



C.W. Taylor (1878-1960)

Findon Fair, c1934

Wood engraving. Monochrome, in black and white on white paper

Dimensions 23.5cm x 30cm.

This work has been chosen to support 'Our Place' – Annual Schools Exhibition 2015 - celebrating the built heritage of the South Downs.

Towner Gallery in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority, Worthing Museum and Art Gallery and the Flora Twort Gallery Petersfield

About the artist

Charles William (C.W.) Taylor was brought up in the Black Country city of Wolverhampton where he began by drawing bath taps for trade journals. Although this work may have been somewhat dull he maintained enthusiasm for drawing and attended art classes. He moved to London aged 30 until becoming a teacher of art at Dover. A few years later he married and settled in Westcliffe on Sea, where he taught art at the Southend School of art. During the Second World War he retired to Findon in West Sussex where he continued to paint and produce prints of the local area.

He painted often in watercolours and also produced many wood engravings such as *Findon Fair*.

About the print

Findon Fair is a wood engraving capturing the scene of the Findon Fair in monochrome. It is monogrammed with CWT on the print as well as being signed with pencil. The scene is of the annual sheep fair in Findon with a clear view of the South Down hills surrounding the fair and a merry-go-round and stalls to trade with adults and entertain the children. There is a Roma Gypsy caravan in the far left of the picture as well as dogs, sheep and a man in the foreground.

Taylor's style is bold and distinctive particularly in his wood engravings. His attention to detail can be seen in the draughtsmanship of the merry-go-rounds as well as in the texture of the sheep's coat and dog's fur. The foliage and blades of grass are also depicted in detail. His work has an intense quality which is created by his use of light, shadow and texture.



Understand & Evaluate

The Findon Sheep Fair was originally established by George Holford on Nepcote Green sometime before 1785 and still goes on to this day. Discuss how you think the fair has changed over the years. Do you think these changes would benefit the town? Consider:

- The rules and regulations then and now
- How the sheep got to the fair then and now
- How it may have been affected by WWI or WWII

How do you think the picture might change if it was in colour and not black and white? What could the benefits be? What would the disadvantages be?

Explore and create

Taylor uses a technique to create the picture which is known as Monochrome (black and white).

1. Choose a coloured picture or draw a picture using colour
2. Write down or discuss briefly some key words or feeling about what you see
3. Draw this picture again but in black and white only, making sure you look at shading and contrast (this could also be done by photocopying in black and white)
4. Compare both drawings
5. Now discuss again how they both make you feel. Which one do you prefer and why? What stands out in the black and white picture to the coloured one? Does the time of day/year/ place look different and why?

Further links to the National Park

Use the South Downs National Park Learning Zone to explore <http://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/>.

[Learning outside the Classroom](#) including links for health and safety and practical support in planning your work away from the classroom.

[About the National Park](#) The South Downs National Park is the newest of the National Parks established in 2009. All National Parks are special places that are recognised for their stunning landscapes, amazing wildlife and rich heritage, as well as providing fantastic opportunities for enjoying and learning about what makes them special.

[Geology and landscape](#) Findon is located in the middle of the Open Eastern Downs and Chalk Valleys landscape character area. Gently curving hills studded with ancient earthworks and Iron Age hillforts roll away into the distance under big skies giving panoramic views across generous fields to the sea. Find out more about the different landscape types across the South Downs by looking at the [Sense of Place](#) toolkit that includes fantastic maps and information about each distinctive area.

[Farming and Land management](#) Over 85% of the South Downs National Park is agricultural. Farming, and in particular, traditional mixed farming, has created the distinctive landscape that makes the South Downs such an iconic place. The downland above Findon is actively managed to prevent the chalk grassland from scrubbing over. Without conservation grazing, scrub clearance and land management this habitat would look very different and the wildlife that can be supported would change significantly. Sheep play a vital role in this management and the Findon Sheep Fair was started by George Holford on Nepcote Green sometime before 1785. It continues to be a thriving local event that plays an important part in the local farming calendar.

[Habitats and wildlife](#) This area is dominated by chalk grassland which covers only 4% of the National Park in total. Chalk grassland is often referred to as the European equivalent to tropical rainforest due to the rich diversity of species it supports. Find out more about [chalk grassland](#) on the Learning Zone.

[Culture and heritage](#) Like many towns and villages across the area, Findon has a high number of buildings built in the local vernacular. These buildings utilise the natural resources found across the National Park including flint, clay, timber, Horsham stone and greensand. For more information about the building materials used across the National Park see the presentation on [Buildings in the South Downs Landscape](#).

[Access and recreation](#) The South Downs National Park is a very accessible landscape with over 3,000 km of rights of way including the South Downs Way, a 160 km National Trail stretching from Winchester to Eastbourne, see: <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/south-downs-way> for more details.

[Economy and industry](#) Nowadays the industry of the South Downs is dominated by farming and tourist related businesses. There are also a wide range of other businesses, for example new technology and science, which support local employment. You can find out more about these different types of industry in the [State of the National Park Report](#).