

Cerne Valley

Facts and Figures – June 2011

Understanding how your area functions

Knowing information about an area can help ensure that a neighbourhood plan tackles all the key issues that it should, and help you understand how certain policies may affect your area.

The area covered - the Cerne Valley

Cerne Valley includes the parishes of Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone, Nether Cerne and Up Cerne. The four parishes operate together as a group parish.

The area lies about 6km north of the county town of Dorchester, on the A352, which is the main local centre serving this area.

It covers a geographical area of about 2,500 hectares (or 6,250 acres)

Where locally specific data is not available, information from a wider area (including Bradford Peverell, Stinsford, Minterne Magna and in some cases, Charminster) has been used.

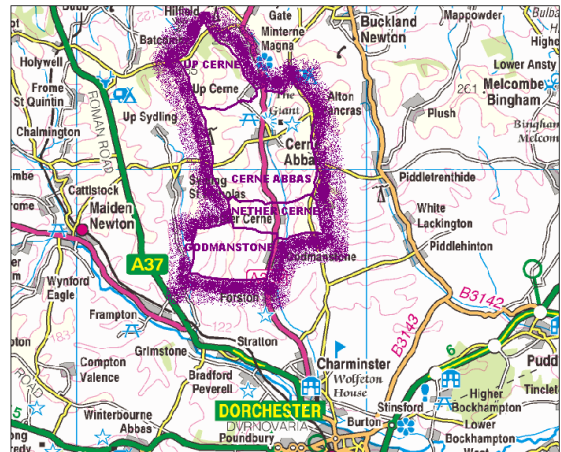


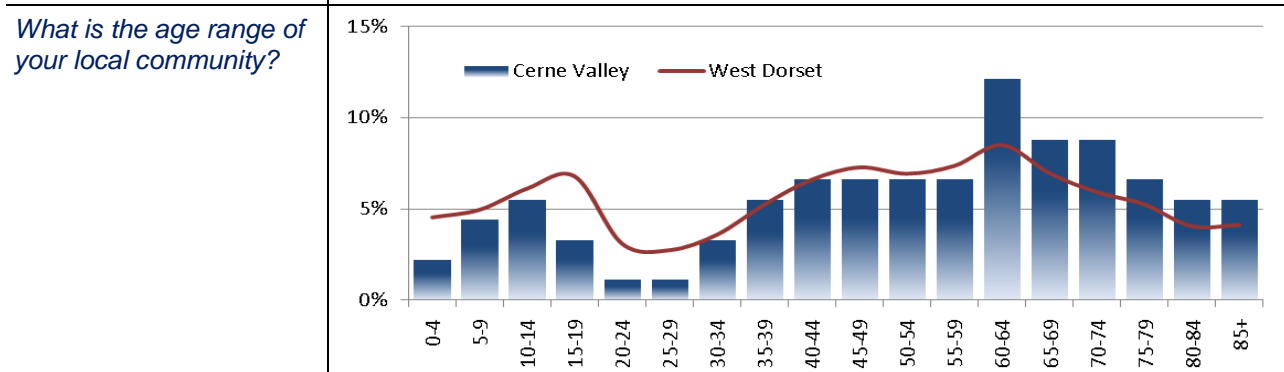
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People - understanding how the community works, and what services and support it needs

How many people live in the area?
How many visitors come to the area, and how long do they stay?

There are 970 people in the Cerne Valley. Most of these live in Cerne Abbas parish which has a population of about 770 people. There are about 160 people living in Godmanstone, 30 in Nether Cerne and 10 in Up Cerne¹.

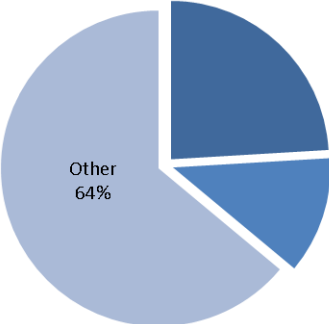
There is no information on visitor numbers, other than that on second homes / holiday lets (see housing section below).



More than one in three people (35%) in Cerne Valley are over 65 years old (compared to the Dorset average of 23%), and nearly one half of households (46%) are pensioner households (compared to the Dorset average of 33%). About half of the local population (53%) are between 15 to 64 years old. Only one in eight people (12%) are under 15 years old (the Dorset average is 18%)².

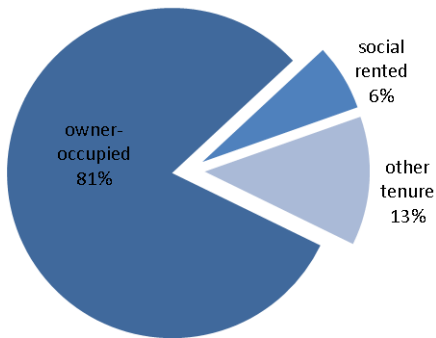
In the county as a whole there is an over representation of all 50+ age groups, whilst the age groups 15-39 years are significantly under-represented. This is particularly the case in Cerne Valley.

¹ Source: 2009 population estimates
² Source: 2001 Census

<p><i>How much do people earn?</i></p> <p><i>Are many people unemployed or on benefits?</i></p>	<p>Average household income in the wider local area is in the region of £32,500, with average savings of over £50,000³. The area ranks amongst the least deprived in terms of income and employment deprivation, ranking nationally in the lowest quarter of most deprived areas⁴.</p> <p>There is no up-to-date local information on unemployment levels. In 2001 1.4% of people aged 16 – 74 were actively seeking work⁵. Looking at the wider area, the amount of income support claimants has decreased over the last decade to less than 30% of its 2001 level. However the proportion of claimants aged between 16 and 24 years old has grown from 6% to 12% of claimants over the same period.⁶</p> <p>The percentage of local people receiving benefits in 2009 was just under 7%, amongst the lowest quarter in Dorset⁷.</p>
<p><i>What is the birth and death rate?</i></p> <p><i>How much in and out-migration has there been?</i></p>	<p>There is no local information on birth and death rates. Life expectancy (at birth) for West Dorset is 79.5 years for men and 83.1 years for women.</p> <p>In Dorset, the birth rate is lower than the death rate so any population growth is dependent on more people moving into the area than moving out. There is a net loss of people in the 15-29 years age range (and particularly 15-19 age group who move out of the area for higher education). The number of older people living in Dorset is expected to increase, but particularly critical will be the growing number of people living to an advanced old age, largely due to continuing gains in life expectancy.</p>
<p><i>Are there many people who have limiting long-term illness or disability?</i></p> <p><i>Are there other sectors that may have specific needs?</i></p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>People with a limiting long-term illness 24%</p> <p>People providing unpaid care 12%</p> </div> </div> <p>In 2001, nearly one in four people (24%) in Cerne Abbas and Godmanstone had a limiting long-term illness. One in eight people (12%) provided unpaid care. This was slightly higher than the Dorset average (19% and 11% respectively).</p> <p>94% of the local population were born in the UK. Most of the local population were Christian, or of no religious faith. Other religions accounted for about 1% of the population⁸.</p>

Housing - understanding the housing needs of the local community

<p><i>What is the current level and type of housing stock in the area?</i></p> <p><i>What has been built over the recent past?</i></p>	<p>There are approximately 500 homes in the valley.</p> <p>In 2001 the vast majority (81%) were owner-occupied, with a small proportion of either privately rented or affordable rented (rented from a registered social landlord). About a third are detached homes, and just under two-thirds either semi-detached or terraced.</p> <p>The average build rate over the past 15 years has been around 4 homes a year in Cerne Abbas (and 1 every 5 years in Godmanstone)</p>
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³ Source: HNSD Fordham Research 2007

⁴ IMD 2010 - the wider indices of multiple deprivation compare a wide range of factors including income, employment, health, disability, education and training, living conditions and crime

⁵ Source: 2001 Census

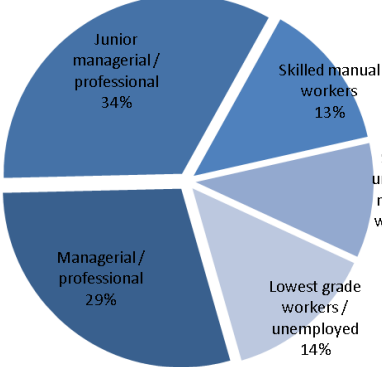
⁶ Source: ON Neighbourhood statistics - Income Support Claimants (2001 - 2010)

⁷ DCC Research based on data released by Department for Work and Pensions in July 2009

⁸ Source: 2001 Census

<p><i>Are there many empty properties or second homes?</i></p>	<p>The 2010 council tax records show that about 1 in 14 homes in the Cerne Valley are now registered as second homes (6.9%), which is higher than the West Dorset average (5.1%). This compares to the 2001 census, when 3% of homes in Cerne Abbas and Godmanstone were vacant, and 4% were used for second homes / holiday lets.</p>
<p><i>What is the average house price and rental levels?</i> <i>Is there much turnover in terms of places to buy or rent?</i> <i>Is there much overcrowding?</i></p>	<p>House prices in Cerne Abbas over the past 5 years have averaged around £300,000, varying from just under £150,000 to over £800,000 – with a turnover of just over 20% of the stock⁹. The data for Godmanstone is much more limited, with turnover being a much lower rate (around 6%) over the last 5 years. There is no available data on average rent levels.</p> <p>The maximum that a lender is prepared to advance on a mortgage is normally around three times the household income. This means that the average household in this area would normally be able to raise a mortgage of just under £100,000, a considerable amount short of the average house price. The area ranks amongst the most deprived in the country (in the top 10%) in terms of physical and financial accessibility of housing and key local services¹⁰.</p> <p>The 2001 census indicated that only a very small proportion (1.6%) of homes were overcrowded (having one or more rooms too few for the number of occupants).</p>
<p><i>How many local people are in housing need and on the local housing register?</i></p>	<p>The Housing Register data for the Cerne Valley group of parishes shows 9 households currently in local housing need. There are a further 5 households in need within Minterne Magna, including one applicant who requires disabled adapted accommodation.</p> <p>The West Dorset Housing Need and Demand 2007 estimates that there is likely to be a continuing demand for about 7 new affordable homes every year from local residents in the wider area (including Charminster).</p>

Businesses - understanding what local businesses need, and how this may affect local jobs

<p><i>What are the main businesses operating in your area?</i></p>	<p>There are no industrial estates in the local area. However, there are about 40 businesses registered for PAYE or VAT in the area, which employ about 200 people. Most (about 70%) of these businesses are in the service sector, particularly linked to professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative services, accommodation and food services, and health / social work. Other sectors operating in the area (but registered elsewhere) account for those employed in information / communication and education services. There is no data available for very small businesses / self-employed people.</p>
<p><i>What types of job do people have?</i></p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>In 2001 the majority of people living in the wider local area had higher grade jobs – either managerial / professional or skilled. About a quarter (24%) are either semi or unskilled manual workers, worked on the lower grade or unemployed. This compares to district and national average (30% and 33%)¹¹.</p> </div> </div>
<p><i>How many people work from home? How many jobs are there locally?</i></p>	<p>In 2001 there are more people of working age living in the wider local area than there are local jobs - for every 100 people there are 86 jobs. About a third (30%) or people living in the area work either at home or close to where they work (within 2km), and just over half (55%) live within 5km of their workplace¹².</p>

⁹ Source: zoopla.co.uk

¹⁰ IMD 2010

¹¹ Source: 2001 Census

¹² Source: 2001 Census

Services and Utilities – highlighting any specific reliance on local or more distant services

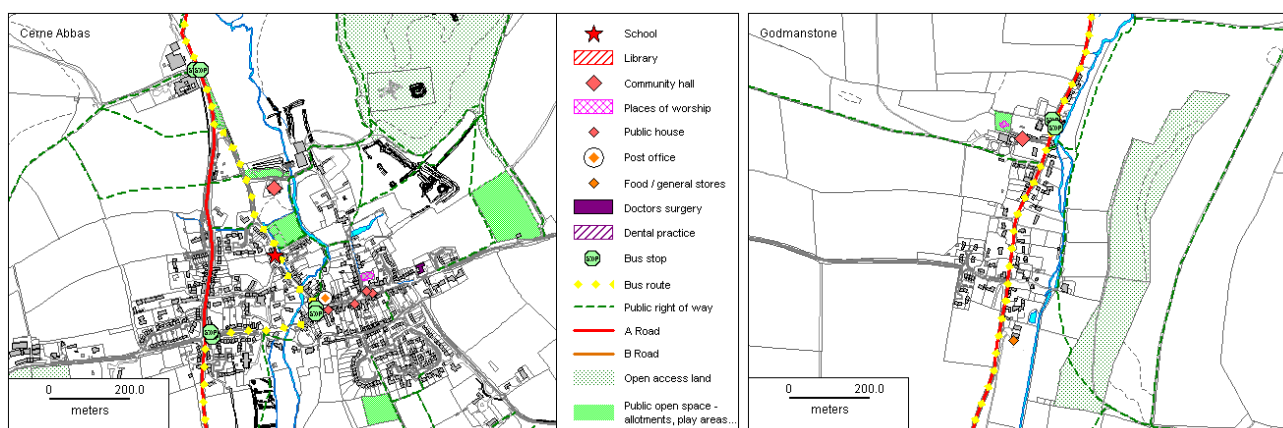


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<p><i>Healthcare and social services – doctors’ surgeries, dental practices, hospitals, care homes, childcare provision</i></p>	<p>The Cerne Abbas Health Centre is based in Long Street in a purpose built surgery that accommodates a primary health care team (Practice Sister, Health Visitor, District Nurses and Midwives) as well as additional services such as physiotherapy, chiropody and counselling.</p> <p>The nearest dental practice is in Dorchester.</p> <p>The nearest hospital is in Dorchester.</p> <p>There is a care centre on the northern outskirts of the village which offers residential and nursing care – including specialist nursing care for people with dementia and various other mental health needs.</p> <p>There are no registered childcare providers in the village. The nearest pre-school is in Sydling St Nicholas.</p>
<p><i>Education – schools, libraries, and other training opportunities</i></p>	<p>Cerne Abbas CE VC First School which has recently been rated as outstanding in its Ofsted report, with above average attainment. It currently has surplus places (38).</p> <p>The local area feeds into Dorchester Middle School and the Thomas Hardye School in Dorchester. The Dorchester Middle School was rated by Ofsted as good in 2008, with above average attainment. The school currently has no surplus places. The Thomas Hardye School rated as outstanding in its 2007 Ofsted report, with outstanding pupil achievements, and an interim report in 2011 concluded that there was no need for a further inspection at that time. The school currently has surplus places (235).</p> <p>The nearest library is in Dorchester. The mobile library service visits fortnightly.</p>
<p><i>Recreation and leisure facilities – from public open space to community venues (in their broadest sense), arts centres and sports facilities</i></p>	<p>There are toddler / junior / teenager play facilities on the playing fields in Cerne Abbas. There is a multi-use games area (MUGA) and tennis courts on the playing fields in Cerne Abbas, and provision for football and cricket at the Cricket Grounds. There are no rugby / hockey / bowling facilities locally. The nearest sports centre is in Dorchester. The allotments off Chescombe to the south of the Cerne Abbas cover approximately 0.5ha. There is open access land close to both Cerne Abbas and Godmanstone, connected by public rights of way.</p> <p>Cerne Abbas has a modern village hall which can be used for indoor sports and arts performances. There is also a village hall in Godmanstone. Both villages have a church.</p>
<p><i>Shops – including local banking facilities and post offices</i></p>	<p>The village of Cerne Abbas has a village stores and Post Office. There are several public houses and tea rooms.</p> <p>There is a farm shop in Godmanstone. There is also a public house, however this has been closed for a number of years.</p>
<p><i>Public transport</i></p>	<p>There is a limited bus service running between Dorchester and Sherborne which stops in Cerne Abbas and Godmanstone. There is also a door to door service</p>

	<p>which runs on demand.</p> <p>The nearest train station is in Dorchester, where services run from London via Southampton, Bristol and Weymouth.</p>
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Getting about – reliance on different types of transport, crime and safety levels

<p><i>What are the main transport routes through the area and connecting the settlements?</i></p>	<p>The main route through the area is the A352 which runs north-south, connecting south towards Dorchester via Godmanstone and Charminster, and north towards Sherborne via Minterne Magna and Longburton. The A352 is crossed by an east-west route linking westwards to the A37 Yeovil road and Sydling St Nicholas, and eastwards to the Old Sherborne Road (the C12) and across to the and villages strung along the Piddle valley.</p>
<p><i>How many people have access to a car?</i></p>	<p>In 2001 most households (88.6%) had at least one car, and average car ownership levels for people aged 16 or more was 74.3%. This means that about 200 adults, would not have had ready access to a car at all times.</p>

Health and safety – flooding, land contamination and stability, road safety, crime levels

<p><i>Are there and flooding issues in the area?</i></p>	<p>Both Cerne Abbas and Godmanstone are built along the river Cerne, and there are areas which are therefore at risk from flooding. There is also a risk from natural surface-water run-off from the surrounding hills in the event of heavy storms, causing flooding events in properties outside the river flood risk zone.</p>
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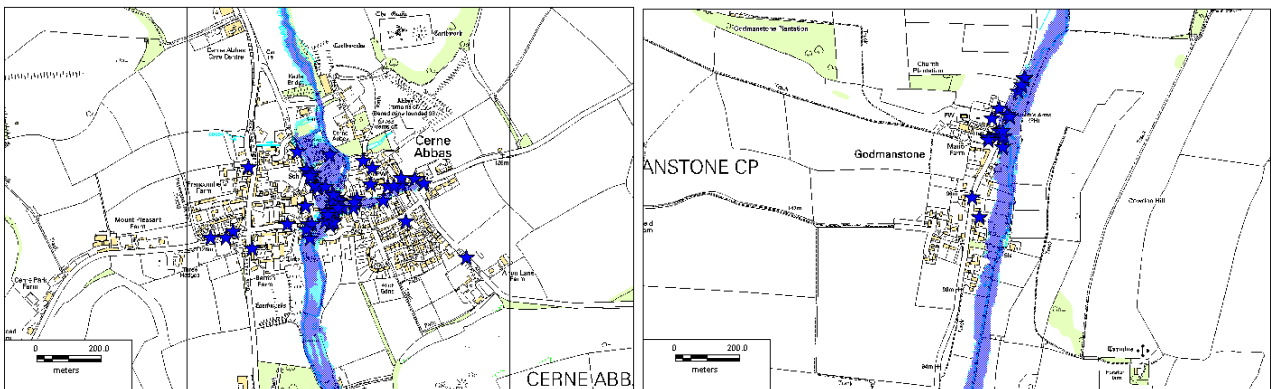
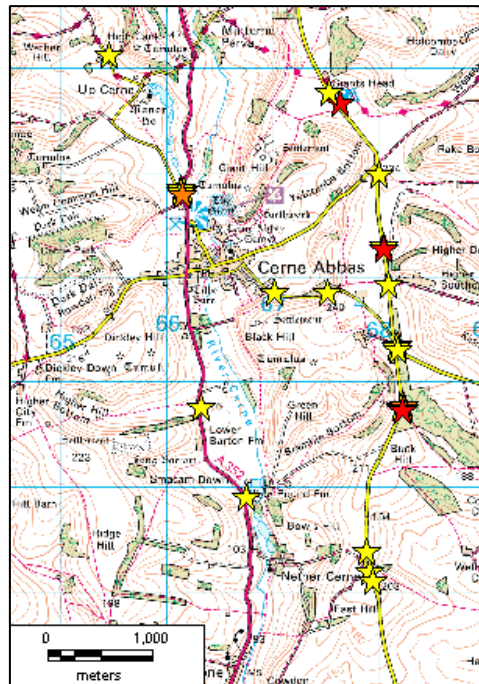


Figure 3 © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024307 Flooding data © Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2011. All rights reserved

<p><i>What about contaminated land and landslips?</i></p>	<p>The phase 1 Preliminary Slope Instability Guidance carried out by High-Point Rendell indicates that there may be some threat of instability due to the geological strata to the northern side of Cerne Abbas village, but this risk is comparatively low.</p> <p>There are a number of potentially contaminated sites (old quarries etc) in the area but they are deemed of relatively low risk.</p> <p>Almost the entire area (with the exception of the northernmost part of UpCerne parish) is a Groundwater Source Protection Area, and as such it is very important that contamination does not enter the groundwater. The entire area is also a nitrate vulnerable zone, which means that farmers have to reduce the level of nitrates going into the watercourse from livestock manure and other fertilisers, because of pollution concerns.</p>
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Are there any particular areas where road safety is a concern?



Over the past 5 years there have been 26 accidents in the area, of which 3 were fatal and 3 were serious.

- ★ fatal accident
- ★ serious accident
- ★ less serious accident

Over half (15) were on the C12 Old Sherborne Road, particularly clustered around the Piddletrenthide junction and the bend to the south (where the accidents were more severe). 6 were on the A352, particularly clustered around the Up Cerne junction just north of Cerne Abbas village. 2 accidents were recorded on Piddle Lane.

Figure 4 © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024307

Crime rates

Information on local crime rates is only available for the wider area (Charminster & Cerne Valley ward). In 2009/10 the total recorded crimes per 1,000 population¹³ was 30.7. This is 41% lower than the average crime rate across West Dorset.

Local environment – important wildlife areas, landscapes and historic sites

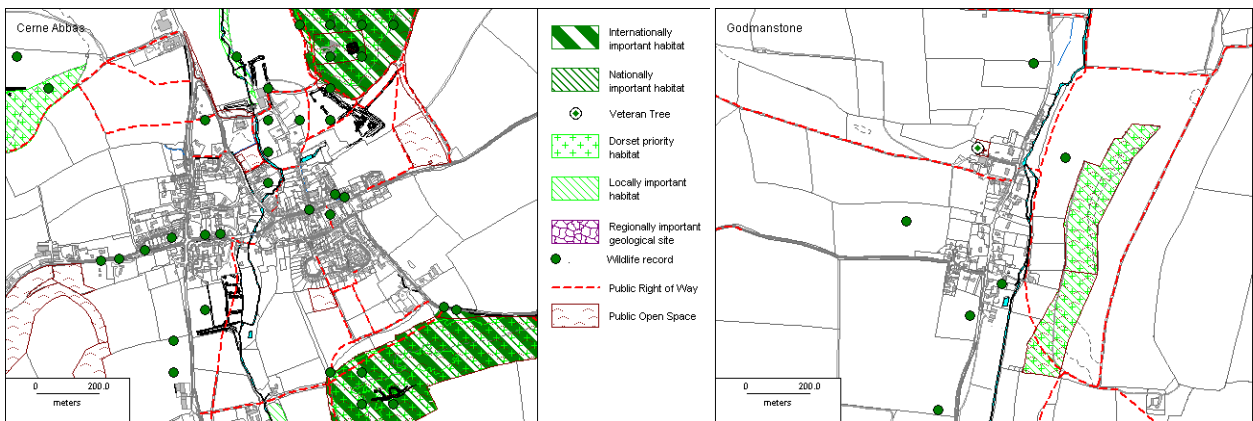


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Wildlife / habitats

The rich chalk grassland habitats in this area are valued habitats which contain a number of rare plant species and support many populations of butterflies and birds, some of which are rare and declining. To the north and south of Cerne Abbas village there are internationally important chalk grassland areas which form part of the Cerne and Sydling Downs Special Area of Conservation, and are home to the rare Marsh fritillary butterfly. Areas of wet woodlands and watermeadows along the chalk streams also provide some locally important habitats.

¹³ Data derived from an analysis of Dorset Police data by the Drug Action and Community Safety Team, Dorset County Council. Due to the method of data aggregation and analysis used, figures may differ from police figures published elsewhere

Landscape character



The entire area lies within the Dorset AONB, a nationally important landscape. There are also a number of trees protected through tree preservation orders in and around Cerne Abbas village.

Cerne Valley has a chalk valley and downland landscape characterized by a sweeping landform from flat valley bottoms, through steep valley sides leading up towards the surrounding rounded, open chalk uplands. The valleys are intimate and enclosed with subtle colours and strong rural associations.

Key landscape characteristics within the valley bottoms:

- Secluded, intimate and tranquil character.
- Small scale pastures with species rich dense hedgerows of hazel and thorn. Small broadleaved woodlands and occasional hedgerow trees.
- Clear chalk streams with floodplains supporting occasional water meadows, wet woodlands, old cress beds and rough damp meadows. Occasional water meadow channels on the valley floor.
- Parkland landscapes with veteran trees, railings, flint walls and country houses along the valley floors.

Detrimental features are noted as:

- Hedgerow boundaries are fragmented and parkland railings in a poor state of repair.
- Historic loss of relic hazel coppice and traditional orchards around settlements.
- Excessive traffic signage.
- Leylandii and other screen planting with non-native species in exposed rural locations.

Historic sites / buildings



Both Cerne Abbas and Godmanstone are largely designated as Conservation Areas. A number of buildings are either Listed or of local historic value. Traditional materials include the use of flint and chalk block and thatch. Lower Purbeck limestone and Ham Hill stone are also used in the area. Boundaries are often defined through stone rubble and flint walls, which can include brick banding and quoins.

The abbey grounds with Cerne Abbas are a scheduled ancient monument and include a series of enclosures with well marked banks and ditches. To the north is the very visible Cerne Giant, another scheduled ancient monument.



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