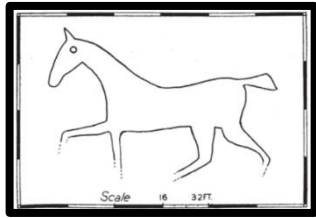


Comparing the horse's outline with historical sketches and photographs we can see the horse appearing to 'lose' and then 'gain' weight with the passage of time. The below timeline demonstrates this yo-yoing of the horse's waist circumference with gravitational force followed by scouring or restoration work thought to be the likely reason for the changes in outline.

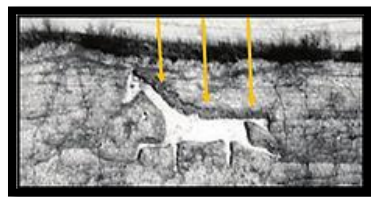


Late 1930's



Chronological Development Report Figure 3:Page 5

Garry Gibbon observes that "Both neck and body have continued thinning, evidently as the top edges of the hill figure continue their downward creep leaving the original line as a shadow on the slope above the head, neck, body and tail."



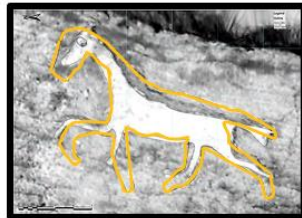
Source: Historic England Archive

Superimposing the Marples sketch (highlighted in yellow) on the 1947 photo indicates that the Marples outline matches with the original line shadow on the slope above the head, neck, body and tail



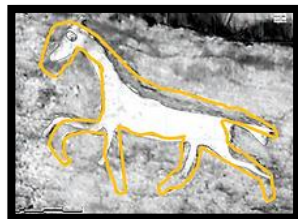
Source: Historic England Archive

1947



Source: Historic England Archive
Topographic Report Figure 18:Page 15

Donald Horne superimposed the 2025 current outline (highlighted in yellow) illustrating the horse "to be generally more slender, with a straight inside front leg, the existence of a wider tail and an ear as well as a much more slender face".



1960's - late 1980's



Source: Historic England Archive
Chronological Development Report Figure 7: Page 8

The above photograph depicts the horse in 1968. A letter sent from Mr Clewley to the Broad Town White Horse Restoration Group explains how the horse looked in the early 1980's "Our inspection showed that some of the body could be seen but most of the legs, head and tail had eroded in and could not be seen at all"



An early 1980's impression

2025



Topographic Report Figure 15: Page 10

Garry Gibbon's explanation for the 1947 shadow on the slope above the head, neck, body and tail suggests it is a miracle to see so much of the basic shape relatively intact e.g. the horse as we see it today is pretty much in line with the shadow on the slope above the 1947 head, neck and body.

Historic sources of measurement do exist, however, quite often the origin and creation date are unknown and there is no exact definition of length and height to make accurate comparison. That said, it is interesting to note the following similarities in these measurements.

Date		Body length chest to rump	Body height bottom of stomach to top of back	Height	Extreme length tip of nose to tip of tail	Head length nose to back of head	Source
Unknown 1864?	Simmonds plan	57ft	23ft		90ft	25ft	Calculated based on each full square on the plan equating to one rod, ie. 16.5 feet or 5.5 yards
1892	Plenderleath			61ft No definitive description	86ft		Extracted from The White Horses of the West of England by Rev Plenderleath 1892 : Page 35 "It measures 86 feet in extreme length by 61 feet in height"
Unknown	Simmonds/ Maull	80ft	46ft			36ft	Pattie Lawler photograph of the Simmonds plan including the sketch with measurements in feet (also provided by Mrs Maull)
Late 1930's	Marples	49.5ft		57ft No definitive description	78ft	21.5ft	Extracted from White Horses and other Hill Figures by Morris Marples 1949 : page 100 "In size it is 78 feet long by 57 feet high approximately" or calculated based on square equateing to 16.5ft
2025	Orthographic outline of Broad Town White Horse	41.7ft	16.1ft	56.4ft Base of hoof to top of head	82.2ft	20ft	Donald Horne's analysis, Figure 17 top:page 13
2025	Perpendicular outline of Broad Town White Horse	41.7ft	18ft	62.6ft Base of hoof to top of head	82.9ft	21.3ft	Donald Horne's analysis, Figure 17 bottom:page 14