



Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area Management Action Plan

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9 CONSERVATION STATEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTION PROPOSALS

9.1 Introduction

A Conservation Statement has been produced for each valley. The Conservation Statements provide a framework for action to conserve, to manage and to enhance the scientific, recreational and educational value of each valley within the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area.

The Conservation Statement for each valley identifies:

- the significance of the landscape character;
- the significance of the Palaeolithic/Pleistocene remains;
- the significance of the landscape history;
- the significance of the ecology;
- the significance of access;
- issues affecting that significance.

Management Action Proposals have also been produced for the Heritage Area as a whole and for each valley as appropriate. The Management Action Proposals identify recommended actions to preserve, manage and/or to enhance significance.

The Conservation Statements and Management Action Proposals are built on the work undertaken in the different elements of the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area Management Action Plan. The Conservation Statements summarise the results of the different elements of work undertaken and integrate their results and produce an integrated set of recommendations for each valley, with an emphasis on those identified as Pilot Action Areas.

The Conservation Statements and Management Action Proposals identify realistic and specific actions and activities together with estimated costs, timescales and possible implementation agencies.

The Conservation Statements and Management Action Proposals produced here include minimal reference to the ecology of the valleys as this element of the Management Action Plan has yet to be undertaken. However, some information has been included from Creswell Crags Conservation Plan (Appendix 13, Limestone Heritage Area Ecological Assessment of Key Sites). The Conservation Statements and Management Action Proposals produced here will need revising when the ecological study has been undertaken.

9.2 Conservation Statements

9.2.1 Roche Abbey Vale Conservation Statement

9.2.1.1 Description of the Valley

Roche Abbey Vale lies at the northern end of the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area just south east of Maltby. The vale has three arms, a north western arm, a south western arm and an eastern arm. These are all of approximately equal length, of about 1.25km each, giving a total length for the valley of about 3.75km. At the centre of the gorge, where the three arms meet, lies the site of Roche Abbey, a Cistercian Abbey now under English Heritage guardianship. The eastern arm runs from the Abbey through pasture to the village of Stone, around which are patches of woodland. The south west arm is generally wooded, though at its south west end there are some arable fields and rough grassland. There is a small reservoir at the north east end of the south western arm adjacent to the abbey. The north west arm is wooded for most of its length with a sewage works at its northern end. Here the undergrowth in the woodland is generally dense.

9.2.1.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- The valley is primarily agricultural or woodland

The central section and eastern arm are pasture while the north western and south western arms are wooded.

- Limestone rock faces

There are large limestone rock faces in the central section of the gorge close to the abbey. Most of the valley sides are moderately sloping with occasional rock faces, which are spread between high, mid and low level, with rock faces between 2m and 8m high.

- Designed Landscape

The valley is part of a designed landscape produced by Capability Brown.

- Settlement

The village of Stone lies at the east end of Roche Abbey Vale.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contains numerous potential and known sites.

There are 2 caves and 14 rock shelter within the valley. Excavations at Stone Mill Shelter in Seed Hill Wood have recovered Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints. The valley has good potential for further archaeology.

Landscape history

- Roche Abbey

Roche Abbey is a Cistercian abbey, now under English Heritage Management. This was founded in AD1147, and built from local stone.

- Designed landscape

The valley became part of the Sandbeck Estate following the dissolution of the monasteries. In the eighteenth century the grounds were landscaped by Capability Brown when the stream was altered and the abbey ruins were altered.

- Stone Mill and Mill Farm

Stone Mill and Abbey Mill Farm are former mills which lie in the village of Stone at the east end of the valley, documentary evidence suggests they may have a medieval origin, although all the current buildings are post-medieval.

Ecology

- Roche Abbey Woodland SSSI (1003755)

Includes Nor Wood, Quarry Hills, Grange Wood and Kings Wood of which Kings Wood is the best example of limestone woodland in South Yorkshire.

- Maltby Low Common SSSI (1003756) and Maltby High Common LNR.

Open, uncultivated commons with scrub and calcareous grassland.

- Other habits

There are undesignated habitats including broadleaf and mixed woodland, hedgerows, the river course and waterside habitats including lakes and ponds.

Access

- Already well visited

Over 9000 visitors per annum purchase tickets for the abbey and an approximate 4000 further non paying visitors use the car park.

- The valley lies on several promoted walks

The promoted walks include the Roche Abbey 5.5mile walk (*Walking in the Creswell Limestone Heritage Area*), the Maltby Area circular walk (15miles), the Laughton walk around Roche Abbey (Doorstep walk No 2), some of the short circular walks in the Dukeries (by John Merrill) and the Rotherham Ring Route.

9.2.1.3 Issues affecting significance

- Interpretation

Interpretation panels around Roche Abbey discuss the abbey, but do not provide information on other points of archaeological or historical interest. There is also potential to modify the recommended promoted route to improve access to the archaeological and geological interest.

- Vandalism

There is some litter and small patches of graffiti in and around some rock faces.

- Car park security

There have been problems with car break ins in the car park at the bottom of the gorge by the abbey.

- Sewage works in Nor Wood

The sewage works in Nor Wood provide an unsightly entrance to the valley when walking from Maltby.

- Vegetation obscures much of the limestone outcrops

In many areas the dense vegetation obscures the rock faces limiting visual access.

- Informal paths

There are several informal paths through woodland that could damage habitats and cause erosion. These have developed despite the presence of signs requesting that visitors not to leave the paths.

- Management

The Roche Abbey site is under English Heritage guardianship and the surrounding land including Maltby Commons is owned by Lord Scarborough. Current management focuses on the ecological significance and on the abbey and does not cover broader archaeological and historical elements.

Summary

Roche Abbey has been identified as a Pilot Action Area. The valley provides the best 'field' opportunity to explore the Abbeys and great estates theme of the interpretation plan and to appreciate the open uncultivated commons as well as the geology and Ice Age archaeology of the gorge. The close proximity of Maltby provides opportunities for engaging with local communities. The area is well managed at present but would benefit from a more integrated approach that includes broader historical and archaeological themes and issues.

9.2.2 Firbeck Valley Conservation statement

9.2.2.1 Description of the Valley

Firbeck valley runs for approximately 1km south west from the village of Firbeck. A river runs along the bottom of the valley and this had been dammed to produce a series of ponds along the valley. The eastern end of the valley is a pasture field with occasional trees in it, while the western end of the valley is wooded. The valley appears to have been subject to extensive landscaping, this included the ponds on the river and paths through the woods, an ice house and a hermits cave. All of these features relate to the time when the valley formed the grounds of the demolished Park Hill Hall.

9.2.2.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- The valley is primarily agricultural or woodland

The east end of the valley is pasture, while the west end is woodland

- Limestone rock faces

The rock faces in Firbeck Valley were restricted to an intermittent line on the south east side of the valley. These are generally about 2m high.

- Designed Landscape

The valley was formally parkland associated with Park Hill Hall. Several parkland features are still visible in the valley.

- Settlement

Firbeck village lies at the east end of the valley and Park Hill Farm lies in the site of the former Park Hill Hall.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- No known or potential sites are located in the valley.

Although there are no known or potential sites in the valley there may be unknown buried sites. The valley has low potential for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology.

Landscape history

- Designed landscape

The valley was landscaped as parkland for Park Hill Hall, several dams were built in the valley bottom and several other parkland features are still visible in the valley including an icehouse, a gateway for the former kitchen garden, a constructed folly cave and several paths.

Ecology

- No designated ecological sites exist.

Although there are no designated ecological sites, habitats include broad leaf woodland, the river course, ponds, ponds and improved grassland.

Access

- Access is limited

The valley is private land and there are no public footpaths through it.

- Promoted walks

Several promoted walks pass nearby or through the village, including the Maltby Area circular walk, the Round Rotherham Rides and the Rotherham Ring Route.

9.2.2.3 Issues affecting significance

- Mainly in private ownership with no direct rights of way / access to valley.
- No potential viewpoints of the valley.
- The landscape appears well managed at present. There may be an opportunity to engage with the landowner to raise awareness of the Magnesian limestone landscape and to identify opportunities for enhancement.

Summary

The landscape appears well managed at present. The opportunity to develop management agreements with the landowner should be explored. Lack of access and viewpoints limits the potential of the valley as an amenity, although the valley does have some potential as an example as former parkland for a large house.

9.2.3 Anston Stones Conservation Statement

9.2.3.1 Description of the Valley

Anston Stones and Lindrick Dale form a continuous valley that runs approximately south east from Anston for a total length of about 4.25km. Mid way along its length it is cut through by the A57. From Anston to the A57, through Anston Stones, the valley is fairly straight. However, the section through Lindrick Dale changes direction heading due south before heading east at the bottom.

Anston Stones Wood is mostly owned by Anston Parish Council and is a Country Park, with a railway line running through it. Lindrick Dale, is mostly privately owned and contains several large houses and gardens.

9.2.3.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Anston Stones Wood and Lindrick Dale have very different characters

Anston stones Wood is a V-shaped valley with high sides covered in dense woodland, while Lindrick dale is a flat bottomed valley with shallow vertical sides. Lindrick Dale is settled with houses and gardens.

- Limestone rock faces

In Anston Stones Wood the rock faces are most spectacular in the central section, where some are over 10m high, and tail off to intermittent outcrops at either end. In Lindrick Dale the rock faces are near continuous but only up to 8m high and usually less.

- Settlement

Lindrick Dale contains several houses which have mostly been built on the east side of the valley up against and into the rock face with gardens on the valley bottom below them.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contains numerous potential and known sites.

There are 7 potential caves and 29 potential rock shelter within the valley. Excavations at Dead Mans Cave, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, have recovered Palaeolithic and Roman remains. The valley has good potential for further Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology.

Landscape history

- Quarrying

Anston Stones has been an important area for quarrying and stone from here was used in the construction of the Houses of Parliament

- Railways

A late nineteenth century railway runs along the bottom of Anston Stones Wood.

Ecology

- Anston Stones Wood is a SSSI (1003749) and Local Nature Reserve

Anston Stone Woods contains the second best example of limestone woodland in South Yorkshire. (The best example is Kings Wood, near Roche Abbey). Bee orchids and skylarks are amongst the species recorded in adjacent field which is under the countryside stewardship scheme. All fields around the recreation ground are now in Stewardship.

- Lindrick Golf Course SSSI (1004019)

Lindrick golf course, once common land, away from the greens and fairways, supports the largest and one of the most diverse areas of limestone grassland in South Yorkshire.

Access

- Already well visited

Access is generally good with Anston Stones Wood containing several footpath and a public road running down Lindrick Dale.

- Interpretation panels

There are there interpretation panels in Anston Stones Wood and these provide some information but they could be improved.

- Promoted walks

There area several promoted walks through Anston Stones Wood and Lindrick Dale including, the Anston Stones and Lindrick Dale 7.25 mile walk (*Walking in the Creswell Limestone Heritage Area*), the Rotherham Ring Route, the proposed Doorstep Walk (RMBC), the Cuckoo Way (Chesterfield Canal) passes nearby, the Anston Stones Wood geological trail and some of the short walks in the Dukeries (by John Merrill).

- Access to Anston Stones Wood

Anston Stones Wood has formal entrances at either end, and access via a field under countryside stewardship

9.2.3.3 Issues affecting significance

- Traffic and Parking

The two halves of the valley are bisected by a busy road. There is public car parking on lay-bys on the A57. However, the road is difficult to cross and unsafe for children. Lindrick Dale has very limited parking.

- Access

In Lindrick Vale the path along top of quarry near steel grill bridge is unstable.

- Vandalism

There is litter and patches of graffiti in and around some rock faces and numerous fires have been lit in some rock shelters and caves.

- Management

Anston Stones Wood is the largest 'leisure' facility in the parish of Anston, but current management is focused on the ecology. This needs to expand to include archaeology and geology. Bullens consultants have just been commissioned to undertake a new management plan for Anston Stones Wood, but this does not appear to be taking account of the significance of the archaeology.

Summary

Anston Stone Wood and Lindrick Dale have been identified as a Pilot Action Area. Anston Stones provides opportunities to explore limestone woodlands, Magnesian limestone grassland and geology, and the Ice Age story. The area has high potential for Ice Age archaeology and palaeontology. This could provide an excellent opportunity for to involve and to engage with the local community through active participation as well as talks, site visits, school activities etc.

The three existing interpretation panels need revising, replacing and repositioning and there is scope for an additional interpretation panel inside the recreation ground, at the entrance to the woods. A hierarchy of interpretation is recommended, with additional, smaller 'gateway' signs at each entrance. As with the other Pilot Action Areas, a more detailed interpretative leaflet is needed to explore the landscape history of the area, identifying key features of interest.

The existing programme of community activity provides an excellent platform to develop understanding and engagement with the historical dimension of the landscape.

The ecological interest appears well managed through longstanding engagement with the local community. The management and interpretation process needs to expand to include archaeology and geology.

9.2.4 Red Hill Conservation Statement

9.2.4.1 Description of the Valley

Red Hill is a small triangular section of land between Kiveton Park and Kiveton Bridge, bounded by the B6059, the Worksop to Sheffield railway and housing on the east end of Kiveton Bridge. It is 0.75km long and up to 0.25km wide at its widest point. The area contains the north side of an east west running valley. The south side of the valley, which is lower and more gently sloping, is covered by an industrial works and arable farmland and does not contain any known rock outcrops. The east half of Red Hill valley, adjacent to Kiveton Park is wooded with heavy undergrowth and shows signs of former quarrying activities.

9.2.4.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Developed landscape

Red Hill valley survives as a small area of rough ground sandwiched between Kiveton Park and Kiveton Bridge. The site valley side is a mix of grass and woodland surrounded by housing, industrial sites, roads and railways.

- Valley sides

The north side of the valley contains the cave on a step slope with other occasional rock outcrops. The south side of the valley more gently inclined and is covered by arable land or industrial units.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contains one potential site

Red Hill Cave is the only known potential site and this has never been investigated. The archaeological potential of the valley is therefore not high.

Landscape history

- Roman Fort

A Roman fort is thought to have been located just north of the valley with a Roman road passing nearby.

- Deer Park

The valley lay just inside the southern end of a Medieval deer park.

- Quarrying

remains of small quarry pits are hidden in the woodland in the east half of the valley

- Development of Settlement

Kiveton Park and Kiveton Bridge have developed through the post-medieval period encroaching onto Red Hill Valley, as have railway lines and roads restricting the open space.

Ecology

- There are no designated ecological sites

Although there are no designated ecological sites, habitats include scrubland, tall ruderal grassland, hedgerow and broadleaf woodland.

Access

- Promoted routes

The Cuckoo Way passes nearby but the site cannot be seen from the canal towpath. There are no public rights of way / formal access across the open space on the valley although desire lines exist into the woods from opposite the lay by on the B6059.

- Visual Access

The valley is so built up that it is difficult to identify the original landscape form .

9.2.4.3 Issues affecting significance

- Landowner unknown

The lack of a known landowner makes the development of access agreements difficult.

- Current use

The land is used by local youths as evidenced by fires, rubbish and a rope swing from a tree.

- Visibility poor

The valley is not visible from road (B6059) or canal towpath and the general shape of the valley is difficult to discern due to the development around.

- Vandalism

There is some litter and small patches of graffiti in and around the cave.

- Management

The open area is not currently managed. In view of the extent of modern development, opportunities to protect and enhance significance seem very limited.

Summary

The open area is very limited and the landowner is unknown. The valley has little potential as a public amenity, but may offer an opportunity for better management of calcareous grassland.

9.2.5 Thorpe Common and Lob Wells Wood Conservation Statement

9.2.5.1 Description of the Valley

Thorpe Common and Lob Wells Wood lie in the long and sinuous Bondhay Valley which runs for approximately 3.25km. From Lob Wells Wood the valley runs south west, for about 0.5km to the village of Top Hall, it then runs south south west for about 1.5km to Whitwell Wood. It then runs west south west along the northern side of Whitwell Wood for 1.25km, including a short section which turns north west at its very end. All of the land is in private ownership, although there are a number of informal footpaths that run through parts of the valley giving access to some areas.

9.2.5.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- The valley is primarily agricultural and woodland

The valley is shallow sided with a patchwork of fields and small woods along its length.

- Settlement

A small hamlet has developed around Moor Mill Farm and Top Hall towards the north end of the valley. This separates Lob Wells Wood From Thorpe Common.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contains several known and potential sites

There are five rock shelters in the valley, two of which have been investigated. One contained Palaeolithic remains and one Mesolithic remains. The valley has good potential for further Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology.

Landscape history

- Water Mills

Moor Mill farm is located on the site of a former water mill of unknown origin.

Ecology

- Woodland north of Whitwell Wood is a SSSI

Other habitats include unimproved Magnesian limestone grassland, broadleaf woodland, hedgerows, ditches and pond adjacent to the site used for private fishing with marginal vegetation.

- Countryside Stewardship Schemes

Moor Hill Farm (SK529 801) has been in countryside stewardship scheme for 10 years. Farmer has just entered into new agreement for another 10 years. This includes concessionary access to an area of unimproved grassland where limestone flora is abundant in spring and summer.

Access

- Access is limited

The valley is private land and there are no public footpaths through it.

- Promoted walks

Promoted routes that pass nearby are the Rotherham Ring Route and the Cuckoo Way (Chesterfield Canal).

9.2.5.3 Issues affecting significance

- Lob Wells Wood

There is no public access to Lob Wells Wood as the land is privately owned and the owner is not keen on public access.

- Countryside Stewardship Scheme

There is the potential for installing an interpretation point in the area of unimproved grassland, managed under a countryside stewardship scheme. This could show the types of wildflowers this uncommon habitat supports.

- Visual Access

Cave and shelter sites cannot be seen from rights of way in the area.

- Management

The area appears well managed at present, as illustrated by the Countryside Stewardship scheme.

Summary

The valley is a good example of the Magnesian limestone landscape and appears well managed at present through the Countryside Stewardship scheme. There is good potential for further Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology. Although attractive, the valley has limited potential as a public amenity due to the restricted access.

9.2.6 Steetley Quarry Caves Conservation Statement

9.2.6.1 Description of the Valley

Steetley Quarry caves lie on the site of a former works. This has closed down but the site is starting to be redeveloped. The site consists of a series of large derelict industrial buildings surrounded by tarmac and hardcore surfaces. Some of the buildings had been constructed in what appeared to be old quarries and around the back of some of the buildings are cut rock faces. Also next to the site is a large quarry.

9.2.6.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Limestone plateau.

The site is located on the top of the limestone plateau.

- Derelict Industrial landscape

The area is a derelict former industrial works located in old quarries

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The area contains 2 known caves

Two caves have been recorded on the site, although only one appears to survive today. The surviving site is bricked up and there appears to be low potential for further Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites on the site.

Landscape history

- Quarries and Industry

The site was developed as a large industrial works and quarry.

Ecology

- No designated ecological sites exist.

There is very little ecological potential on the former industrial site.

Access

- No Access

There is no formal access to the site and no public rights of way cross it.

9.2.6.3 Issues affecting significance

- Access

There is no access to the site and no public parking nearby.

- Management

As a derelict industrial works the site has no potential to illustrate any of the landscape characteristics of the Heritage Area of interest to this study

Summary

The site, which is located on the top of the limestone plateau, consists of a derelict former industrial works. It contains no natural habitats and the one surviving cave is bricked up.

9.2.7 Ash Tree Gorge Conservation Statement

9.2.7.1 Description of the Valley

Ash Tree Gorge lies to the west of Whitwell, it is a small east west running valley over 0.3km long with rock outcrops for approximately 0.25km of its length. Side valleys enter the gorge from north and south approximately mid way along its length. The land is owned by the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees. The valley lies entirely within a pasture field and is mostly grass. However, trees and scrub have grown up along and on the rock faces. The sides of the gorge are divided into four different areas by the side valleys that enter the gorge and one of these, the north east area, has been fenced off and planted with saplings.

9.2.7.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Pasture land

The gorge is small and all lies within a pasture field with saplings and trees growing up against the rock face.

- Rock faces

The gorge is quite shallow with rock faces generally between 2 and 4m high. The site is a designated Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS).

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contain known and potential sites

The valley contains one cave, three rock shelters and one fissure. The Cave is Ash Tree Cave which is an important Palaeolithic site and a Scheduled Ancient

Monument. The valley has high potential for further Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology.

Landscape history

- Agriculture

There is no evidence that the land has been used for anything other than agricultural for hundreds of years.

Ecology

- No designated ecological sites

Although there are no designated sites in the valley the Derbyshire Biological Records list includes notable species from the gorge including Wild Service (*Sorbus torminalis*) and Dwarf Thistle (*Cirsium acaule*).

Access

- Public rights of way

There are no Public Rights of Way that enter the valley

- Promoted routes

The Creswell Archaeological Way, passes by the gorge with a view into it.

- Visual access

The valley provides excellent views across the wider landscape.

9.2.7.3 Issues affecting significance

- No Public Access

There is no public access, the gorge can only be seen from the road (Highwood Lane), which is on the Archaeological Way.

- No parking

The lay-by on the road is not suitable for car parking as it is used as a passing point and road is a single lane.

- Management

The site appears well managed at present. There may be an opportunity to engage with the landowner to raise awareness of the Magnesian limestone landscape and to identify opportunities for enhancement.

Summary

Ash Tree Gorge is a small and attractive gorge that appears well managed at present and that may offer an opportunity for enhancement through a management agreement. It has high potential for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology. It does not currently have public access.

9.2.8 Markland and Hollinhill Grips Conservation Statement

9.2.8.1 Description of the Valley

Markland and Hollinhill Grips are part of the Creswell Hub Pilot Action Area. The Grips comprise a large valley with three arms which meet at the north east corner of the complex. The longest arm runs east from the centre of Clowne, where it is known as Clowne Grips before turning into Hollinhill Grips, this is over 2km long in total. The other two arms are both known as Markland Grips. The first of these runs south west to north east, and joins to the long arm of Hollinhill Grips at its east end near Upper Mill Farm, this arm is almost 2km long. The final arm runs approximately south to north, for about 0.75km, and joins the main Markland Grips arm just south west of its intersection with Hollinhill Grips. The total length of the valleys within Markland and Hollinhill Grips is around 5km.

9.2.8.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Agriculture and Woodland.

The valley is mainly pasture and woodland. Most of the valley bottoms used to be pasture with woods on the valley sides. However, many of the pasture fields have been abandoned, become overgrown and turned over to nature reserves.

- Rock faces

For much of the valley there are continuous rock faces between 3m and 12m high. These break up towards the ends of the valleys and where intermittent outcrops occur on moderate slopes. In areas turned over to nature reserves the vegetation has grown excessively obscuring many of the rock faces. The site is also a Regionally Important Geological Site.

- Settlement

The west end of Hollinhill Grips, known as Clowne Grips, enters the village of Clowne where it is located in a linear park. A sewage works has been located in the valley next to Clowne. There is one farm, Upper Mill Farm at the east end of the valley.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- There are several potential sites

Markland and Hollinhill Grips contain 13 caves, 41 rock shelter and four fissures. Of these a few have been investigated and though the contained later prehistoric material none contained Palaeolithic or Mesolithic remains. The valley has moderate potential for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology due to the absence of previous Palaeolithic or Mesolithic remains although an upper Palaeolithic flint blade has been found in the valley floor.

Landscape history

- Iron Age Hill Fort

An Iron Age hill fort is located on the promontory between Hollinhill Grips and Markland Grips.

- Railway viaduct

A railway used to cross Markland Grips and the remains of a viaduct still survive.

Ecology

- Designated Ecological Sites

Hollinhill and Markland Grips is a SSSI (1002419) and three Sites Important to Nature Conservation (SINC) (B0096, B0098, B0099/3). The valley contains, semi-natural ancient woodland and unimproved Magnesian limestone grassland including several notable species. The marsh area of South Markland supports great-crested and smooth newts.

- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

Two large sections of the valleys are managed as Nature Reserves by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Access

- Public Rights of Way

Public rights of way in the valley are limited with only some of it accessible.

- Promoted Routes

Promoted routes that pass nearby include , the Markland Loop , the Creswell Archaeological Way and the Creswell Crags, Elmtun and Markland Grips walk (*Walking in the Creswell Limestone Heritage Area*).

9.2.8.3 Issues affecting significance

- Access

Public rights of way only provide access to parts of the valley. Also some of the footpaths are narrow and overgrown (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are responsible as outlined in licence agreement with Chatsworth Estates There are lay-bys to park in but they are limited.

- Vandalism

There is some litter and small patches of graffiti in and around some rock faces. and litter in the stream in Markland Grips.

- Sewage works in Hollinhill Grips

The sewage works in Hollinhill Grips is adding nitrogen pollution to the environment.

- Vegetation obscures much of the limestone outcrops

In many areas the dense vegetation obscures the rock faces limiting visual access.

- Informal paths

- There are several informal paths through woodland that could damage habitats and cause erosion.

- Vandalism

There is litter and graffiti in and around some rock faces, and fires have been lit in some rock shelters.

- Management

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are responsible for managing much of the valley. The Trust has concerns about encouraging visitors to the area due to the risk of vandalism. Without proposing to extend access, there would appear to be opportunities to enhance current provision, for management to take account of the archaeological interest and for closer engagement with local communities.

Summary

Markland and Hollinhill Grips is a large valley with extensive wildlife habitats, and several caves and rock shelters. The valley can be easily accessed from the Creswell Hub. Limited physical access and the overgrown vegetation, which interferes with visual access, restrict the potential of the valley as a public amenity. There is a need for more integrated management of the archaeological, geological and ecological interest and an opportunity for closer engagement with the local community.

9.2.9 Elmton and Whaley Valleys Conservation Statement

9.2.9.1 Description of the Valley

The Elmton and Whaley valley is part of the Creswell Hub Pilot Action Area. The valley runs north west to south east for 4km from Elmton at its north end through Whaley and down to Langwith. Most of the land in the valley is owned by the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees. From Elmton heading south for about three quarters of the length of the valley most of the land is fields of either pasture or arable. Where outcrops of bedrock occur in these fields they are often covered by small copses of trees or scrub as the land could not be ploughed. Towards the southern end of the fields the valley bottom is very boggy and the west side of the valley is wooded, as is the whole of the southern quarter of the valley.

9.2.9.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Agriculture and Woodland

The valley is primarily agricultural with pasture and arable fields enclosed by a mixture of dry stone walls and hedges. The southern end of the valley is wooded, including Scarcliffe Park.

- Valley sides

The valley has shallow sides with occasional outcrops of limestone bedrock.

- Settlement

The villages of Elmton and Whaley are located in the valley.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contains several known and potential sites

The valley contains three caves and seven rock shelters, one of which Whaley 2 Rock Shelter, has produced significant Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains. The valley has good potential for further Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology.

Landscape history

- Scarcliffe Park

Scarcliffe Park was a medieval deer located to the south west of the valley. Earthworks from the park pale are a notable feature in the woodland at the south end of the valley.

- Settlement

Medieval settlement has been identified in several places in the valley. Earthworks identify Elmton as a Shrunken Medieval Village, with further remains found at Whaley Hall Whaley and Apsley Grange.

Ecology

- No designated ecological sites

Little accurate ecological information exists for this valley. The village green at Elmton contains calcareous grassland and is being managed to conserve this habitat.

Access

- Public Rights of Way

The full length of the valley is accessible via public roads and there is some roadside parking in the villages and at the Poulter Country Park.

- Promoted routes

There are several promoted routes in the area including, the Creswell Archaeological Way, Creswell Crags, Elmton and Markland Grips (*Walking in the Creswell Limestone Heritage Area*) and Creswell & Whaley Thorns (*Walks in the Meden Valley*).

9.2.9.3 Issues affecting significance

- Access and interpretation

The area is a good walking area with regular guided walks. The proposed Interpretation Point in Creswell village will help raise awareness of the landscape character.

- Car parking

Good car parking is available at the Poulter Country Park, which is a gateway to surrounding countryside.

- Visible access

Visible access is generally good, although most of the rock faces are overgrown and cannot be seen from the road.

- Vandalism

There is some litter around some rock faces.

- Management

Much of the area is owned by Chatsworth Estates and appears well managed at present. There may be opportunities to work with the landowner to enhance landscape character.

Summary

Elmton and Whaley valley provides a good example of an open and shallow sided vale that can be easily reached from the Creswell Hub. The valley has good views from which the character of the valley and limestone plateau can be seen. The patchwork of agricultural and woodland that characterises the area is clear as is the nature of settlement. The village contains good examples of vernacular buildings constructed with Magnesian limestone. Opportunities to enhance landscape character through management agreements should be explored.

9.2.10 Langwith Vale Conservation Statement

9.2.10.1 Description of the Valley

Langwith Vale is orientated south west to north east and runs for a length of approximately 2.75km. It runs from just south of Scarcliffe at its south west end to Upper Langwith at its north east end. Most of the land in the valley is owned by the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees. The north east third of the valley contains pasture fields while the south west two thirds is wooded. At the east end the valley has a flat bottom with a small stream flowing through it, at the west end it is more difficult to determine the shape of the valley bottom as a railway line, now dismantled, had been run along the base of the valley obscuring the base of the valley.

9.2.10.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Agriculture and woodland

The Langwith valley is mostly wooded and it is only at its east end that there are fields of pasture.

- Rock faces

The valley has occasional outcrops of bedrock on the valley sides. It is difficult to get an impression of the size and shape of the valley due to the woodland that limits views.

- Settlement

The village of Upper Langwith is located at the north east end of the valley.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contains several known and potential sites

There are three caves and three rock shelter in the valley of which one, Langwith Bassett Cave, has been excavated. This produced Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

archaeology and the valley has good potential to contain further Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology. Langwith Bassett cave is also a Regionally Important Geological Site.

Landscape history

- Settlement

The village of Upper Langwith originates in the medieval period and the missing Bassett Hall is believed to have stood next to the church.

- Bassett Hall Hunting Park

Langwith Wood delineate the extent of the former medieval hunting park associated with Bassett Hall.

- Railway cutting

There is a deep railway cutting to the south of Upper Langwith where a former railway that ran along the valley bottom emerges from the valley. The railway cutting is also a Regionally Important Geological Site.

Ecology

- Designated ecological sites

There are three SINC's (B0176, B0184, B0138) in the valley, and Scarcliffe Lanes Common includes a range of habitats including scrub, bracken, bramble, woodland and open space.'

Access

- Public Rights of Way

Roads run the length of the valley and footpaths run through the woods and across the pasture fields at the east end of the valley.

- Promoted Routes

There are two promoted routes in the valley the Creswell Archaeological Way and the Scarcliffe and Upper Langwith walk.

9.2.10.3 Issues affecting significance

- Vandalism

There is some litter and a fire has been lit in Langwith Bassett Cave.

- Visual access

From the paths in the woods there are limited views from which the character of the valley can be observed

- Condition of paths

Some of the paths through the woods are overgrown

Summary

The Langwith Vale and Whaley Valley together illustrate a number of interesting historical features that illustrate the pre-industrial landscape away from the gorges. The area's links to the Ice Age past are represented by caves and rock shelters at Upper Langwith and Whaley respectively. A remnant of Royal hunting forest is preserved along with its defensive ditch and rides at Scarcliffe Park. Excellent examples of local vernacular architecture can be found at Langwith old hall and in surrounding villages. Evidence of milling, which was hugely popular in this area, can be found adjacent to Whaley village. Scarcliffe Park and Poulter Country Park provide excellent habitat for many of the area's indicator species.

The proposed redevelopment of the Whaley Thorns Heritage Centre close to Langwith Vale will provide an optional focal point from which to explore this area. Development of interpretative literature should be considered as part of an Interpretation Plan for this redevelopment. Opportunities to sustain and to enhance the landscape character through management agreements should be explored.

9.2.11 Pleasley Vale Conservation Statement

9.2.11.1 Description of the Valley

Pleasley Vale is an east west running valley about 3km long. Although orientated approximately east west the central section of the valley is sinuous. The central section of Pleasley Vale is owned by Bolsover District Council. However, the eastern and western ends are in private ownership. The central section of the valley is deep sided with substantial rock faces while both ends are shallower. The west end has no rock faces while the east end had substantial rock faces. There are several mills and water management features in the centre of the valley.

9.2.11.2 Statement of Significance

Landscape character

- Industrialised landscape

The valley is unusual among the valleys in the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area in being industrialised with three large mills and associated water management features in the centre of the valley. Both ends of the valley have pasture at the bottom with wooded sides.

- Settlement

The small settlement of Little Matlock is located towards the east end of the valley, as are a small group of workers houses for the mills.

- Rock faces

The most substantial rock faces are in the central and eastern parts of the valley. Many of the central faces have been cut back, probably when the mills were built, changing the shape and appearance of the valley in this area.

Pleistocene archaeology and palaeontology

- The valley contains several known and potential sites

The valley contains several known and possible sites including eleven caves, six rock shelters and five fissures. There are also substantial breccia deposits on rock faces near the mills, probably exposed when the rock faces were cut back. Two of the caves Pleasley Vale Cave and Yew Tree Cave have been excavated and produced Pleistocene and Holocene palaeontological faunas, but no archaeological remains. The presence of a Mesolithic flint scatter on the plateau above the valley demonstrates a human presence. The potential of archaeological material being discovered in the caves is moderate to good.

Landscape history

- Roman Villa

A Roman villa site is located to the south of the valley on the limestone plateau.

- Pleasley Park

Pleasley Park was a medieval deer park north of the valley and this area is now woodland.

- Pleasley Forges

There were two forges run by the iron master George Sitwell in the valley during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

- Pleasley mills

Construction on the mills started in the late-eighteenth century on the site of one of the former forges. The mill complex was expanded over the years until the last major addition in 1913 when the third mill was built.

- Pleasley Colliery and railway

Although located away from the valley Pleasley Colliery had a major impact through its railway which ran along the south side of the gorge.

Ecology

- Designated ecological sites

There are several designated sites with and around the valley including the Pleasley Vale Railway SSSI (1002911), numerous SINC's (B0151, B0152, B0154, B0155, B0157, B0158, B0175, 2/325, 1/145, 1/117, 2/328, 2/327, 2/1069), and several proposed SINC's (5/70, 5/69, 5/73, 5/291, 5/76, 5/74, 5/72, 5/288)

- The Meden Trail Local Nature Reserve.

The Meden Trail Local Nature Reserve is said to contain some of the best remaining calcareous grassland in Nottinghamshire.

Access

- Public rights of way

A road runs through the valley but is not a public right of way for vehicles. However, it is open to pedestrians. There is car parking at the western end of the valley where the Archaeological way starts but this is not in good condition.

- Promoted routes

There are several promoted routes in and around the valley including the Creswell Archaeological Way, the Meden Trail and Little Matlock (*Exploring the Robin Hood Line*), the Pleasley Trails network (Meden Trail) and Short walks in the Dukeries (John Merrill).

9.2.11.3 Issues affecting significance

- Access

There is a plethora of trails with no co-ordinated approach. There is evidence of motorbike use on Meden Trail and this will damage it and is a danger to walkers. Large lorries using the road through the valley to access the business park and these provide a problem for people visiting the mills.

- Redevelopment of the mills.

The mills are currently being redeveloped as a business park and this has been done with little attempt at interpreting the site and its surroundings to the public. What current interpretation is available omits ice age archaeology, geology and the history of industrialisation.

- Development of the outdoor activities centre

The District of Bolsover Leisure Services Department are proposing to develop a satellite outdoor activities centre in one of the old mill buildings with dedicated educational/interpretative space. This presents an opportunity that should not be missed.

- Maintenance

The maintenance of trails and car parks in the vale is patchy with dumping in car parks not being cleaned away rapidly.

- Management

The diversity of stakeholders, pressure for development and lack of an integrated management, development and access strategy threatens the diversity and wealth of landscape interest.

Summary

Pleasley Vale is a Pilot Action Area and provides an opportunity to explore aspects of the industrialisation of the Magnesian Limestone, including water power, mills and mining. The valley is heavily promoted for walks and leisure. However, current interpretation omits ice age archaeology, geology and the history of industrialisation.

In view of the wealth of interest, the diversity of stakeholders and the various uncoordinated initiatives currently active, it is essential that an integrated Interpretation and Development plan be created. This should include proposals for long term management and presentation of the cultural, ecological and landscape interest. The most critical need is for an interpretation plan that sets out the story of Pleasley Vale and a strategic approach to its presentation.

As with the other Pilot Action Areas, an excellent opportunity exists to engage the local community in the interpretative and management opportunity.

Pleasley Vale is also the start of the Creswell Archaeological Way, for which interpretative recommendations have been made.

9.3 General Management Action Proposals

There are a number of Management Action Proposals identified for the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area. This includes general proposals applicable to the whole area and specific proposals that only apply to specific valleys. The general proposals are described in this section while the specific proposals are dealt with in section 9.4.

These proposals are simply recommendations or suggestions for actions that should be undertaken to address issues identified in the Creswell Limestone Strategy and in the Creswell Crags Conservation plan and outlined in Section 2 (Background) of this report. They form a framework and a menu for action that can be undertaken by a variety of different agencies, taking advantage of funding opportunities as they arise over the next five to ten years. It is envisaged that Creswell Heritage Trust, Groundwork Creswell and the Limestone Strategy Partnership would be the key 'championing' or co-ordinating agencies, supported by the Local Authorities, English Heritage and English Nature as appropriate.

The actions could be taken forward individually or grouped together as a package according to funding opportunities. For instance, a 'Pride of Place' project officer could work with several different communities over a period of years to implement proposals contained in the Interpretation Plan, working in parallel with a research project testing the predictive model for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites, a landscape management project to develop management agreements with key landowners and a programme of practical works to improve physical access and rights of way.

As a package, such a programme might be an ideal candidate for the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership initiative.

Note on Costs

Capital costs are at 2004 prices. Salary costs are at 2003 prices and funding proposals would need to take account of university pay settlements. All prices exclude VAT, which would be charged at the standard rate as required.

9.3.1 GIS

It is proposed that the Magnesian Limestone GIS is updated annually. This will be co-ordinated by Nottinghamshire County Council who manage the system. No funds will be required for this as Nottinghamshire County Council have offered to provide this service for free.

9.3.2 Management of the archaeological resource

9.3.2.1 Management Guides

Section 3.15.2 has identified that public education aimed at key stakeholders is vital for the long term management of the archaeological resource. This is endorsed in the Intellectual Access Study. The stakeholders involved will include landowners, tenant farmers, local councils, land managers and visitor groups. The aim will be to educate these people as to the value and sensitivity of the archaeological resource and to provide information on best practice in managing the resource. This method is both cost effective and in the long term the best option as it is the people that have day to

day dealings with sites that can most effectively manage them. Problems like vandalism can only be dealt with by effective long term management by landowners and land managers.

It is proposed that a short information guide is produced for each valley this will include the following sections:

1. Background to the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area.
2. The nature and importance of Ice Age archaeology, this would describe the nature of the archaeology, the types of sites and what it can tell us.
3. A description of the sites in the valley.
4. An explanation of what processes could damage the archaeology and natural environment. This will cover such issues as natural erosion, land use, farming practices, rubbish tipping, informal footpaths, vandalism and fire lighting.
5. Recommendations for best practice in looking after the sites and their environment. This will cover such issues as maintenance (removal of rubbish and graffiti), site use, access and management. These recommendations will cover all sites whether on farmland, in a garden or in woodland.
6. Contacts to report damage or get further advice. This will include county archaeologists for concerns about planning issues, English Heritage for general advice on archaeology and Creswell Heritage Trust for reporting concerns about the condition of sites unless they are scheduled in which case it should be English Heritage. In some cases the contacts could include land owners or managers if they are councils or wild life trusts.

Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 can be largely generic while sections 3 and 6 will be valley specific. Section 5 may need focussing for each valley taking into account current land use and possible future developments. It is intended that the guides are not long documents but will be short and accessible. The guide will not be guide to the sites but a guide to the importance and management of the sites. It is therefore envisaged that it will be used as a reference work for people to consult when they have concerns or are looking for advice. Large numbers of the guides will not be needed, 30 copies of each guide should suffice.

In all cases the guides will be sent to land owners, tenant farmers and local councils, in areas where public access exists the guides will also be sent to bodies promoting the access such as wild life trusts, local societies and groups that use the land and local schools. Copies of all the guides should be sent to the local offices of national organisations such as English Nature, the Countryside Commission and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 3.1**

Total costs of the project are estimated at £8,250.00.

Timetable

A detailed timetable has not been prepared but provisionally it is estimated that the drafting, production and distribution of the guides should take approximately 10 weeks.

Funding Agencies

Possible funding agencies include:

English Heritage

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

9.3.2.2 Monitoring of the archaeological resource

Management recommendations have included the development of a programme of long term monitoring for some of the valleys, details of this programme are included in **section 3.15.3**. This will aim to provide specialist archaeological assessments of site conditions to supplement any information received from members of the public through the public education programme. Monitoring is required for the sites due to the rarity of Palaeolithic remains in the archaeological record. Many of the sites are only potential sites and the presence of archaeological/palaeontological remains has not been confirmed, this can only be done through excavation. Further research on the area may well extend our current knowledge of these potential sites but until this exists the more prudent strategy will be to monitor all sites with archaeological/palaeontological potential until they are proved to be sterile. It is proposed the Creswell Heritage Trust act as the monitoring body and act as the first point of call for members of the public wishing to report damage to sites.

This long term monitoring will aim:

- to check up on any reports of damage received from members of the public;
- to identify any damage that has occurred to the sites since the last visit;
- to identify any human actions that may be detrimental to the sites through disturbing deposits or encouraging erosion;
- to identify any threats to the site from ongoing natural erosion;
- to identify any threats to the sites from bioturbation by animals or plants;
- to identify any other threats to the sites;
- to make recommendations for any actions required to protect the sites.

Monitoring will be undertaken on a valley by valley basis with the frequency of monitoring visits determined by the perceived threat of damage to the sites (**Table 1**). This is a subjective assessment based on the current condition of the sites, the degree of public access and use of the sites, potential developments in the valleys and the archaeological potential of the sites in the valley.

Table 4 Valleys to be Monitored

Vale or Gorge	Period between visits	No. of sites	Expected time duration of monitoring visits (days)
Roche Abbey Vale	2	17	1
Anston Stones	2	38	2
Red Hill	4	1	0.5
Thorpe Common and Lob Wells Wood	4	5	1
Ash Tree Gorge	4	5	0.5
Markland Grips	4	58	2
Elmton and Whaley Valleys	4	10	1
Langwith Vale	4	6	1
Pleasley Vale	2	22	1

When a valley is monitored all the terrain units identified as caves or rock shelters will be visited and checked. Rock faces without any cave or rock shelter sites will be scanned for obvious damage while passing but will not be checked in detail.

The current survey has provided baseline data which will be used in the monitoring programme to check for any changes in site condition. The description of the terrain units from the sensitivity survey will be compared to the condition during the monitoring visit and any changes noted. A guideline of the expected duration of monitoring visits is given in Table 4.

On complete of the monitoring survey for a valley a short report will be prepared this will note any damage or increased threats to sites and make recommendations if action is required. Each report is likely to take between a half and one day to produce unless damage requiring complicated actions are required.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 3.2**

The costs of the four yearly monitoring visits are estimated at £3,850.00.

The costs of the intervening 2 yearly monitoring visits are estimated at £1690.00.

Timetable

The 4 yearly monitoring visits should take 9 days in field and 5 days to report.

The intervening two yearly visits should take 4 days in field and 2 days to report.

Funding Agencies

Possible funding agencies include:

English Heritage

9.3.3 Future Ice Age Research

9.3.3.1 Test pitting

A programme of test pitting has been proposed, this is to be undertaken on a number of the uninvestigated sites in the valleys. Further details of the programme are provided in **Appendix 7.1**. A total of 50 test pits will be excavated within caves and rock shelters and on the slopes below them.

The test pitting programme will:

- test the predictive model;
- investigate the relationship the sites to the slopes below;
- provide information on the distribution of sites within the valleys;
- assess the palaeoenvironmental potential of the sites;
- identify sites with the potential for future research.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 7.1.5**.

The total costs are estimated at £35,730.00.

Timetable

A detailed timetable is provided in **Appendix 7.1.6**.

The test pitting programme has a 25 week timetable.

Funding Agencies

Possible funding agencies include:

English Heritage

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

9.3.3.2 Section cleaning

A programme of section cleaning has been proposed, this is to be undertaken on a number of the uninvestigated sites in the valleys where vertical sections are exposed. Further details of the programme are provided in **Appendix 7.2**. A total of 3 sections will be cleaned, recorded and sampled.

The section cleaning programme will:

- test the predictive model,
- identify deep deposit sequences with archaeological or environmental potential,
- assess the palaeoenvironmental potential of the sites,

- identify sites with the potential for future research.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 7.2.5**.

The total costs are estimated at £10,420.00.

Timetable

A detailed timetable is provided in **Appendix 7.2.6**.

The test pitting programme has a 17 week timetable.

Funding Agencies

Possible funding agencies include:

English Heritage

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

9.3.3.3 Borehole survey

A programme of borehole survey has been proposed, this is to be undertaken on 7 of the valleys. The survey proposed is an evaluation survey which aims to investigate the potential of the valley bottoms to contain open air sites of archaeological or palaeoenvironmental significance. Further details of the programme are provided in **Appendix 7.3**. A total of 3 sections will be cleaned recorded and sampled.

The borehole survey will:

- identify the depth of deposits in the valley bottoms;
- determining which deposits have palaeoenvironmental potential;
- aim to develop simple deposit models for the valleys;
- determine if any valleys have the potential to contain open air archaeological sites.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 7.3.5**.

The total costs are estimated at £9,670.00.

Timetable

A detailed timetable is provided in **Appendix 7.3.6**.

The test pitting programme has a 17 week timetable.

Funding Agencies

Possible funding agencies include:

9.3.3.4 Cave excavation

It is only through the excavation of cave or rock shelter sites that some of the themes within the research priorities can be investigated. The test pitting and section cleaning programmes will both aid in the management of the archaeological resource, and will also act as a site evaluation programme to determine which sites have the best potential for further research.

Until the test pitting and section cleaning programmes have been completed it is impossible to determine which site or sites would be appropriate for excavation. Detailed methodologies and costs will be site-specific, and will be produced on a site-by-site basis, as appropriate.

9.3.3.5 Revise the predictive model

One of the aims of the test pitting and section cleaning programmes is to test and refine the predictive model. This can only be undertaken once these programmes have been completed. The additional information from the test pitting and section cleaning will be used to test the predictive model and then to revise the model.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 4.3**.

The total costs are estimated at £2,375.00.

Timetable

A detailed timetable has not been prepared but provisionally it is estimated that the analysis and reporting of the revised predictive model should take approximately 4 weeks.

Funding Agencies

Possible funding agencies include:

English Heritage

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

9.3.4 Ecology

It is proposed that the Ecological Study identified as Phase 2 of the Management Action Plan is undertaken. The current study has been limited due to the absence of the ecological study. Details on the proposed methodology and timetable are to be found in the Project Design for The Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area Management Action Plan.

In the ecological aspects of the Management Action Plan, it is envisaged that these overall objectives will be best achieved by a structured approach to assessment and management planning, based on a hierarchy of information, assessment and management proposals. The key planning processes to arrive at such a plan are as follows:

- Ecological audit and characterisation
- Management assessment and potentiality study
- Preparation of management proposals

It is proposed that ECUS will undertake the detailed ecological work programme identified in the project design, reporting directly to Creswell Heritage Trust.

An Advisory Group comprising representatives of Creswell Heritage Trust, Groundwork Creswell, English Nature, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils, Rotherham MBC, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts will act as an advisory panel for this element of the project. Members of the Advisory Group will be the main consultees, but extensive consultation will be needed with a wide range of other bodies including local authorities, landowners and local communities.

Groundwork Creswell will have particular responsibility for co-ordinating the advisory group, contract support and providing technical support for the action plan.

ECUS will prepare ecological action plan proposals with input from Creswell Heritage Trust, Groundwork Creswell and ARCUS.

On completion of the Ecological study the Access Study and Conservation Statements and Management Action Proposals, Creswell Heritage Trust and Groundwork Creswell will co-ordinate any revisions required in light of the ecological study and proposals, with input from ECUS and ARCUS.

Costs

A detailed breakdown of costs is available in the Project Design for the Creswell Crags management Action Plan.

Ecological study	£32,800.00
Revise Access study	£2,500.00
Revise Conservation Statements and Management Action Proposals	£10,000.00
Project Co-ordination and Management	£6,000.00
Total	£51,300.00

Timetable

A detailed timetable is included in the original Project Design for the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area Management Action Plan.

Funding Agencies

English Nature

9.3.5 Landscape history

A limited programme of Historical Landscape Research is proposed. The aims of this programme are to add flesh to the bones of the story of the landscape as set out in the intellectual access study and to provide a resource for future management and interpretation :

- identify the key historical processes operating and how they relate to the interpretive themes of the intellectual access study.
- produce a database of key historical source and illustrative material.

This proposal need further development before it can be taken forward a feasibility study should be undertaken on this proposal. The feasibility study should consider the key historical processes that have operated on the area, and that give it its distinctive character, and relate the processes to the interpretative themes of the intellectual access study. The report and database will then be available to draw upon as resources during the production of material used in public education and intellectual access.

Costs

The costs for the Landscape History feasibility study are estimated at £9200.00.

Timetable

The Landscape History programme should take three months to complete.

Funding Agencies

Heritage Lottery Fund

English Heritage

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Heritage Lottery Fund

9.3.6 Physical and visual access

9.3.6.1 Archaeological Way proposed northern extension

It is proposed that the Archaeological Way is extended north to Roche Abbey. The aims and requirements are outlined in **section 8.4.2.1**.

The extension of the archaeological way will be undertaken in two phases:

- Phase1 will extend route to Anston Stones Wood. This is dependent on access being approved by Forest Enterprise and the adjacent landowner.
- Phase 2 will extend the route to Roche Abbey. This is dependent on the completion of a permissive bridleway proposed on the old Dinnington colliery

site which links to quiet lanes to the north. This proposal is due to be completed during 2004 and would be the preferred option.

Consideration should also be given to renaming the route 'The Limestone Heritage Way' or 'The Limestone Heritage Trail' as its current name leads to unfulfilled expectations, as there is little archaeological evidence to be seen.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

Cost incurred will cover:

- Site establishment
- Signage
- Interpretation
- Access and footpath works
- Project design and management fees

The total costs are estimated at £19,650.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.3.6.2 View point location works

It is proposed that existing roadside pull ins are adapted and extended to take advantage of site views at locations near Creswell Crags, Whitwell and at Ash Tree gorge. The aims and requirements are outlined in **section 8.4.1.4** and a visual presentation is provided on CD in **Appendix 8.12**.

Establishment of the view points will involve the provision of interpretation panels. These are costed under the intellectual access proposals.

Prior to undertaking this work consultation will be required and approval gained from the highways department, landowners and tenants.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

Costs incurred will cover:

- Site establishment
- Pull ins
- Interpretation
- Site furniture
- Project design and management fees

The total costs are estimated at £14,200.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.3.6.3 Other associated elements

The physical and visual access has identified additional costs. These relate to issues that have relevance to the whole heritage area. These costs cover elements related to community involvement and funding proposals.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

Costs incurred will cover:

- Community consultation
- Preparation of funding bids
- Access groups to undertake easy access survey of Pilot Action Areas

The total costs are estimated at £33,000.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.3.6.4 Funding Agencies

Heritage Lottery Fund

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Woodland Grant Scheme

Countryside Stewardship Scheme

English Nature

European Regional Development Fund

Sports Lottery Fund

New Opportunities Fund

Landfill Tax (Environmental Trusts such as WREN and Derbyshire Environmental Trust)

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Coalfield Regeneration Trust

English Partnerships

Sustrans (Sustrans may consider the addition of loops and links to its Millennium Routes so that access can be created to other features. The potential of such linkages should be attractive to many potential funding partners.)

9.3.7 Intellectual access

The intellectual access proposals provide an integrated approach to provision of information to the public. It is therefore not sensible to subdivide the proposals and describe them separately for each valley. The proposals are outlined below and are not detailed in the valley specific section (**section 9.4**).

9.3.7.1 Project Studies

Three project studies related to intellectual access are proposed.

Market Research

More market research is needed to identify the current usage of the trails network. This will look at the use of the network by the local community, leisure visitors, schools and other education groups and disabled visitors.

Pleasley Vale Interpretation Plan

As identified by the access study (**section 8**), Pleasley Vale has a diversity of stakeholders implementing various uncoordinated initiatives currently. Therefore, it is essential that an integrated Interpretation and Development plan is created. This should include proposals for long term management and presentation of the cultural, ecological and landscape interest. The most critical need is for an interpretation plan that sets out the story of Pleasley Vale and a strategic approach to its presentation.

Community Project

A 'Pride of Place' style community project is proposed to:

- Engage with the local communities
- Develop a programme of guided walks designed to present and interpret the landscape to visitors. It would be most appropriate to operate this through local people.
- Develop the local education market.

Appendix 8.11 outlines how the 'Pride of Place Project' works.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

Costs for these elements are estimated at

Market Research	£15,000.00
Pleasley Vale Interpretation Plan	£15,000.00
Pride of Place project officer	£50,000.00 per annum.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.3.7.2 Heritage Area Guides

A number of guides to the Heritage Area are proposed. The guides proposed provide comprehensive coverage of the area through guides aimed at the area as a region, or through guides aimed at specific valleys. The following is a list of the proposed guides.

Heritage Area Full Colour Guide summarising the landscape and its history.

Archaeological Way revised guidebook and route map.

Pilot Action Area Guides for:

- Roche Abbey
- Anston Stones
- Pleasley Vale
- Creswell Hub

Heritage area walks revised booklet

Creswell Hub Walks booklet

Family Walks Guide, short walks including activity sheets

Landowners guide

Professional photographer, to produce high quality photo images for guides

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

The total costs are estimated at £71,050.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.3.7.3 Heritage Area Display

Produce a portable exhibition of the Creswell Crags Limestone Heritage Area which introduces and summaries the landscape and its history. This can be taken round and displayed at various centres in the area to raise public awareness of the area and promote it.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

The total costs are estimated at £3,000.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.3.7.4 Interpretation/Orientation Panels/Signage

A number of replacement and new panels and signs are required. These will provide interpretation and orientation information and provide directional information to the Creswell Hub. A list of the main panels and signs required is given below.

Creswell Archaeological Way Panels

- Pleasley Vale
- Poulter Country Park
- Creswell Crags
- Anston Stones
- Roche Abbey

Anston Stones Wood Panels

- replace existing panels
- install a new panel in the park
- install gateway panels at the main entrances

Panels at other sites

- Thorpe Common – Mill Moor Farm
- Thorpe Salvin
- Firbeck
- Scarcliffe Village
- Langwith Vale
- North Anston
- Car pull in locations around Creswell

Directional signs to the Creswell Hub.

- Creswell Hub signs to and from the car park and station.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

The total costs are estimated at £52,500.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.4 Specific Management Action Proposals

9.4.1 Roche Abbey Vale

9.4.1.1 Physical and Visual Access

Roche Abbey Vale has been identified as one of the Pilot Action Areas (**section 8.4.2.2**). A programme of works has been identified to improve physical and visual access to the valley.

A number of issues have been identified in the access study:

- Create an informal limestone path 1.5m wide and install a new wheel chair access in place of the narrow kissing gate, along with a new maintenance gate and fencing at the same point.
- Install a simple informal bollard combined with limestone boulders near the path entrance.
- Replace steel chain link fencing around perimeter of Abbey with timber post & wire mesh (sensitive operation - consultation required with English Heritage)

- A seat should be placed adjacent to the interpretation panel.
- Additional motorcycle barrier at other end of Gypsy Lane path.
- Reintroduce woodland management at Norwood to create more light.
- Revise the walk contained in the booklet “Walking in the Creswell Limestone Heritage Area ” to reflect the area to its best advantage.
- Way mark revised Roche Abbey Walk 1.
- Close consultation required with English Heritage due to site sensitivity & current management.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

Cost incurred will cover:

- Site establishment
- Car park and access road improvements
- Signage
- Footpath construction
- Fencing and gates
- Drainage works
- Site furniture
- Interpretation
- Planting
- Specialist Consultants
- Project design and management fees

The total costs are estimated at £23,243.00

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.4.1.2 Intellectual access

Proposals relating to the improvement of intellectual access for Roche Abbey are covered in **section 9.3.7**.

9.4.2 Firbeck

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to the Firbeck Valley.

9.4.3 Anston Stones

9.4.3.1 Physical and visual access

Anston Stones Wood and Lindrick Dale has been identified as one of the Pilot Action Areas (**section 8.4.2.2**). A programme of works has been identified to improve physical and visual access to the valley.

A number of issues have been identified in the access study:

- Improve main entrances off the B6060 and A57.
- Create easy access loop through site.
- Create picnic area and provide benches throughout the site.
- Resurface and widen the main paths.
- Create disabled access parking area.
- Additional way marking in Lindrick quarry area.
- Install motorcycle prevention barriers at strategic locations.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

Cost incurred will cover:

- Site establishment
- Car park improvements
- Signage
- Footpath construction
- Fencing and gates
- Drainage works
- Site furniture
- Interpretation
- Planting
- Specialist Consultants
- Project design and management fees

The total costs are estimated at £40,909.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.4.3.2 Intellectual access

Proposals relating to the improvement of intellectual access for Anston Stones Wood and Lindrick Dale are covered in **section 9.3.7**.

9.4.4 Red Hill

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to Red Hill Valley.

9.4.5 Thorpe Common and Lob Wells Wood

9.4.5.1 Management of the archaeological resource

Backfill the open trenches

Two Trenches at Thorpe Common Rock Shelter have been left open by previous excavations. These should be backfilled as the sides of the trenches are starting to erode (see **section 3.8.3.1**).

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 3.3**.

The total costs are estimated at £530.00.

Timetable

It will take one day to arrange access and set up the work and one day in the field to undertake the work.

Funding Agencies

Possible funding agencies include:

English Heritage

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

9.4.5.2 Physical, visual and intellectual access

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to Thorpe Common and Lob Wells Wood. Improvements to the physical, visual and intellectual access are recommended as part of wider proposed access programmes.

9.4.6 Steetley Quarry Caves

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to Steetley Quarry Caves.

9.4.7 Ash Tree Gorge

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to Ash Tree Gorge. Improvements to the physical, visual and intellectual access are recommended as part of wider proposed access programmes.

9.4.8 Markland Grips

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to the Firbeck Valley. Improvements to the physical, visual and intellectual access are recommended as part of wider proposed access programmes.

9.4.9 Elmton and Whaley Valleys

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to the Firbeck Valley. Improvements to the physical, visual and intellectual access are recommended as part of wider proposed access programmes.

9.4.10 Langwith Vale

There are no proposed site specific recommendations relating to the Firbeck Valley. Improvements to the physical, visual and intellectual access are recommended as part of wider proposed access programmes.

9.4.11 Pleasley Vale

9.4.11.1 Physical and visual access

Anston Stones Wood and Lindrick Dale has been identified as one of the Pilot Action Areas (**section 8.4.2.2**). A programme of works has been identified to improve physical and visual access to the valley.

A number of issues have been identified in the access study:

- Consider providing additional promoted routes through Pleasley Park and around Little Matlock.
- Provide a small picnic area adjacent to the Archaeological Way car park on Outgang Lane.
- Remove gates and fences which are excessive and unnecessary along the start of the Archaeological Way and maintain steps and way markers and paths.
- Replace log obstruction at Little Matlock with a post and rail fence and gate.
- Improve Car parks to make them more welcoming to visitors.
- Improve signage to car parks.
- Request signage to deter lorries entering the vale from Little Matlock.

Costs

Detailed costs are provided in **Appendix 8.10**.

Cost incurred will cover:

- Site establishment
- Car park improvements

- Traffic signage
- Footpath construction
- Fencing and gates
- Drainage works
- Site furniture
- Interpretation
- Planting
- Specialist Consultants
- Project design and management fees

The total costs are estimated at £16,300.00.

Possible funding agencies are listed in **section 8.3.6.4**.

9.4.11.2 Intellectual access

Proposals relating to the improvement of intellectual access for Pleasley Vale are covered in **section 9.3.7**.

9.5 The Way Forward

As indicated previously, the management action proposals are recommendations or suggestions for actions that should be undertaken to address issues identified in the Creswell Limestone Strategy and in the Creswell Crags Conservation plan and outlined in Section 2 (Background) of this report. They form a framework and a menu for action that can be undertaken by a variety of different agencies, taking advantage of funding opportunities as they arise over the next five to ten years. It is envisaged that Creswell Heritage Trust, Groundwork Creswell and the Limestone Strategy Partnership would be the key 'championing' or co-ordinating agencies, supported by the Local Authorities, English Heritage and English Nature as appropriate.

The actions could be taken forward individually or grouped together as a package or packages according to funding opportunities. A co-ordinated programme might be an ideal candidate for the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership initiative.

A possible programme structure might be envisaged as follows:

- Steering group of local authority and agency representatives (an expanded version of the existing Limestone Strategy Partnership), chaired and co-ordinated by Creswell Heritage Trust and Groundwork Creswell.
- Pride of Place community heritage project officer employed by Creswell Heritage Trust with a brief and support funding to take forward the Intellectual Access programme.
- Ecological Study followed up by appointment of a project officer (or 'tasking' of an existing officer) to follow up opportunities to enhance landscape character and Magnesian limestone habitats through management agreements.

- Programme of capital works spearheaded by Groundwork Creswell in partnership with local authorities to improve physical and visual access, including training opportunities for local people.
- Programme of archaeological and historic landscape research spearheaded by the University of Sheffield designed to test the predictive model.