will be identified and protected.

LP2. Promote, market and evaluate land management grant schemes.

LP3. Deliver small landscape conservation grant scheme.

LP4. Identify and map significant Surrey Hills' views.

LP5. Research ancient woodlands and other woodlands of high environmental quality and secure funding for management.

HC4. The rich artistic and cultural heritage of the Surrey Hills will be promoted. Existing traditions will be kept alive and new work will be inspired.

E2. Promote and interpret inspirational views.

Woodlands to Visit

The Surrey Hills AONB abounds in many sites where there is open access to woodlands and wooded landscapes, and where many archaeological features can still be seen. These areas are marked on current editions of the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer series. The Hurtwood, Hindhead Commons, Box Hill, Mickleham Valley, White Down, and Ranmore Common are a few good examples.

Footnotes

[1] McKernan, P. (2005) Unpublished information from the South East AONBs Woodland Programme. High Weald AONB, Flimwell.
[2] Countryside Commission (1998) The Surrey Hills Landscape, CCP 530 p.5
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