

NHPP 3A5 IDENTIFICATION OF WETLAND/ WATERLOGGED SITES

6240 Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage. Stage I: Inventory (previously known as Identifying top priority vulnerable sites)

Stage I Report

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Author(s):	Jen Heathcote and Gill Campbell
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Executive Summary

This report summarises the initial work undertaken as part of project *6240 Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage. Stage 1: Inventory*¹. The ultimate goal of the project is to identify places with exceptional waterlogged heritage in England; define their significance; improve understanding of their location and value; and define actions in order to promote their future protection or mitigate their loss. **Stage 1** concentrated on identifying a list of such assets, building on earlier work commissioned by English Heritage (HMEW)², reviewing the existing candidates and adding new places that had subsequently been discovered. **Stage 2** will produce standardised Statements of Significance for each of the places. Later stages will address dissemination of the data, management options, and risk assessments of the assets, including their resilience to climate change.

Stage 1 was undertaken over February and March 2012. It began with a review of the selection criteria and methodology used in the earlier project (HMEW), to compile a list of wetland sites considered to be of exceptional importance (HMEW List A). The review considered developments in conservation practice since 2003 (when the original research was undertaken) and recent draft selection criteria for sites without structures³, *i.e.* those sites which preserve a record of how the environment has been altered by human activity. An internal English Heritage seminar followed, to review the existing list and assess other places for inclusion in the revised list (HMEW List A+ or Inventory).

This report presents both the methods and results of the discussions, including the new listing which has been renamed the Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage Inventory (see Appendix 1). It also includes key recommendations and actions regarding places on the inventory that will be taken forward as part of the next stage of the project.

I. Introduction

In 2000, English Heritage commissioned a project called Monuments at Risk in England's Wetlands (MAREW; 3476). The resulting report suggested that a change in approach was needed for wetland archaeology. In particular it sought to move away from a 'seek and record' methodology favoured by the large wetland surveys, to one of understanding and resource management. This initial project was followed by a series of management-themed projects which included the development of a wetland GIS resource (3054), the Heritage Management of England's Wetlands (HMEW) Inventory (3476) and HMEW Management Plans (3610), and the Monuments at Risk in Somerset's Peatlands project (MARISP; 3191).

¹ The project was previously known within EH as 'Identifying top priority vulnerable sites' but the title was changed to reflect the fact that before any attempt to identify priority, vulnerable sites was made, we first needed to agree a list of places with waterlogged remains of exceptional value and/or significance.

² Project 3476 Heritage Management of England's Wetlands (HMEW)

³ Last, J 2008 *DRAFT Sites Of Early Human Activity Without Structures - Selection Guide*. English Heritage

The HMEW projects (3476 and 3610), were developed under the guidance of Prof. Robert van de Noort at the Department of Archaeology, Exeter University in 2002 and funded by English Heritage. They set out to develop a robust categorisation system for archaeological sites in wetlands and wetland landscapes based on their demonstrated or potential evidence value. It was recognised that alongside their biodiversity and conservation interests, wetlands and peatlands had a high cultural and social value, as well as an integral historical, evidence and information component. The projects also emphasized that wetland archaeology comprised not only organic waterlogged artefacts, but also biological remains, peats and waterlogged sediments.

A more integrated approach to management of the sites was advocated, which included recognition of the intimate relationship of wetlands to their landscapes, and the role of external factors such as climate change in preservation. The work considered that the development of stakeholder partnerships was likely to be the key to developing sustainable preservation. However, the importance of raising the profile of waterlogged archaeology and the information value of peat was also recognised, in order to ensure that conservation-led approaches did not overlook the importance of preserving those parts of England's wetlands that remain.

The first project, HMEW Inventory (3476), developed three categories of wetland sites (Lists A, B and C), which were noted for their contribution to the archaeological record; for their palaeoenvironmental potential or which were part of important wetland landscapes. The three categories of sites and landscapes were defined as follows:

- *List A Type sites and landscapes*: a selective group of exceptional monuments, sites of human activity and palaeoenvironmental resources in England's wetlands, representing a range of type sites and landscapes from the prehistoric and historic periods which may be considered representative for the wetland archaeological resource in this country; 27 were identified.
- *List B Sites and landscapes of national importance*: an extended list of monuments, sites of human activity and palaeoenvironmental resources in England's wetlands that are of national importance, for which enhanced protection, including scheduling, may be considered for their future *in situ* preservation; 172 were identified.
- *List C Sites and landscapes of potential national importance*: a list containing monuments, sites of human activity and palaeoenvironmental resources that are likely to be of national importance, but for which sufficient data is absent; this includes wetland landscapes currently under nature conservation management; >200 sites were included.

List A contained sites which were defined as having made a major contribution to the archaeological record or had the most value in terms of their potential to do so. These were considered 'beacon' sites and a management plan was drafted for most of them as a separate project (HMEW Management Plans 3610). Each plan focused upon the known 'site', its research history (academic record), its potential, and management issues. Internal and external factors which affected the condition of the site were also considered. Each of the sites had an overarching group of authors who helped devise

the plan, made up of the key stakeholders, but the plan was designed to focus fully on the historic environment, and to sit alongside any existing site management literature.

These management plans, along with the list of sites and the methodology were produced between 2002 and 2003. They were only completed to draft level and the final phase of the project, which oversaw their delivery, was not implemented due to changes in the availability and prioritisation of resources at the time.

2. Review of selection criteria

The selection criteria for HMEW were originally developed against the published policy material available in 2003. They have been updated in light of the publication of Conservation Principles⁴ and the adoption of the non-statutory criteria for nationally important sites by the Department of Culture Media and Sport⁵. Reference has also been made to the draft selection criteria for sites which preserve a record of how the environment has influenced or been altered by human activity⁶.

A site for inclusion on the revised Inventory (List A+) should be exceptionally significant with demonstrably high cultural and social values, where previous or future detailed study has provided or is likely to provide a major contribution to knowledge. It should be a site or landscape of national importance with evidential, historic, aesthetic and/or communal value. It should also possess an ability to change our understanding of a particular archaeological period, process or event.

Using the non-statutory characterisation criteria for sites of national importance, potential candidate sites need to be assessed using the following criteria:

- In terms of *period* (currency and representation), a site or landscape will either contain a broad range of organic archaeological and/or palaeoenvironmental material covering a long time period, or include such remains that are exceptional within their archaeological context.
- In terms of *rarity*, the site or landscape represents either an example of an exceptional wetland-specific monument class or landscape, or is a common example that is exceptional because of the preservation of wide ranging organic archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains that do not occur elsewhere for this monument class or landscape.
- In terms of *documentation*, the site or landscape will need to demonstrate evidential and historical values, in particular information on a broad range of topics: archaeological information for example, or aspects of past flora and fauna which are

⁴ Drury, P and A McPherson, 2008: Conservation Principles, policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment, London: English Heritage.

⁵ Department of Culture Media and Sport 2010: Scheduled Monuments: Identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, London: DCMS.

⁶ Last, J 2008 *DRAFT Sites Of Early Human Activity Without Structures - Selection Guide*. English Heritage.

contemporary with the phase of human activity represented.

- In terms of *group value*, the site or landscape will include environmental information pertaining to significant aspects of human activity in the past. The value of a type site or landscape may be enhanced by the survival of related palaeoenvironmental deposits or archaeological remains which may need to be considered as part of the overall value.
- In terms of *survival* and *condition*, a site or landscape will be sufficiently waterlogged to preserve a broad range of palaeoenvironmental source material (e.g. pollen, insects) and/or organic archaeological remains (e.g. wood, basketry) which are normally not preserved in sites on free-draining soils or on other landscapes.
- In terms of *fragility/vulnerability*, this recognises that the organic archaeological and palaeoenvironmental resource includes a range of materials that are fragile and can be easily damaged through a variety of human and natural agencies. Due to the nature of waterlogged sites and deposits, sites and landscapes will always be extremely susceptible and sensitive to change.
- In terms of *diversity*, a site or landscape will need to represent a combination of high quality proxies or a range of highly significant archaeological evidence.
- In terms of *potential*, further research of the site or landscape will always or is likely to contribute significantly to our understanding of the past.

3. Review of the HMEW Inventory (List A)

A seminar was held to review the original HMEW Inventory (List A). The seminar was attended by English Heritage expert and local staff (including one of the original researchers of HMEW who now works for English Heritage) to:

1. Rapidly assess the HMEW Inventory to determine whether the sites on the HMEW List A needed to be refined in light of a) developments in conservation practice; b) new discoveries since its completion in 2004.
2. Use their expertise and knowledge of their localities to propose new sites for inclusion on the revised Inventory (List A+) of the most important wetland sites and/or to suggest whether sites on Lists B or C should be promoted to it.

This exercise resulted in the production of a new list (List A+) to be known as the *Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage Inventory* henceforth (see Appendix 1) comprising nineteen sites from the original HMEW List A and twenty new sites. Agreement was not always unanimous, e.g. there was considerable debate over inclusion of *The Norfolk Broads* – a member of the original list – which was eventually retained as it represents a unique historic landscape.

The name change from 'wetland' to 'waterlogged' reflects the fact that although wetland sites account for the majority of the places that appear on the new Inventory, not all of them (e.g. the urban centres) are found in wetland contexts. The parameter that *is*

common to all and which underpins much of their value, management requirements and sustainability is that they are, or once were, waterlogged.

3.1 Short-list of new candidates

A further five sites are under consideration for inclusion on the new inventory. Detailed desk-based assessment of each site will be undertaken by relevant local officers and experts as part of a later Stage of the project. The five candidate sites are:

- Romney Marsh and the North Kent marshes
- Harter's Hill
- Borough Fen
- West Sedgemoor
- Cheddar, Mark and Yeo Moors

Romney Marsh and the North Kent Marshes. The North Kent Marshes appeared on the original HMEW List A but the review did not regard them as being exceptional and Romney Marsh may be a more suitable candidate.

Harter's Hill and West Sedgemoor. It was felt that these sites should form part of a wider re-evaluation of the sites or areas within the Somerset Levels that should be included.

Borough Fen. We need to establish whether the site still contains anoxic deposits of Iron Age date. This will be achieved by undertaking a coring exercise of the ditches as part of later stage of the project.

Cheddar, Mark and Yeo Moors. Expert advice from Prof. Stephen Rippon (University of Exeter) suggests that this area should be considered for inclusion.

3.2 Issues

All wetland sites can be considered vulnerable to change. Few of the sites on the Inventory have had an objective assessment of risk, threat or condition, Star Carr (part of Flixton Lake, No.11) being a notable exception. Therefore we are not yet in a position to prioritise those sites most in need of urgent action. Risk assessments for each site or area are beginning to be undertaken but the majority are planned for the next NHPP plan period (from 2015), once extant data has been used to prepare standardised Statements of Significance (Stage 2) and the short-list of new candidates have been researched (Stage 3).

A review of the draft HMEW Management Plans and assessment of their recommendations in terms of current management practices and potential for improvement is also planned on completion of Stages 1-3. Implementation of those recommendations requires continued liaison with a) other agencies to ensure appropriate understanding of the issues exists as well as mechanisms to allow their implementation and b) land managers to ensure requirements are understood at an individual site management level. Continued advocacy regarding the importance of wetland sites to our national story is required and will form part of the supporting actions for this Activity 3A5.

The following issues will also be reviewed as part of the next stage of the project:

- investigation of sites to establish their potential or significance.
- justification for removing or rejecting sites from the revised Inventory.
- condition monitoring of sites.

4. Next steps

1. A project design has been agreed and the resources identified to complete Stage 2 of the project, completing the Statements of Significance for all thirty-nine of the places on the *Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage Inventory*. Boundaries will be defined for all of the places on the Inventory.

2. Stage 2 is due for completion by March 2014.

3. Once completed, we will share the Stage 2 information with relevant organisations involved in land, environmental and water management.

Appendix I Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage Inventory (HMEW List A+): list and actions derived from research by English Heritage staff and an internal seminar.

Site or Landscape Areas	Comments	Actions	Measure/ Activity-Project
1. City of London	Modern administrative boundary superimposed on a larger wetland and wet urban landscape which should incorporate other Boroughs, notably north Southwark (south of the river) and bits adjacent on the northern side.	The boundaries need to be defined by buried topography rather than modern administrative boundaries. Explore how this can be done. Establish whether statement of significance exists and potential for linkage to UAD project 6041	4A1-6041
2. Carlisle (City Centre)	Project 6502 <i>The Distribution of waterlogged deposits in Carlisle</i> has just been initiated. The completion of this project will allow the area of interest to be better defined and taken into consideration in future planning.	In progress	3A5-6502
3. York (City Centre)	The City of York Deposit Model ('Ove-Arup report', York CC/EH 1991) mapped archaeological deposits of different periods across the City in 2D and 3D. In addition, basic presence/absence of waterlogged deposits were identified but not the differing degrees of organic preservation within them: such an assessment forms the key component of a new proposal (6504). There are a number of complementary and relevant initiatives that have recently been completed or are due to report in 2012.	There is an earmark against 3A5.201 for project 6504 which includes refining the known distribution of waterlogged deposits with assessment of significance and notably assessment of preservation of delicate biological remains; a decision about commissioning a PD for the project has been deferred until the current projects have delivered.	3A5-6504
4. Thorne and Hatfield Moors, within the Humberhead levels	It was agreed that Hatfield and Thorne Moors should be considered as a single area of interest.. There are ongoing issues regarding management of the moors for nature conservation mainly regarding re-wetting.	The boundaries will need to be defined. Close joint working with Natural England is required along with advocacy on the historic environmental importance of this landscape.	
5. Bowness Common, Glasson Moss and Drumburgh Moss,	Wedholme is part of the South Solway Mosses SAC along with Bowness Common, Glasson Moss and	Again define boundaries and brief statement of significance. Action should also include encouraging	

within South Solway mosses	Drumburgh Moss. Bowness is the least cutover and considered to be one of the best geomorphologically intact mires in the UK. Proximity to Hadrian's Wall adds to significance. There is education potential.	NERC funded PhDs (to consider depth of deposits, intactness of uncut localities, presence of marine transgression, evidence for activity related to Hadrian's Wall, tephra), tapping into monitoring currently been undertaken by Natural England investigating re-wetting of cut peat	
6. Whixall Moss	Finds include bog bodies. Currently well managed and well protected through natural designation. Continued advocacy required but no immediate actions.	Again define boundaries and brief statement of significance	
7. Leash Fen, Lucas Moss and Totley Moss, within the Eastern Moors, Peak District	Redefined as three exceptional discreet areas within the Eastern Moors. There is high potential for good preservation of palaeoenvironmental material dating back to the Neolithic. A survey of the Eastern Moors has just been completed and a (different) 10 year management plan is being put in place at the moment.	Again define boundaries and brief statement of significance	
8. Bridgwater Bay	There has now been a RCZA which dated some weirs in Bridgwater Bay as early medieval. The significance of this area lies in the wealth of different types of historic asset contained within the bay and its surrounding landscape.	Some of the area will undergo managed realignment in the next few months. Following this a new statement of significance should be prepared and the area of interest redefined	
9. Wootton Quarr, associated creek and mill pond	The Wootton Quarr area is rich archaeologically and maybe the area of interest could be extended to the Old Mill Pond where Rob Scaife et al. have done palaeoenvironmental work. Palaeoenvironmental work has also been carried out at the mouth of the creek. More is needed and although some areas of the creek are not accessible because they are private properties, they seem pretty untouched and potentially good for palaeoenvironmental work. The whole area is part of a Balanced Seas proposed MCZ. The Wootton Quarr survey (project 1201) publication is being copy edited.	Following completion of current investigations, new boundaries need to be defined and a statement of significance prepared. This could link with the MCZ work.	3A2 -1201
10. Flag Fen, Must Farm and Bradley Fen within Flag Fen Basin.	Flag Fen was designated as a Scheduled Monument in March 2012 and consequently a new statement of significance has been prepared as part of the description for the site itself.	Advocacy to Anglian Water is needed. Definition of boundaries and brief statement of significance is required. A new condition monitoring regime of the site can commence as soon as monitoring equipment has	2C1-6187

	The proposal for this list is that the candidate place is broader than the Scheduled site which sits within a wider landscape zone whose boundaries encompass a buried, waterlogged prehistoric landscape. This needs to be defined and described.	been acquired. Review the management plan for Flag Fen with respect to the newly designated status. Define the boundaries and brief statement of significance of the buried, waterlogged prehistoric landscape and component sites.	
11. Flixton Lake including Star Carr, Seamer Carr and Flixton Island	A five year European funded research project is underway at Star Carr and the site has recently been designated. The wet area of the site is likely to degrade completely within the next five years hence the need for excavation to recover its evidential value before it is lost. The research project also aims to re-excavate on Flixton Island and may examine some Seamer Carr material from archive.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance	3A5 -6064
12. Shinewater (within Willingdon levels)	Shinewater is at the moment with the Secretary of State as a candidate for designation. New costs for renewing the monitoring are being prepared. The archive of the excavation is rather scattered and needs putting together in order to understand the site better. Shinewater is considered under the Eastbourne Management Plan which is to be published soon.	Wait for Eastbourne management plan to be published. Advocate a project to consolidate archive	
13. Sutton Common, Humberhead Levels	Regular assessments of condition are required. Around half the site remains following excavation.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance	
14. Sweet Track	An iconic site with considerable education use and still the only site in England to produce definitive evidence for Neolithic coppicing.	Review monument description. Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance.	
15. Trent floodplain from Shardlow to Hemington	Area can be easily defined to include the principal sites of interest. These include a buried Bronze Age boat currently being monitored at Shardlow, a barrow cemetery at Lockington and an extensive medieval river fishery and mill complex at Hemington.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance	
16. Ingoldmells area	Collection of saltern sites that are now deeply buried and largely invisible.	Management plan needs re-invigorating and advocacy needed regarding the importance of this area. Boundaries to the north need careful consideration.	
17. Norfolk Broads	Management plan is OK but area is too large and not defined well.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance	

18. Wicken Fen	Area has expanded since management plan was written. Great peat preservation, research value and education potential.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance.	
19. Pevensey Levels	These haven't been investigated much and should be as far as possible, there is a high potential for archaeology and environmental archaeology. Project proposal was received in 2009: 5773 <i>A lithostratigraphic framework for the Holocene deposits of Pevensey Levels</i> but has not proceeded further.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance	
New sites from here on			
20. Beccles Trackway, Suffolk	Prehistoric trackway. Longest post alignment in the country.	Again define boundaries and brief statement of significance	
21. Holme Beach, Norfolk	Seahenge etc.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance	
22. Blackwater Estuary	The Neolithic settlement is effectively a dry site –as was so when occupied. Its excellent preservation results from burial by marine silts and clays. Bronze Age and later timber structures also survive.	Again define boundaries and brief statement of significance.	
23. Bradford Kaimes and Embleton Bog complex, Northumberland	An important site at risk from habitat recreation for nature conservation and possible improvements to the East Coast Main Rail-line.	Statement of significance has been completed. Boundaries will need to be defined for inclusion on Webgis	
24. Glastonbury Lake Village, Somerset	Better management needed urgently, but still great potential for survival in unexcavated areas and below earlier excavations. Iron Age settlement within wetland, organic structural and artefactual remains. PhD student undertaking the studentship (Pm 5534) is due to report back to internal Drainage Board (IDB). Plan is to put in remote water level monitoring system in ditches.	Re-visit monument description.	2C2 -5534
25. Westward Hol. (SSSI)	No other similar sites in SW and a nationally important site. Mesolithic and later –including footprints. Former wet woodland and fen, now in the intertidal zone, Midden with flint artefacts, animal bone, plant macrofossils, pollen and other climate and environmental proxies.	Define boundaries and prepare a statement of significance with reference to SSSI and current management plans	
26. Athelney and Lyng	Medieval monastic settlement (Abbey founded in	Define boundaries and prepare a statement of	

	AD888); medieval causeway between the fortified burghs of Lyng and Althelney; old course of River Tone; palaeoenvironmental evidence. Historic connection with King Alfred (where he burnt the cakes).	significance	
27. Stafford town wetlands including the King's Pool	Long palaeoenvironmental sequence (Late Glacial to Post Med) and the archaeological remains known to be preserved in it, mostly known from around the edges. The King's Pool is under considerable development pressure as the town expands towards it. Wetlands are a rarity in this part of the country and those that are associated with early urban centres are especially so.	Define boundaries and prepare a statement of significance	
28. Langdales	The peat around the axe factories suffers from heavy visitor erosion. As the peat preserves evidence of a single significant activity (flint mining) and lies in close proximity of the flint mines it can be considered exceptional on this basis.	Designation Team undertook work in 2006 in preparation for possible designation. Check to see whether the proposed area includes the peat. Define boundaries and prepare a statement of significance.	
29. Gordano valley SSSI, Somerset	Multi period, late glacial to present. Palaeoenvironmental archive in silted up freshwater lake. Longest lowland sequence in SW, earliest date of 11,350-10,700 cal BC (SRR-3203). Will need to look at and potentially refine SSSI management plan etc.	Define boundaries and prepare a statement of significance .Will need to look at and potentially refine SSSI management plan etc	
30. Erith	Submerged forest with clear archaeology (Meso & Neo) associated and adjacent - defining boundaries will be tricky.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance.	
31. Quick Moss within North Pennines ANOB.	Good sequence and proximity to known remains of early mining make this an exceptional site.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance.	
32. Martin Mere area	High prehistoric significance with timber structures it is one of the few areas of Grade I agricultural land in the NW. At risk because peat loss is rapid (1 metre in around 70 years) and the Environment Agency has stopped pumping out water meaning farmers are undertaking their own drainage works.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance with consideration of existing SSSIs.	
33. Kennet Valley around Thatcham	Early Mesolithic sites with associated palaeoenvironmental potential.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance.	Might be funded under 3A3/ 4G1
34. Happisburgh, Cromer Forest	Project 6234 now initiated (in response to a brief under	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of	3A3 -6234

beds, and wider coastline	3A3.201) on linking up off-shore and intertidal sequences and deposits. At risk from continued coastal erosion.	significance following on and as one of the products of this project. A management is being prepared as part of the project	
35 Droitwich, Worcs	Multi-period (Iron Age to Post-medieval) salt working site with excellent preservation and of national/ international significance. Under 3A5.201, Project 6513 <i>Distribution and significance of waterlogged deposits: Droitwich</i> has been commissioned.	In progress	3A5 -6513
36. Hereford urban wetlands	There are three features: 1.) The <i>Widemarsh floodplain</i> . has prehistoric peat and medieval tanning evidence under threat from a roadscheme/ drainage. 2.) <i>The King's ditch</i> . a large and deep linear feature which is probably natural in origin. There is excellent preservation of a wide range of material including Bronze Age deposits at its base and a 10 th century log road crossing. The feature runs N-S just to the West of the medieval town centre. 3.) <i>Anglo-Saxon northern defences</i> . abandoned in the 11 th century and then filled with town waste (11 th -13 th century). Forms a E-W transect through the medieval town. These features are not hydrologically connected but collectively form a key historic asset for the city.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance.	
37. Druridge Bay peats	(Low Hauxley). Human footprints (also other animals), radiocarbon dated sequence with well preserved pollen preservation. Cremation deposits and Bronze Age burials are associated with the palaeoenvironmental deposits. Area is at risk from coastal erosion (lots was lost in the winter of 2010/11). There is good public access / interest and investigative work is underway as part of DB Coal to Coast HLF funded project.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance. This may need to follow completion of the HLF funded project	
38. Formby footprints and peat beds, Hightown submerged forest, Sefton Coast, Northumberland	Footprints (multi-period) –human and other animals with Associated peat beds at Formby. Hightown submerged forest is at risk from coastal erosion/ Shoreline Management Plan sea defences. Only the trees? have been studied in detail.	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of significance	
39. Isles of Scilly	Intertidal deposits are near to dryland prehistoric and	Define boundaries and prepare a brief statement of	4H1 -5253

	later sites (shell middens). The Lyonesse Project (5253) is demonstrating potential.	significance	
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Appendix 2 Sites under consideration

Site or Landscape Areas	Comments	Actions	Measure
<i>1. Romney Marsh and the North Kent marshes</i>	Cliffe and North Kent marshes is not regarded as exceptional and Romney Marsh would appear a better candidate.	Make a case for Romney Marsh and loose North Kent marshes	
<i>2. Harter's Hill</i>	This site needs to be considered with other trackways and sites within the Somerset Levels.	Review this site along with others in the Somerset levels	
<i>3. Borough Fen</i>	Need to establish whether the site is wet and preserves a wide range of environmental proxies etc.	Undertake coring exercise in house	
<i>4. West Sedgemoor</i>	Long palaeoenvironmental sequence up to the modern period (8.5m of stratigraphy). A rare example for English lowland.	Is likely to stay on the list but be bundled up within the peat moors along with some of the trackway sites.	
<i>5. Cheddar, Mark and Yeo Moors</i>	Field systems, droves, settlements, canals and potential for waterlogged organics. Palaeoenvironmental material. Comment by Prof S Rippon that best example of its type in Europe.	Ask Steve Rippon to put together a business case for inclusion on A plus list	

Appendix 3 Rejected sites

These fourteen sites were considered to be equivalent to HMEW List B, *i.e.* they are of national but not exceptional importance.

Site or Landscape Areas	Comments
1. Northumberland – upland peat (selection)	This is defined as Bloody Moss in the HMEW management plan. The moss is not of exceptional significance and it was agreed that it should be removed from the revised list.
2. Meare lake villages	Removed as MARISP has shown that this is probably now mainly a 'dry site'. Promote Glastonbury Lake Village to this list as this is still wet.
3. Thames from Runnymede to Eton	Removed as area not defined. A management plan was not prepared as part of HMEW.
4. Witham floodplain (part of)	Removed as important sites have been excavated, but is still an important area with potential at a landscape level.
5. Ford Moss, Northumberland	Not included for present but may require further consideration. A draft management plan has been prepared.
6. Humber foreshore and coastal marshes	Especially for prehistoric features being continually exposed and eroded away, and early and extinct ports. This could take in the lower reach of the Ancholme Valley and the Roman and medieval port sites there. It was felt most important sites have already been excavated/ lost.
7. Top Moss	Briefly covered in northwest wetlands survey. It sits right below Bury Wall hillfort and is under threat from drainage for planting conifers and possibly other agricultural use. But no exceptional remains found as yet.
8. Lea Valley	Extensive buried prehistoric to medieval wetland landscape with associated archaeology defined by floodplain of the Lea Valley running up to (?)Mar Dyke; not so well-preserved now due to extensive development but pockets will remain. Of importance but may appear better than other areas because we know about it and have had the opportunity to investigate on an unprecedented scale, rather than because of its innate evidential value.
9. Coombe Haven in East Sussex near Hastings.	150 ha. Very good archaeological potential. Palaeoenvironmental work by Simon Jenkins and M. Bates but exceptional evidential value not established.
10. Otmoor wetlands, Oxfordshire	Removed as potential is not established.
11. Wansome Channel	Currently lacks a sufficient evidence base
12. East of Droitwich and Worcester wetlands	Several areas of peat with Mesolithic dates at the bottom of the sequence. South of these an area of wetland has produced a Bronze Age trackway. Further investigation is needed, but potentially a buried prehistoric landscape. Prehistoric, and especially early prehistoric sites, are generally rare in the West Midlands.
13. Hartlepool-Seaton Carew peats	Neolithic animal bone and worked wood recovered including a fish trap. Radiocarbon dated pollen sequence with evidence of sea level changes from forms etc. Peat extends offshore. At risk from coast erosion and offshore wind farms. Part of a cMCZ.
14. Lowland Durham mires including Negsham Fen, Marden Carr, Bradbury Carr, and Wear Valley meanders	Negsham Fen: kettle hole, late glacial remains are preserved, pollen and macroscopic remains preserved. Morden and Bradbury Carrs are surface drained but some areas may be of significant evidential value. Deposits date back to 7-8000BP (glacial lake outflow). There are occasional find spots within the peat. Area is currently subject to a large windfarm proposal. Wear Valley meanders in this area have received only minimal investigation.

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Fax: 01793 414926

Textphone: 0800 015 0516

E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk