



Planning • Historic Buildings • Archaeology

Specialist & Independent Advisors to the Property Industry

The Chilterns

Client

Buckinghamshire County Council

Location

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire

Services Provided

Historic Buildings

Date of Completion

September 2006

Key Issues

Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

Analytical survey of buildings within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)



The CgMs Historic Buildings Team was instructed by Buckinghamshire County Council to provide a methodology for a pioneering Historic Built Environment Study across the Chilterns. The study formed part of a wider Historic Landscape Characterisation Project jointly funded by the Council, the Chilterns Conservation Board and English Heritage.

The purpose of the study by CgMs was to provide a methodology for a rapid on-the-ground survey of buildings to be undertaken by volunteers. The overall aim of the project was to gain a greater understanding of the extent and diversity of historic buildings within the Chilterns AONB and to feed the results of the ground survey into the Historic Landscape Character maps produced as part of the wider characterisation project.

Following an examination of existing published material relating to the various building types, methods and materials found across the region, CgMs compiled a glossary of building terms and illustrated 'building type' templates suitable for use by volunteers in the field. Preliminary fieldwork was also carried out by CgMs staff.

The next stage of the project involved four pilot studies carried out with volunteers from the Chiltern Society. The issues identified during these led to changes and improvements in the methods of recording, including the grouping of buildings into 'character zones' to enable easy plotting of the data on to the GIS maps. The Council and English Heritage felt that CgMs' report on the project highlights the most important issues in characterising the built form of the Chilterns and that this will facilitate further work on projects of this sort in the future.

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