

**A STRATEGY FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE'S HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH IN PROTECTED  
LANDSCAPES**

**(Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
and National Parks)**

## **A Strategy for Historic Environment Research in Protected Landscapes**

England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks cover nearly a quarter of the land area of England, which, together form some of our finest protected landscapes. As well as being landscapes of great aesthetic quality, these protected areas provide a major repository for some of our most important historic sites, containing over 63,300 listed buildings, more than 10,400 nationally important ancient monuments (about half of those designated in England), in excess of 300 designated historic parks and gardens, and a third of English Heritage's properties.

English Heritage is committed to enhancing understanding, enjoyment and conservation of the historic environment in Protected Landscapes through annual action plans agreed with the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the National Parks, and through strategically targeted investigation. This strategy document, developed in consultation with English Heritage stakeholders and conservation staff from both the AONB and National Park Authorities, aims to define how English Heritage's historic environment research in Protected Landscapes should be progressed over the next five years. It identifies priority areas and issues, addressing which will allow English Heritage's research resources to be targeted where they are most needed and will deliver the greatest benefit.

The strategy has four main goals:

- To support those charged with managing Protected Landscapes through the provision of applied and carefully-targeted baseline research, advice and training to underpin the development and delivery of Management Plans
- To focus research to where it is most needed to underpin and promote sustainability in Protected Landscapes
- To work in partnership with those who manage Protected Landscapes to engage local communities in the enjoyment, understanding and stewardship of the historic environment
- To build capacity, especially in the commercial and voluntary sectors, to ensure that in the long-term there is the critical mass of skills and expertise needed to sustain informed conservation of the historic environment in Protected Landscapes.

Partnerships will be the key to successful implementation, with English Heritage acting primarily as an enabler, undertaking or commissioning work where its skills and expertise, or its national remit, will make the critical difference.

The strategy will provide a transparent framework for decisions on where support will be directed, and the level of support. The document will be reviewed annually and refreshed as needed in consultation with the major stakeholders.

**A STRATEGY FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH IN  
PROTECTED LANDSCAPES  
(Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks)**

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# A STRATEGY FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

## **SUMMARY**

*This strategy document sets out the context, priorities and principles of implementation for historic environment research commissioned or undertaken by English Heritage in support of our agreements with the National Park Authorities and the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Work covered by this strategy will also form one strand of delivery under English Heritage's Action Plan for the European Landscape Convention. The strategy will be an active document, reviewed annually and updated as necessary, and made available through the English Heritage website.*

## **I INTRODUCTION**

### **I.1 Background**

English Heritage is committed to enhancing understanding, enjoyment and conservation of the historic environment in Protected Landscapes through annual action plans agreed with the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the National Parks, and through strategically targeted investigation. This strategy document, developed in consultation with EH stakeholders and conservation staff from both the AONB and National Park Authorities, identifies priorities and an implementation plan for historic environment research in Protected Landscapes to ensure that English Heritage targets its research resource where it is most needed, and where it will deliver the greatest benefit, in providing the necessary baseline information and understanding to inform conservation strategies, underpin management, and enhance public appreciation.

Protected Landscapes are designated by law to ensure the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty for future generations. England's finest areas of countryside have been designated by the Countryside Agency (before April 1999 by the Countryside Commission), and given protective designation under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. Three forms of landscape have been designated: (1) National Parks, (2) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and (3) Heritage Coasts. The latter comprises stretches of undeveloped coastline which do not enjoy the same statutory status as the AONBs. AONB Management Plans, however, cover 90% of the area of Heritage Coasts. This strategy only deals with those landscape designations which are subject to statutory management plans (National Parks and AONBs) and only to Heritage Coasts where they lie within these designations.

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty include between them more than 23% of the area of England. In addition, some 33% of the coastline is Heritage Coast. Thus Designated Landscapes comprise a substantial proportion of rural England. Protected Landscapes contain a high-proportion of nationally-important and well-preserved heritage assets (Table 1). 53% of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 17% of the stock of Listed Buildings, 22% of Registered Parks and Gardens, and 23% of all protected Battlefields are located within National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The character of Protected Landscapes is varied and diverse, the result of the interplay of climate, geology, terrain and land-use over millennia. National Parks, with the exceptions of the candidate South Downs Park and Norfolk Broads, are mainly unenclosed, marginal upland areas. Recently, some 60% of the land classified as 'Severely Disadvantaged Areas' in England was found to be in the uplands. By contrast, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are more varied in their landscape form and many, such as the South Downs AONB, include intensively cultivated enclosed landscapes.

Condition, character and robustness of the historic environment, and the pressures and threats to which it is subject, vary accordingly. Thus, the predominantly pastoral regimes of National Parks and upland AONBs have favoured exceptional and extensive survival of prehistoric and medieval landscape features and the associated palaeoenvironmental record, and significant evidence for post-medieval extractive and industrial activity. Such apparently stable and benign conditions are however highly sensitive to changes in vegetation and land-use. In lowland AONBs plough-damage of buried archaeological deposits is a more serious issue. The main threat to the historic environment of Heritage Coasts is coastal erosion, but enhanced access promoted by legislation will also bring pressures through increased visitor numbers.

National Parks and AONBs have statutory Management Plans which underpin their integrated countryside management strategies, and National Parks have a statutory purpose to conserve cultural heritage. Authorities in both forms of Protected Landscape have a strong interest in promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of these areas by the public. The National Parks generally have dedicated heritage staff, whereas the AONBs often rely upon the close involvement of local authorities.

Asset Type	National Parks	AONBs
Registered Battlefields	2	8
Registered Parks and Gardens	30	313
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	4264	6170
Listed Buildings	11243	52068
AMIE entries	34815	58962

Table 1: numbers of designated assets and entries on AMIE (Archives and Monuments Information, England) in Protected Landscapes

**1.2 English Heritage and Protected Landscapes**

English Heritage, as the Government’s statutory advisor on the historic environment, has an interest in the historic environment of Protected Landscapes:

- Protected Landscapes incorporate disproportionately large numbers of well-preserved, nationally-important (designated and undesignated) heritage assets and coherent historic landscapes
- The authorities responsible for managing them have statutory landscape conservation duties and management planning functions and so, in partnership with English Heritage, can deliver significant advances in understanding, conserving and enhancing their historic environment
- Protected Landscapes are significant recreational areas, providing important opportunities for public access to and enjoyment of the historic environment and with heritage and landscape-based tourism providing benefits to local communities
- Government and the authorities responsible for protected landscapes see them as exemplars for the practical delivery of sustainable development and integrated land management
- Protected Landscapes provide a key arena for the integration of natural environment and historic environment management values

English Heritage has a statutory duty to regard and take into account the purposes of the National Parks and AONBs. Moreover, a third of English Heritage’s properties lie in these landscapes, creating a common bond through shared interests in promoting access, understanding and enjoyment of the cultural heritage. There is then a close match and a coincidence of interest between English Heritage’s national role and the responsibilities of National Park and AONB authorities in:

**Delivery:** National Parks and AONBs have statutory management and planning responsibilities;

**Duties:** National Parks have a statutory purpose to conserve the historic environment and English Heritage has a statutory obligation to take consideration of NP and AONB purposes;

**Access:** The Protected Landscapes are important recreational areas, with tourism providing both benefits and challenges; and

**Sustainability:** Authorities in Protected Landscapes and Defra consider these designated areas as exemplars for the practical delivery of sustainable development and land management.

Recognising this, partnership working on the historic environment between the statutory heritage and countryside agencies of England and Wales and the National Park Authorities was formalised in 1995 by a Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in the National Parks of England and Wales. This recognised the particular opportunities open to the National Parks for the conservation of the historic environment, the promotion of public understanding of the heritage, and the sharing of best practice. This commitment to co-operation was further strengthened in 1998 by a Declaration of Support for the Historic Environment of the National Parks of England and Wales, and in 2004 by the launch of a revised Joint Statement and Joint Action Plan. Further information is set out in *A Landscape Legacy: National Parks and the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty also face similar, and in some cases greater, pressures from development and agricultural intensification. Against this background, the Chief Executives of English Heritage and Cadw signed in December 2004 a Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in AONBs with the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) designed to complement the close relationship already established with the National Parks.

### 1.3 A Strategy for Historic Environment Research in Protected Landscapes

This strategy aims to define how English Heritage's historic environment research in Protected Landscapes should be progressed over the next five years. It identifies priority areas and issues, addressing which will allow English Heritage's research resources to be targeted where they are most needed and will deliver the greatest benefit. These priorities have been identified in consultation with the historic environment advisers of the English National Parks and the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The strategy has four main goals:

- To support those charged with managing Protected Landscapes through the provision of applied and carefully-targeted baseline research, advice and training to underpin the development and delivery of Management Plans
- To focus research to where it is most needed to underpin and promote sustainability in Protected Landscapes
- To work in partnership with those who manage Protected Landscapes to engage local communities in the enjoyment, understanding and stewardship of the historic environment
- To build capacity, especially in the commercial and voluntary sectors, to ensure that in the long-term there is the critical mass of skills and expertise needed to sustain informed conservation of the historic environment in Protected Landscapes

Partnerships will be the key to successful implementation, with English Heritage acting primarily as an enabler, undertaking or commissioning work where its skills and expertise, or its national remit, will make the critical difference. Research and investigation will be delivered at the appropriate scale by a combination of direct work by English Heritage expert staff and projects commissioned through the Historic Environment Enabling Programme and the English Heritage Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The strategy will provide a transparent framework for decisions on where support will be directed, and the level of support. Such decisions will be case-specific and contextual within the framework of national priorities identified. The strategy sets out how English Heritage will focus support under the NP and AONB accords at a national strategic level. It does not cover research or investigation of specific heritage asset types (designated or otherwise) within Protected Landscapes. The strategy also forms one strand of delivery under English Heritage's European Landscape Convention Implementation Plan.

The strategy document will be mounted on the English Heritage website, and will be reviewed annually and refreshed as needed in consultation with the major stakeholders.

## **2. PROTECTED LANDSCAPES IN THE CONTEXT OF ENGLISH HERITAGE STRATEGY AND RESEARCH**

### **2.1 English Heritage Strategic Aims 2005-2010**

The English Heritage Corporate Strategy 2005-2010 (*Making the Past Part of Our Future*) sets out English Heritage's forward plan based on the cycle of Understanding, Valuing, Caring For and Enjoying the Historic Environment, with six main aims:

- Aim 1: Help improve people's understanding of the historic environment
- Aim 2: Get the historic environment onto other people's agendas
- Aim 3: Enable and promote sustainable change to the historic environment
- Aim 4: Help local communities care for their historic environment
- Aim 5: Stimulate and harness enthusiasm for the historic environment
- Aim 6: Make the most effective use of the assets in our care

English Heritage's support for historic environment research in Protected Landscapes directly furthers Aims 1-5:

**Aim 1: Help improve people's understanding of the historic environment**

Research enhances understanding and disseminates this knowledge to a wider audience.

**Aim 2: Get the historic environment onto other people's agendas**

Working in partnership to provide advice and the evidence base for advocacy. Within this aim one corporate target relates specifically to Protected Landscapes: 2C3 – Enhance understanding, enjoyment and conservation of the historic environment in Protected Landscapes through annual action plans agreed with the National Association for AONBs and the National Parks, and strategically-targeted investigation.

**Aim 3: Enable and promote sustainable change to the historic environment**

Targeted research delivers a baseline understanding of the historic environment, allowing informed decisions to be made on conservation and the management of change.

**Aim 4: Help local communities care for their historic environment**

Research enhances understanding of the historic environment, and results are made available through accessible publication, the National Monuments Record, and

Historic Environment Records. With direct engagement and dissemination as a part of each project local groups and communities have enhanced information and skills to help them care for the historic environment.

Aim 5: Stimulate and harness enthusiasm for the historic environment

This aim is furthered through appropriate dissemination of results and information to all our audiences, through direct involvement of community and volunteer groups in research projects, and through outreach, public lectures and exhibitions at public events.

## 2.2 English Heritage Research Strategy, Research Themes and Programmes

The principles underpinning English Heritage's research activity and its relationship to the organisation's strategic aims are set out in the Corporate Strategy. The means by which they should be delivered are set out in the English Heritage Research Strategy (*Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010*). The Themes and Programmes under which research will be organised and prioritised are set out in the *English Heritage Research Agenda*, and are summarised here:

- A. Discovering, studying and defining historic assets and their significance
  - 1. Defining, characterising and analysing the historic environment
  - 2. Analysing poorly understood landscapes, areas and monuments
  - 3. Realising the potential of the research dividend
- B. Studying and establishing the values and needs of the historic environment
  - 1. Quantifying the economic and social value of historic assets
  - 2. Establishing perceptions and attitudes to the historic environment
  - 3. Delivering 'sector intelligence'
- C. Engaging and developing diverse audiences
  - 1. Understanding public participation in the historic environment
  - 2. Building understanding & appreciation through education & outreach
- D. Studying and assessing the risks to historic assets and devising responses
  - 1. Quantifying and analysing the condition of the historic environment
  - 2. Studying the reasons for risk and devising responses
  - 3. Protection and conservation
  - 4. Threat-led last resort analysis
- E. Studying historic assets and improving their presentation and interpretation
  - 1. Research to inform the presentation to the public of historic places
- F. Studying and developing information management
  - 1. Developing standards for Historic Environment Records
  - 2. Studying and developing information management
- G. Studying and devising ways of making EH and the 'sector' more effective
  - 1. Developing new techniques of analysis and understanding
  - 2. Devising research strategies, frameworks and agendas
  - 3. Measuring outcomes and effectiveness of EH and the 'sector'

English Heritage's historic environment research in Protected Landscapes fall primarily within Research Themes A and D (specifically A1, A2 and D1) but also contributes to C, E, F and G.

## 2.3 SHAPE (A Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage)

SHAPE is the unifying strategic framework for projects undertaken or commissioned by English Heritage which acts as an explicit bridge between the Corporate Strategy and Research Strategy.



Research in Protected Landscapes is a sub-programme within Research Programme A1: What's Out There? Defining, characterising and analysing the historic environment.

<b>SHAPE 2008</b>				
<b>Sub-Programme Name</b>	<b>Protected Landscape Research</b>			
<b>Sub-programme Number</b>	<b>23111.110</b>			
<b>Corporate Objective</b>	2C: Engage with key stakeholders on issues affecting, or affected by, the historic environment			
<b>Activity Type and Programme</b>	RESEARCH A1: What's Out There? Defining, characterising and analysing the historic environment			
<b>Sub-Programme Description</b>	<p>Projects developing research in partnership with protected landscape managers to establish historic environment evidence base within strategic plans for those landscapes. Projects must provide exemplars that can be converted into practical future approaches and developed within the protected landscape, and will most often be collaborative, involving English Heritage teams as well as external commissions. Examples might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local industrial surveys</li> <li>• Landscape palaeo-environmental assessments</li> <li>• Predictive modelling surveys</li> <li>• Analytical earthwork surveys</li> </ul>			
<b>Reason for EH Support</b>	As part of a national programme developing partnerships with protected landscape authorities to promote issues relating to the historic environment			
<b>Research categories</b>	<b>NABS</b>	<b>SETI Primary purpose</b>	<b>Frascati Definition</b>	<b>Research Areas</b>
	11.9	C	Strategic-Applied	Humanities

## 2.4 English Heritage Thematic and Period Strategies

English Heritage is developing Research Strategies for specific periods and thematic areas: Prehistory, Roman, Urban, Places of Worship, and Industrial. These will inform projects undertaken in Protected Landscapes, which will address in particular some of the priorities identified by the Research Strategies for Prehistory, Roman, and Industrial. Research in Protected Landscapes will also contribute to the implementation of English Heritage's Coastal Strategy.

English Heritage research in Protected Landscapes will, where possible and appropriate, further the specific aims of other English Heritage strategies.

## 2.5 Regional Research Frameworks

English Heritage enables and supports the development of Regional Research Frameworks (Appendix 2) in order to develop and sustain "a proper means of selecting and targeting local and regional priorities in order to justify curatorial policies and decisions" (Olivier 1996). National Park and AONB staff are contributors to the development of Regional Research Frameworks.

Regional Research Frameworks will inform decisions on which priority research projects in protected landscapes to take forward, and on the balance and weight of specific aims and issues to be addressed in each case.

### **3. PAST AND CURRENT WORK**

Historic Environment research in protected landscapes undertaken or commissioned by English Heritage falls into two broad strands. On the one hand are extensive national programmes, the National Mapping Programme and Historic Landscape Characterisation, which define the form, structure and extent of the components of the historic environment at a landscape scale (NMP) and characterising the multi-period land-use patterns within the landscape (HLC). These programmes are not exclusively directed at protected landscapes but often accord them priority for the reasons outlined in 1.2 and 1.3 above.

Complementing these high-level approaches is analytical survey of landscapes, monuments and buildings. Such projects, often threat-led, and directed at specific research and management issues within protected landscapes, and are the principal means by which English Heritage provides strategically-targeted investigation in support of the NP and AONB accords. Such projects deliver the wherewithal for management and presentation strategies, as well as enhanced academic and professional understanding, and have access, outreach and educational components built in wherever possible. This work is mainly undertaken by specialist teams within English Heritage's Research Department, primarily Archaeological Survey & Investigation and Architectural Investigation. These projects build on the survey programmes undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) before 1999 and the national databases compiled by the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division prior to 1981.

Extensive and intensive approaches are complementary, and aligning effort has high potential to enhance understanding through the integration of different data sets at different scales and to enable a targeted and scalable approach, for example by following up through analytical field survey priorities identified through, or questions arising from, extensive mapping or characterisation. Current analytical survey projects, notably those under way in the Mendips AONB and the North Pennines AONB, already integrate extensive and intensive techniques, and involve genuinely inter-disciplinary investigation. However, developing this further must be a priority for the future.

Protected Landscapes face issues to common to the wider historic environment. Other projects and strands of work undertaken or commissioned English Heritage, in response to other drivers and under other SHAPE programmes are often located within Protected Landscapes and so have a direct relevance to them. Coastal Zone Assessments are a notable example, as are Scheduled Monuments at Risk, initiatives on plough-damage to buried archaeology, and the Wetland Surveys and Strategy. Similarly, added value is delivered by work (which may be driven by a different primary purpose), which enhances understanding or contextualises individual heritage assets within Protected Landscapes.

#### **3.1 Analytical Survey in Protected Landscapes**

Detailed analytical field survey and investigation has been undertaken in many areas (Figure 1), either as single site projects or as major thematic landscape investigations (most as multi-disciplinary collaborations). Unlike the NMP and HLC programmes, such intensive fieldwork does not ordinarily systematically cover entire counties or designated areas, although exceptions do occur as on Bodmin Moor where initial aerial mapping of the entire moor was enhanced on the ground, and currently with the Mendips AONB project which has drawn in NMP and LiDAR to provide total coverage of the designated area.

Fieldwork projects are currently under way in the South Downs candidate National Park, South Dorset AONB, Mendips AONB and North Pennines AONB. A monograph on Hidden Dartmoor, dealing with the historic environment of inaccessible areas including military ranges and threatened mining landscapes, is in preparation.

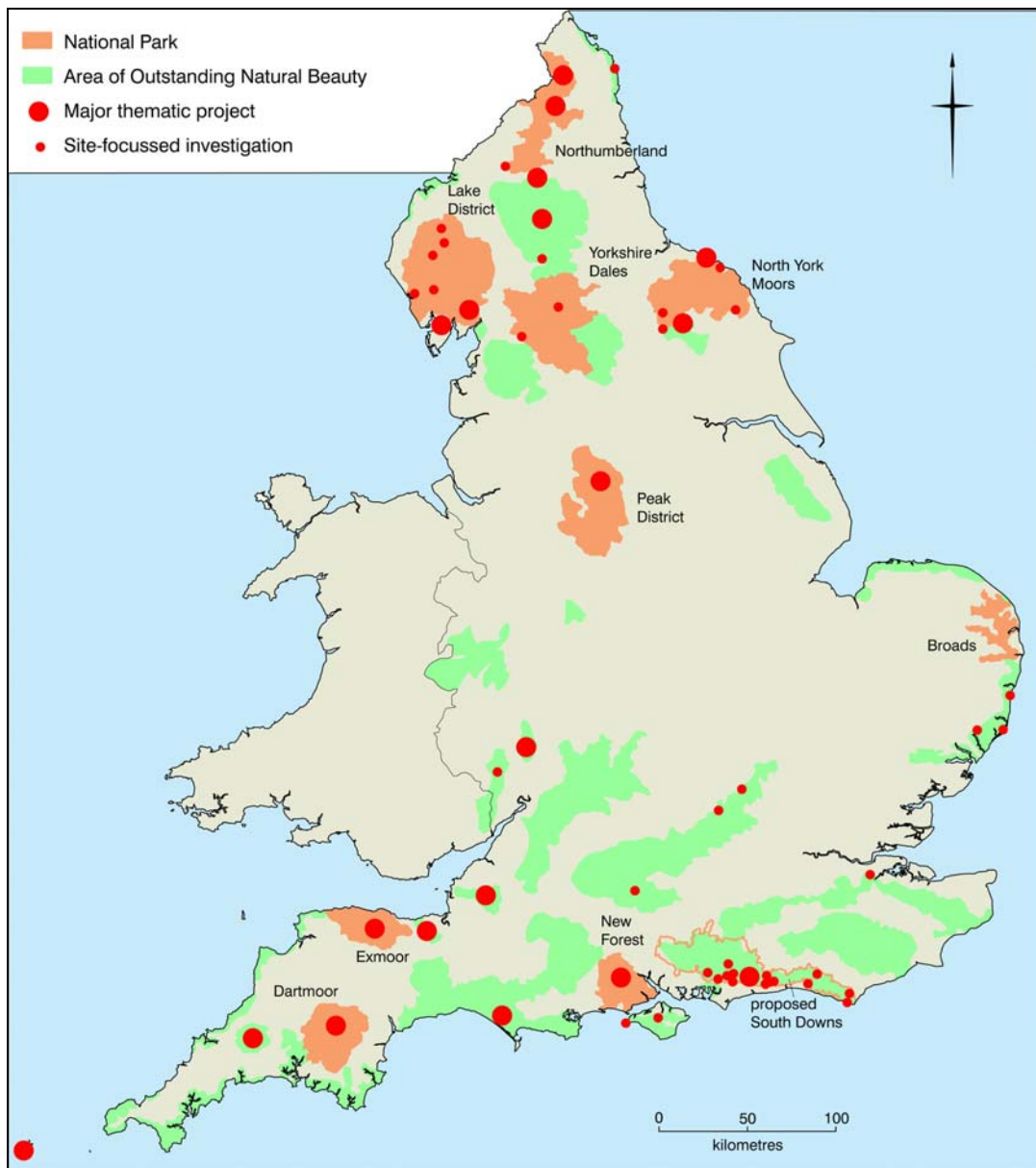


Figure 1: Analytical survey and investigation undertaken in Protected Landscapes between 1999 and February 2009

Current gaps in terrestrial analytical fieldwork coverage in Protected Landscapes can be listed as follows: Solway Coast AONB; Forest of Bowland AONB; Nidderdale AONB; Lincolnshire Wolds AONB; Norfolk Coast AONB; Dedham Vale AONB; Shropshire Hills AONB; Cotswolds AONB; Kent Downs AONB; High Weald AONB; Blackdown Hills AONB; East Devon AONB; South Devon AONB; Tamar Valley AONB; Cornwall AONB; North Devon AONB. It should be noted that some of these areas will have seen fieldwork previously, for example the Solway Estuary AONB was covered systematically as part of the Roman Military North Project which covered both Hadrian's Wall and its extension along the Cumbrian coast.

### 3.2 The National Mapping Programme

The National Mapping Programme currently provides coverage of some 38% of England, with an aim to complete 40% by 2010. Current NMP coverage is shown in Figure 2. At present a number of Protected Landscapes have been partly covered by the NMP but require completion: these include

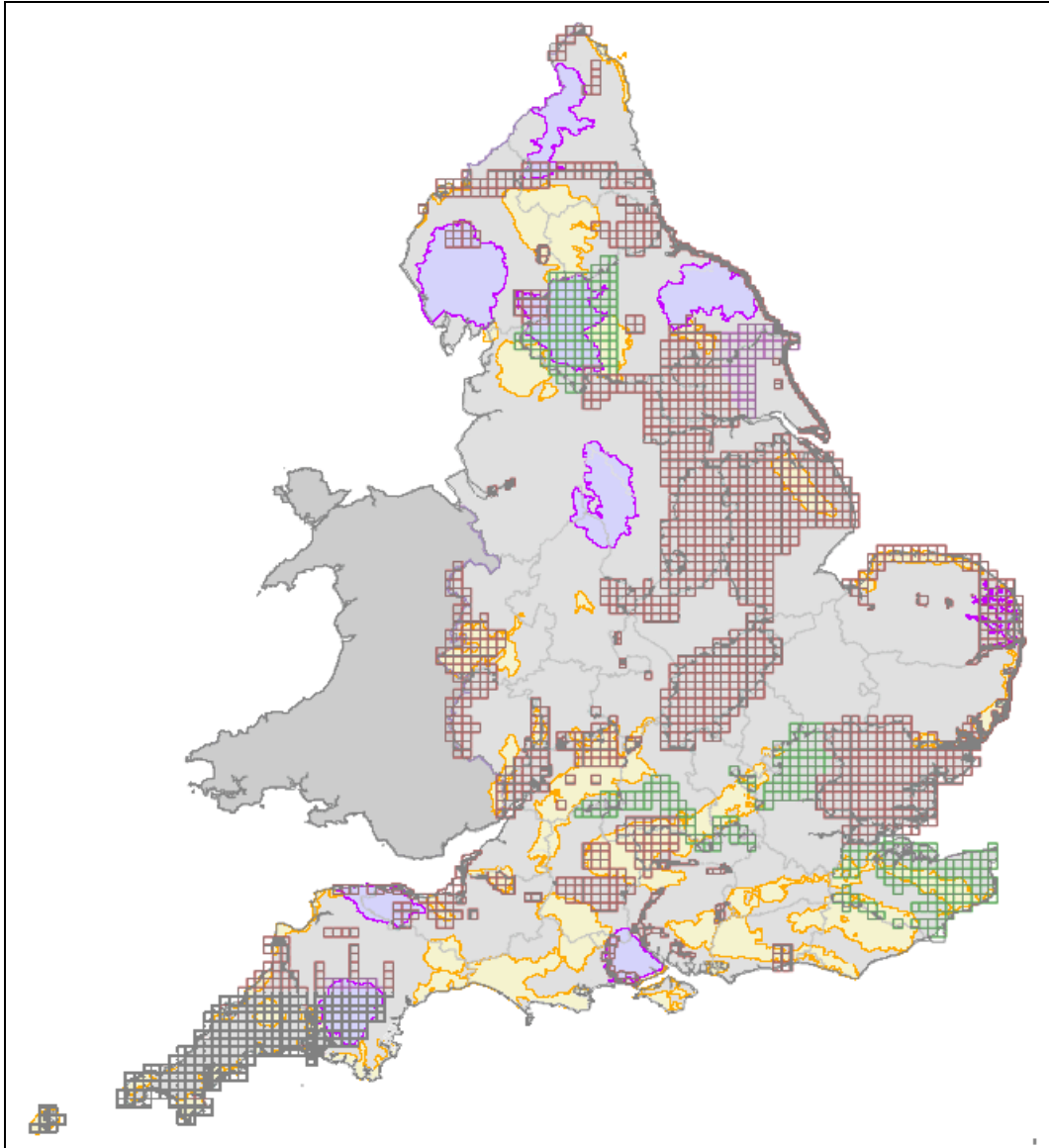


Figure 2: National Mapping Programme coverage at September 2008

much of the Lake District NP; Nidderdale AONB; the North York Moors NP; Wye Valley AONB; South Downs candidate NP; and the North Devon AONB. The Protected Landscapes which have not been covered so far by the NMP are: Forest of Bowland AONB; Dorset AONB; Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB; Blackdown Hills AONB; East Devon AONB; Isle of Wight AONB; South Downs candidate NP; Surrey Hills AONB; South Devon AONB and the High Weald AONB.

### 3.3 Historic Landscape Characterisation

The Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme currently has an extensive coverage of the country, either as completed projects or ongoing work. Current coverage is shown in Figure 3. The only major gap that presently exists amongst the Protected Landscapes is the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. A project covering parts of the North Wessex Downs is currently under way.

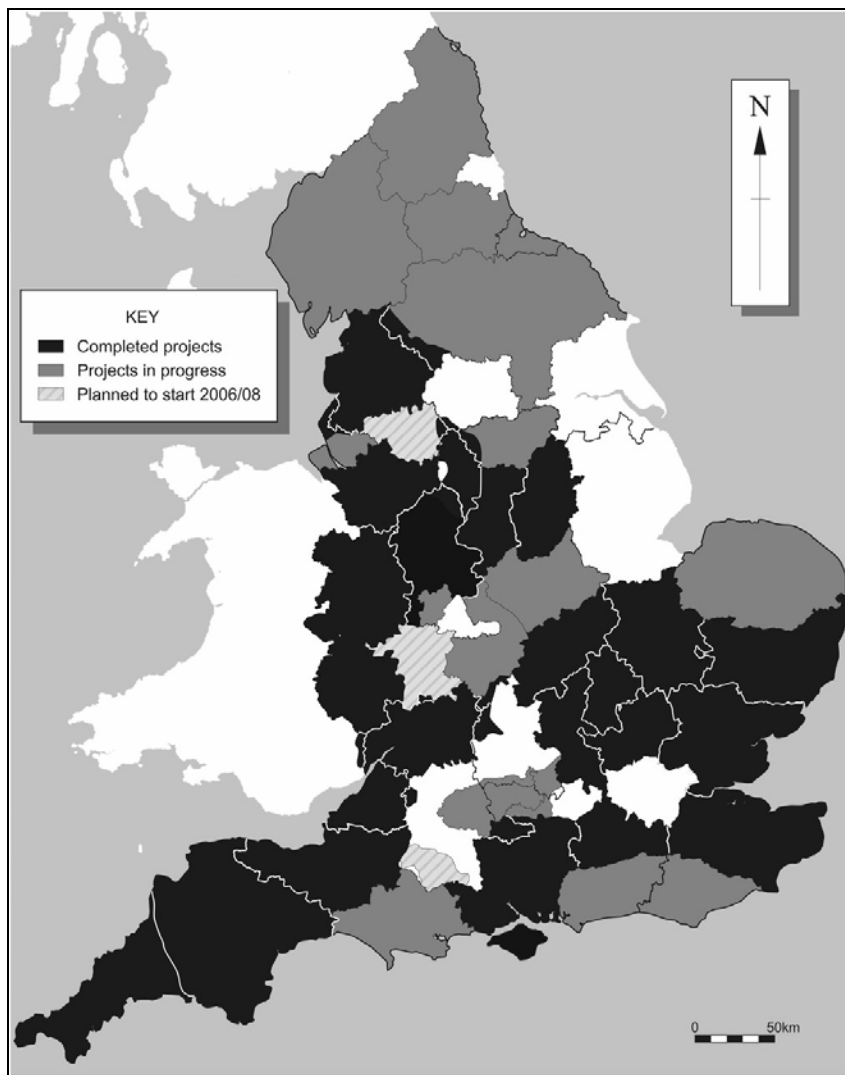


Figure 3: Historic Landscape Characterisation coverage at March 2007

### 3.4 Farmsteads Characterisation

English Heritage and Natural England have issued a joint policy on farm buildings, *Living Buildings in a Living Landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings* (2006) which recommends that approaches and solutions to managing future change must take account of regional and local diversity and circumstances - differences in patterns of settlement, redundancy, dereliction and conversion, and in farmstead and building character. They must then take stock of the implications this has in terms of strategies for re-use. Future change must meet the common objective, as defined in national policy and guidance, of sustaining the character and local distinctiveness of areas and landscapes. In order to do this, we must design and demonstrate new character-based methods that enable users to understand individual sites in their local-regional-national context and demonstrate – in a wide range of scenarios from strategic planning to applications for adaptive reuse - an understanding of local character and issues, and the capacity to change.

Pilot work in Hampshire, Sussex and the High and Low Weald of Kent has explored and refined methods for the rapid mapping of farmsteads by date, survival and type in relationship to historically conditioned landscape character and type and to their broader social and economic context. See [www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation) for further details on this work. English Heritage Characterisation Team has worked closely with the High Weald AONB in order to apply the results of this mapping, and of character area descriptions, to informing change at the level of strategic and site-based planning. This will be published as a user manual and Assessment Framework in 2008 after

further refinement with key partners. Farmsteads mapping is complete in the South Downs AONB, East Hampshire AONB and part of North Wessex Downs AONB and the New Forest National Park. In 2008 it will be extended across the whole West Midlands, and will cover all AONBs in that region, and across the North Pennines AONB. The mapping data will be matched to address change data, and spatial research on social and economic issues.

### 3.5 Regional Environmental Reviews and assessing the palaeoenvironmental resource

English Heritage's Regional Reviews for Environmental Archaeology establish the state of knowledge and research priorities for the discipline. Reviews of work on invertebrate remains across the different regions are largely complete. A review of pollen work in the southern Region is nearing completion, and reviews for both the Midlands and North England are in progress. Future research in protected landscapes must be informed by, and take into account, the potential of and threats to the palaeoenvironmental resource within National Parks in particular.

### 3.6 Geographical Coverage

Table 2 shows which Protected Landscapes have seen extensive mapping or characterisation and intensive field survey, and identifies the main geographical gaps in our knowledge. Those areas which have had little or no coverage or investigation must be priorities for future work, taking into account the need to respond to specific threats and other drivers and research issues as set out in Section 4. Consequently, landscapes which have had neither the benefit of NMP recording nor detailed, intensive analytical field survey, must be regarded as high priorities for future programmes of research.

Protected Landscape	NMP	HLC	Field Survey
Arnside & Silverdale AONB	x		x
Blackdown Hills AONB	x		x
Broads NP			x
Cannock Chase AONB	x		x
Chichester Harbour AONB	x		x
Chilterns AONB			
Cornwall AONB			x
Cotswolds AONB			x
Cranborne Chase & West Wilts AONB	x		x
Dartmoor NP			○
Dedham Vale AONB			x
Dorset Coast AONB	x		
East Devon AONB	x		x
East Hampshire AONB	x		x
Exmoor NP			
Forest of Bowland AONB			x
High Weald AONB			x
Howardian Hills AONB			
Isles of Scilly AONB			
Isle of Wight AONB	x		
Kent Downs AONB			x
Lake District NP			
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB		x	x
Peak District NP	x		
Malvern Hills AONB			
Mendips AONB			○

New Forest NP			
Nidderdale AONB	x		x
Northumberland Coast AONB	x		x
North Devon AONB	x		x
North Kent Downs AONB			x
North Norfolk Coast AONB			x
North Pennines AONB	x		○
Northumberland NP	x		
North Wessex Downs AONB	x		x
North York Moors NP	x		
Quantocks AONB			
Shropshire Hills AONB			
Solway Estuary AONB			x
South Devon AONB	x		x
South Downs candidate NP	x		○
Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB			
Surrey Hills AONB	x		
Sussex Downs AONB			
Tamar Valley AONB			x
Wye Valley AONB			
Yorkshire Dales NP			

Table 2 key: Current state of project or programme coverage in Protected Landscapes (x = gaps in NMP and HLC programmes, or lack of recent intensive fieldwork; ○ = current major field investigation projects).

#### 4. PRIORITIES FOR HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

##### 4.1 A Flexible and Responsive Approach

Protected Landscapes comprise a diverse and varied resource, including a wide range of topographies and historic environments characteristic of the best of regional types. Archetypal landforms, settlement patterns and varied habitats all illustrate a palimpsest of environmental change and human impact and can thus be viewed as regional ‘type-sites’ at a landscape level.

Regional distinctiveness is a strong characteristic of Protected Landscapes and something which is rightly celebrated in the way these landscapes are managed and presented to visitors. By adopting a broad landscape approach to research, a more informed – and contextualised – understanding of the nature and time-depth of human interaction with the landscape will be achieved. Regional distinctiveness may drive the development of generic strategies to deliver the individual conservation needs of Protected Landscapes.

Priorities for research in protected landscapes therefore need to be defined within a flexible framework that will allow the direction of limited resources to those areas where the immediate and long-term benefits will be greatest, while retaining the ability to respond to specific drivers, needs and circumstances within a coherent national approach which balances the needs of research, conservation management and responses to threat where these are not separately provided for.

Integral to this must be the alignment of extensive and intensive approaches, and targeted inter-disciplinary investigation at the appropriate scale, deploying the range of techniques required by need and project aims rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Research activity should seek to demonstrate to the widest constituency the value of heritage and to illustrate what is particular and special about Protected Landscapes.

## 4.2 Pressures and Drivers for Change

It is possible to identify a number of key drivers for change and pressures on the historic environment of Protected Landscapes, response to which will govern the need for enhanced understanding and research:

### 4.2.1 Uplands

Protected Landscapes (both AONBs and National Parks) include 74% of those areas formally defined as “uplands” (Severely Disadvantaged Areas) in England. Farming in upland landscapes is marginal and will be subject to significant pressures in coming decades from, for example, climate change and the Common Agricultural Policy. This is likely to result in the large-scale merger of farm holdings, with increased redundancy of traditional farm buildings and reduced maintenance of historic landscape features, such as traditional boundaries. Grazing will be significantly reduced and land may be abandoned or subject to ‘re-wilding’, as is currently occurring in SW England. This increases the risk of reduced visibility and physical damage to relict and cultural landscape features as a result of vegetation growth, and a higher incidence of wild fires. Increased emphasis on water and carbon management is stimulating action to conserve and enhance upland wetlands and peats, an example being the MIRE project on Exmoor.

### 4.2.2 Lowlands

The profitability of arable farming is likely to remain high over the medium to long term as a result of continuing high demand for cereals and bio-fuel production. Arable production may therefore intensify further and expand into areas previously taken out of production or under long term pasture. Depending on market factors, biomass production from Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) and *Miscanthus sp.* may expand significantly, with impacts on the archaeological resource and historic landscape character. There will be increased emphasis on the need to conserve soil and protect water resources.

### 4.2.3 Coasts

With rising sea levels, flood and erosion risks will increase and there will be greater emphasis on pro-active managed realignment schemes such as managed retreat. The setting of long-term policy outcomes for the coast will become a matter of major public debate, particularly in areas of eastern England. The coastal, inter-tidal and marine continuum will present particular challenges for those charged with managing these areas which holistic research strategies can begin to tackle.

### 4.2.4 Vernacular Architecture

This comprises a poorly-understood but important element of the cultural landscape. In accessible countryside, pressures to convert farm buildings to residential and other uses will continue. In less accessible and pastoral areas dereliction or demolition of redundant and unconverted buildings will persist, although some building materials might be re-cycled.

### 4.2.5 Settlements

Pressure for housing, including affordable housing, in historic market towns and villages will intensify. New development and services will be concentrated in existing settlements in order to meet sustainability objectives, neglecting the dispersed historic settlement patterns of many rural areas. There will be further pressure to make substantial numbers of parish churches redundant.

### 4.2.6 Responses to Climate Change



Protected Landscapes will face increased pressure for major wind energy schemes, energy crop projects and local heat and power schemes, with attendant below ground infrastructure. “Micro-renewable” energy installations will impact on local vernacular buildings and concerns about the energy efficiency of the traditional building stock will intensify. The threat of increased biofuel production, particularly from *Miscanthus sp.* production, may affect greater areas of the lowlands as fossil fuels become less dependable and such production becomes an important element of energy provision. Changed patterns or precipitation may lead to direct impacts from increased run-off and flooding. Sea level change and its impact upon coastal regions and the intertidal zone mesh with the focus of English Heritage’s Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments, although certain key areas may require more detailed research to address specific issues once the baseline data has been assessed.

#### 4.2.7 Access

Enhanced public access to the countryside and coast may provide new opportunities for understanding and enjoying the historic environment, although this will need to be managed against concerns about sustainable travel. Access will increasingly be linked with social inclusion and health agendas.

#### 4.2.8 Policy

The function and benefits of landscape designations will come under increasing scrutiny, with the response to climate change being a major driver of change. The purpose of Heritage Coasts and the distinctions between AONBs and National Parks may be the focus of considerable debate. Significant new designations will be unlikely.

### 4.3 Research Priorities

Consultation within English Heritage, with the historic environment advisers of the English National Parks and with the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty has identified a series of priorities for historic environment research in protected landscapes. These are set out in more detail below.

Priorities within protected landscapes also intersect with, and are supported by, the objectives of our strategic research programmes, such as Heritage at Risk, Historic Landscape Characterisation, the National Mapping Programme, our Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys, our wetland strategy and our assessment of the impacts of cultivation on the archaeological resource. In addition to these programmes - and drawing on the results of consultation - English Heritage considers the highest priorities for our own investment over the next five years within the family of protected landscapes should be accorded to:

- protected landscapes which have not been the focus of modern survey and in which the historic environment is poorly understood
- protected landscapes in which our regional teams consider research will deliver significant benefits in delivering enhanced management in line with our Heritage at Risk strategy
- protected landscapes in which changes to grazing, bracken and scrub growth, and re-wilding proposals could reduce the legibility and public amenity of important historic landscapes or pose threats to their continued conservation
- the industry of marginal Areas and post-industrial Landscapes
- the sensitivity of protected landscapes and their settlements to climate change

#### 4.3.1 Industry in Marginal Areas and Post-Industrial Landscapes

The study of poorly understood rural industries, or industrial remains which face increasing threat through redevelopment, visitor pressure, erosion or climate change. Such research will inform understanding of the role of industry in shaping both the natural environment and settlement

patterns. Industrial remains present a range of specific management challenges in terms of both the archaeology and the environmental setting. Many abandoned rural industries are classified as 'brown-field' sites in planning terms, despite lying within the boundaries of protected landscapes and therefore require particular consideration for conservation and management.

#### 4.3.2 The Legacy of Historic Agriculture

Priorities include studying the regionality of field wall construction techniques to inform conservation strategies, analysing the relationships and associations of stone walls to elucidate the evolution of the enclosed field systems, studying regional diversity of hedgerows, and developing a dry-stone wall toolkit to cover survey techniques, evaluation methodology and related conservation recommendations.

#### 4.3.3 Bracken Growth Impacts on Archaeological Sites

The intrusive penetration of bracken root systems is highly detrimental to the survival of many sites and monuments in upland areas. In addition, bracken growth can obscure archaeological remains and relict landscape features, preventing discovery and impeding legibility of the historic landscape. Work is needed to provide a baseline assessment of impact and to establish good practice in countering bracken infestation.

#### 4.3.4 Animal Grazing Impacts on Archaeological Sites and Landscapes

Detailed condition surveys and periodic monitoring to inform conservation strategies for landscape and monuments or monuments located in areas of active grazing regimes and inform strategies to mitigate against hoof damage

#### 4.3.5 Impacts of Increasing Scrub Growth due to Changes in Grazing Regimes

Since the disastrous effect of Foot and Mouth disease on some herds and flocks (for example on Skiddaw), which has eradicated animal grazing over important historic environments, scrub growth now threatens the integrity of some sites and monuments. There is a growing need for detailed and rapid condition assessments, baseline recording, and the development of prioritisation strategies to inform management. Conversely, research may also identify where vegetation growth is beneficial as a means of reducing hoof damage to archaeological sites and monuments. This is an issue most relevant to National Parks and upland AONBs.

#### 4.3.6 Impacts of Tourism on Sensitive Sites

Assessment of the impact of visitor erosion at key sites, monuments and landscapes, and provide expert advice or detailed investigation to inform conservation and management strategies and to enhance public understanding.

#### 4.3.7 The Study of Vernacular Architecture in Protected Landscapes

Vernacular architecture is often poorly represented in statutory lists, is generally poorly understood, yet it forms a major and important element of the cultural landscape of villages and townscapes. In more rural settings, the content and integrity of farmstead complexes helps to create the character of the local agricultural landscape, yet they have not been systematically studied nationally, although some regions are well served by recent research. Survey and characterisation of vernacular architecture and traditional farm building stock will inform management and conservation, and provide information concerning energy efficiency and sustainable re-use. This strand of research could be linked to the study of settlement patterns to inform management plans.

#### 4.3.8 Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns

The historic character of present-day settlement patterns is increasingly well understood as a result of a national characterisation exercise (cf. Roberts & Wrathmell 2003). However, much remains to be understood at the local level and current high-level understanding of settlement patterns has yet to be translated into the management plan policies of the protected landscapes. The settlement patterns over much of the uplands and across the lowlands of western and eastern England is characterised by dispersed, rather than nucleated, settlement patterns and in some protected landscapes (such as the High Weald AONB) this is a key landscape characteristic. The reconciliation of management objectives to conserve landscape character and sustainability policies based on the concentration of development and services in key settlements needs further research and discussion.

#### 4.3.9 Plough Damage to the Historic Environment

This is a major issue in many lowland AONBs. For example, the East Midlands Scheduled Monuments at Risk project identified the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB as the most heavily damaged area in the region. A better understanding is needed of the effects of deep ploughing and the resulting pressure waves on the preservation of buried archaeology, and of the impact of heavy agricultural machinery – particularly vehicular compaction of the soil structure – upon the fabric of the historic environment. English Heritage and Defra are jointly taking this forward through a separate work stream.

#### 4.3.10 Historic Routeways

Mapping, understanding and promoting positive management of historic route ways (land and water) in ways that contribute to the National Parks' second purpose: 'Promoting understanding and enjoyment ...'

#### 4.3.11 Sensitivity to Climate Change

This strategy recognises the threat to the historic environment posed by climate change, while acknowledging that the impacts have yet to be fully understood and quantified. The threat of erosion to coastal areas, particularly in East Anglia and the Broads, or through increased precipitation leading to flooding in places such as the North Pennines AONB, are both significant and wide reaching issues. The threat of increased temperatures leading to both vegetation change and adjustments to agricultural regimes will all impact upon the sustainability of Protected Landscapes, and conservation organisations must anticipate introducing preventative or remedial strategies to mitigate against this. In addition, the drive towards the adoption of alternative or renewable energy sources will also necessitate further mitigation to anticipate not only the impact of the footprint of these facilities upon the landscape, but the necessary infrastructure to support them, including road networks, pipelines and power conduits.

### 4.4 Big Issues

By reason of special status and exemplary character, historic environment research in Protected Landscapes has high potential to inform broader issues and wider debates:

#### 4.4.1 Responses to Climate Change

See also 4.3.11 above. This strategy seeks to develop a holistic strategy to provide multi-disciplinary research to where it is most needed in Protected Landscapes, and to produce exemplars which might inform national strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change and where possible provide the data to create sustainability in the historic environment.

#### 4.4.2 Impacts of Past Climate Change

The study of Protected Landscapes through palaeoenvironmental studies can offer insights into how climate has varied over time and how human communities have coped with changes ranging from the relative warmth of the Bronze Age (c. 2300-800 BC) through to the severity of the Little Ice Age during the Medieval period (c. AD 1250-1850). Such data can develop scientific debates, raise public awareness, and inform decision makers (English Heritage 2008, 9-10).

#### 4.4.3 Rural Affairs

In the debate about the changing countryside and farming practices, etc, Protected Landscapes can illustrate the variety and scale of human impacts upon the English landscape. Historic agriculture, industry and settlement have changed the landscape to such an extent that arguably very little can be regarded as truly 'natural'. The policy paper Future Strategy for English Heritage Involvement in Rural Affairs identifies the various processes operating in the countryside that are 'likely to put pressure on the historic resource'. Key initiatives relevant to Protected Landscapes include the new Defra agri-environment schemes and the Scheduled Monuments at Risk projects, but as the policy paper points out we urgently need 'baseline and time series data for the undesignated historic environment'. This Research Strategy promotes the delivery of comprehensive baseline data for all Protected Landscapes. In tandem, holistic, multi-disciplinary and innovative research on the rural historic environment will form an essential part of understanding and promoting the well-being of the heritage stock in these designated areas.

#### 4.4.4 Integration of historic environment and natural environment conservation agendas

Integration of historic environment and natural environment conservation strategies highly desirable. Sometimes tensions, for example re-watering and re-wilding, but increasing dialogue and integration will allow conflicting interests to be balanced within coherent sustainable approach. Specific issues which may repay attention include guidance on the conservation of historic woodland, an assessment of the regional diversity of hedgerows, and the study of mineral (mining waste) tolerant species.

#### 4.4.5 Economic Sustainability

Protected Landscapes provides excellent opportunities to inform current debates on resource depletion, recycling and environmental degradation through longer-term perspectives on human impact on the environment. The study of landscape scarring from past agricultural practices in now marginal zones, failed or abandoned industries, and the deserted settlements of lost communities can all illustrate the periodic and precarious nature of human colonisation.

#### 4.4.6 Changes in Land Management

The restructuring of farming, particularly in upland areas; increasingly pro-active landscape measures to conserve, create or recreate habitats such as wetlands, heathlands and "wildwood"; and measures to reduce stocking densities in order to reduce damage to habitats from over-grazing promote may cause significant land-use change in protected landscapes in the next few decades. These changes may not always be best suited to the conservation, legibility, and public enjoyment of important historic landscapes. Further research is required to enhance the information base and the understanding of potential impacts in order to plan land-use change that balances all environmental interests in protected landscapes.

### 4.5 Under-studied Areas and Regional Priorities

As shown above (3.1-3.6 and Table 2) there are some significant gaps in geographical coverage of Protected Landscapes by the National Mapping Programme and Historic Landscape Characterisation, and areas where there has been no intensive field investigation (or none in recent years). These are therefore priority candidates for future work, especially where there is a need for an enhanced understanding of the historic environment to inform Management Plans.

English Heritage Regional Advice & Grants Teams have identified the following priorities for historic environment research in Protected Landscapes:

North-West: Lake District National Park – research to inform and support the WHS bid  
Yorkshire & Humberside: Modelling upland landscapes and their archaeology for fire risk  
East: Norfolk Coast AONB and Norfolk Broads National Park  
South-West: Dartmoor National Park – Premier Archaeological Landscapes

Work is currently under way to address the priorities identified by North-West, East and South-West Regions.

Suggested priority areas for future projects are set out in Appendix I.

#### **4.6 Determining Priority Areas and Projects**

Decisions on where to target resources in future will take in to account the priorities and issues identified above, and will be governed by five guiding principles:

- whether there is a threat to the survival of heritage assets, the nature of that threat, the timescale of its impact, and the relative significance of the asset(s);
- priority will be given to those heritage assets, buildings or areas which have not been previously studied or are poorly understood, and form significant gaps in our knowledge and consequent ability to define and manage the heritage stock;
- the proposed research should underpin and help to deliver enhanced management strategies through programmes of designation;
- the proposed research will inform the sustainability debate;
- the proposed research should engage local communities and / or create opportunities to train fellow professionals to help skill the sector.

Within this framework, decisions on individual projects, and levels of support, will be case-specific and informed by context. Proposed projects will be assessed against the following criteria, balancing need, benefit, risk and added value:

- is the protected landscape in question poorly-understood or under-researched? (for example, the Blackdown Hills AONB and Cannock Chase AONB: see section 3 and Table 2 above).
- is there a manifest threat to the historic environment?
- does the project address the priorities for historic environment research in protected landscapes identified above?
- does the project address other priorities for English Heritage and the sector?
- is there a clearly expressed mechanism for translating research results into enhanced management? Will the project contribute to the Protected Landscape Authority's Management Plan within the current cycle?
- what resources will partners bring to the project? will English Heritage involvement leverage in third-party funding?
- will there be community engagement ?
- are there opportunities for capacity-building?

The National Mapping Programme and Historic Landscape Characterisation are national programmes with their own strategies and priorities. Where possible, however, their future implementation will address priorities for Protected Landscapes and give these priority over undesignated areas. The National Mapping Programme Strategy for 2008-13 is explicitly aligned with this strategy document (Horne 2008).

Field survey and investigation projects are more likely to be given a high priority if they are integrated with, or build on the results of, aerial analysis and mapping and Historic Landscape Characterisation, and if they are genuinely inter-disciplinary.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Governance and Resources**

#### **5.1.1 Management and Co-ordination**

Delivery will be through a programme of field investigation projects under SHAPE sub-programme 23111.110 (2.3 above), as far as possible aligned with and building upon the results of the National Mapping Programme and Historic Landscape Characterisation. Current projects and those under formal consideration are set out in Appendix I.

Projects, whether commissioned externally or undertaken in-house by English Heritage expert teams, will be developed and managed according to MoRPHE (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment), and to the documented procedures for English Heritage Research Department and the programmes run by the Historic Environment Commissions Team. These provide robust and tested mechanism for quality-assurance and value for money, including the peer-review of outputs.

Internal delivery will be led by Research Department, with co-ordination of the programme undertaken by the Head of Archaeological Survey and Investigation. This will require close liaison and consultation with key external stakeholders, and across English Heritage, in particular with expert teams in Research & Standards Group, Heads of Research Policy and other strategy and policy leads, expert staff in Advice & Grants Regional Teams and Regional Science Advisors, and Heritage Protection Department.

The key internal relationships, however, will be with the Rural Policy Team in Policy & Communications Group, and with the English Heritage Rural Affairs Strategy Group. The Head of Rural Policy owns the corporate relationship with National Park and AONB authorities. The Rural Affairs Strategy Group provides a forum with representation across English Heritage, giving the necessary wider ownership. The Group will facilitate information exchange, be involved on horizon-scanning and in identifying and forging external links and partnerships, and will advise on priorities, content and delivery.

The key external relationships will be with historic environment and conservation staff in the Protected Landscape authorities. Regular liaison, in particular through the annual meetings to monitor progress with both National Park and AONB accords, and the annual meeting of National Park historic environment advisers is fundamental to successful delivery through this strategy.

#### **5.2.2 Resource**

The balance of English Heritage resource allocated to research in Protected Landscapes, as against other research priorities, will be determined by Research Board.

The programme of field investigation projects will be delivered through a combination of in-house work by English Heritage specialist teams, work commissioned externally through the Historic Environment Enabling Programme and the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, and resource provided by external partners.

Typically, projects involving English Heritage expert staff will be partnerships, with English Heritage providing project management and core investigative expertise targeted at priority issues and areas, with modules commissioned from the commercial sector where English Heritage's specific skills and direct involvement are not needed, and other strands delivered by Protected Landscapes authorities and – where appropriate – local authorities, other agencies, and universities. This model underpins the delivery of English Heritage's two major current commitments to investigation in Protected Landscapes, in the Mendip Hills AONB and the North Pennines AONB.

Delivery of the National Mapping Programme and Historic Landscape Characterisation is primarily through externally-commissioned projects (through the Historic Environment Enabling Programme and Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund) with exemplary work and monitoring by English Heritage teams.

## **5.2 Casework, Heritage Protection, and Heritage at Risk.**

Implementation must be informed by and, where possible, contribute to other major priorities for English Heritage and the sector. There must be effective links with other English Heritage programmes and added value must be sought as a matter of course.

Investigation undertaken on historic assets within Protected Landscapes in support of statutory casework will enhance the baseline for understanding and management of the historic environment. Set piece investigation projects in Protected Landscapes should where possible take into account Heritage Protection issues and priorities, in particular those identified within the strategic designation programme.

English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk* initiative is initially focused on the designated heritage. Targeted investigation in Protected Landscape will enhance understanding of the character, context and condition of known designated assets, but will also identify important new assets which may qualify for designation, and significantly improve understanding of the undesignated heritage which constitutes the bulk of the historic environment.

Monuments at Risk initiatives in Protected Landscapes could focus research upon the issues of under-grazing in the uplands and plough-damage in the lowlands. Such a focus could generate an overview of current impacts upon the Historic Environment resource and model predicted levels of change in the future, thus allowing a more informed debate into the appropriateness of agri-environmental schemes and the long term sustainability of the historic environment.

## **5.3 Seeking Partnerships**

Partnerships will be the key to successful implementation, with English Heritage acting primarily as an enabler, undertaking or commissioning work where its skills and expertise, or its national remit, will make the critical difference. It is essential that the proper links are forged and maintained to other initiatives and priorities inside and outside English Heritage, ensuring that work in Protected Landscapes supports and complements broader agendas addressing the sustainability of the historic environment.

Useful joint working and partnership can span the full spectrum of engagement from projects in which English Heritage leads or is the main provider of funds, to those where we provide limited advice and support as needed to initiatives owned, funded and undertaken by other groups and agencies.

The closest and most important relationship is that with conservation staff and other specialists lodged within the various National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coasts and Local Authorities. Partnership and close liaison with conservation teams based in Protected Landscapes authorities will ensure that projects address the right local priorities, that the full range of local partners and stakeholders are properly engaged, and that there is proper consideration of natural environment conservation issues. Collaboration with Universities will create opportunities to undertake research into issues of common concern, and continued engagement with the commercial sector will ensure the delivery of mitigation and strategies to inform the greater debates of conservation and sustainability in protected landscapes.



A co-ordinated approach to joint working with agencies and policy-makers such as Defra, English Nature/Natural England and the Environment Agency will cost-effectively maximise available resources and strengthen links with those whose work has an impact on the management of Protected Landscapes. Major rural landowners, whether focused on conservation (e.g. the National Trust), commercial development (e.g. quarry companies), or the military (MoD), are also important potential partners.

Contacts with Protected Landscape Authorities in Wales, Scotland and Ireland should be maintained and developed, and the European Landscape Convention establishes a framework for communication and co-operation with European partners. There may also be a value to forging links with relevant bodies in the USA and Canada, if only for information exchange: many of the management issues facing Protected Landscapes are shared across both Europe and the North American continent.

#### **5.4 Raising Awareness**

As part of the outreach element within the Research Strategy for Protected Landscapes, it will be important to raise awareness of all forms of designated landscapes and their relevance and interest more widely within EH, government, Local Authorities and the educational sector. Five specific tasks might be suggested:

Ensuring Protected Landscapes maintain a place in future EH strategy documents. Making sure different departments and teams within the organisation co-operate and use each other's results and resources will be a crucial element. Effective cross-organisational communications will ensure the delivery of carefully focussed, cutting-edge, multi-disciplinary programmes.

Developing outreach and educational programmes to enhance public understanding and enjoyment of the rich diversity of Protected Landscapes through leaflets, accessible books, promotional events, guided tours, etc.

Working with internal and external partners (e.g. EH Education Team, CBA Education officers, and regional and national learned Societies) to establish guidelines and strategies for teaching and promoting Protected Landscapes, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that Protected Landscapes are included more fully within the National Curriculum.

Working with local conservation staff and others to aid the dissemination of the results of research and fieldwork, whether developer-funded, university-based or commissioned by EH.

Developing links with other specialisms and government-funded agencies to demonstrate the relevance of research into Protected Landscapes to many of the long-term challenges facing modern society, such as climate change or economic sustainability.

#### **5.5 Engaging Audiences**

This strategy seeks to develop methods to engage the widest range of audiences as part of the delivery of the corporate strategy linked to Building Partnerships, Raising Awareness, and Dissemination. Through raising awareness and building partnerships at carefully focussed events such as day schools, guided tours, Festival of History, National Archaeology Week, etc, both public (local and national) and specialist groups (e.g. MoD and industry) can be drawn into strategies of collective, intellectual stewardship of the historic environment in Protected Landscapes. Such engagement can range from stimulating research and developing understanding, to direct engagement with issues of management and sustainability. Such a programme would enhance research engagement and capacity in the third sector, while genuinely improving long-term sustainability through local community commitment and engagement. Dissemination of the results of such activity can then be used as exemplars to inform and stimulate further engagement.

## **5.6 Building Capacity**

Building capacity is key to securing sustainable stewardship of the historic environment. When undertaking or supporting historic environment research in Protected Landscapes, English Heritage will seek to build in training and knowledge transfer to all projects. The current North Pennines AONB project delivers this to the commercial sector by contracting out elements of the field investigation programme to a commercial unit whose staff undertake the work with guidance and mentoring from English Heritage expert staff. Similar support for community and voluntary groups, as in the Mendip Hills, South Downs and South Dorset projects, has been successful both in delivering the projects' research and management goals, and in building local expertise and commitment.

## **5.7 Continuous Development**

Research will be delivered within a management culture committed to continuous development. Projects will develop and test new methods, applications and practise in field investigation, and in the dissemination and application of results. Current initiatives include the use of GPS and hand-held GIS in the field, which allows rapid and accurate survey of extensive landscapes, and promises enormous benefits in data handling, analysis and dissemination, and the integration of extensive characterisation and mapping techniques with the results of intensive investigation.

As a guiding principle, research in Protected Landscapes undertaken or supported by English Heritage will always seeks to build on the aggregate of knowledge and experience, so that individual projects are complementary in addressing research priorities and big issues, and the programme is thus more than the sum of its parts. Projects will seek to inform general issues across more than one authority, landscape, or issue.

## **5.8 Dissemination**

Dissemination strategies will be agreed for each project. Different strands of a single project, which may be delivered by different partners, may have discrete dissemination strategies and outputs targeted to specific goals and audiences. For example:

- accessible publications, backed by web resources as appropriate, aimed at public and local community audiences
- the dissemination of results and syntheses in monographs and refereed journals aimed at professional and academic audiences
- detailed findings on condition, character, vulnerability etc to inform conservation strategies and Management Plans
- higher-level findings and syntheses will inform policy and strategy documents

The use of web resources will be investigated wherever possible, and archive materials signposted. Where ever possible, access will be enabled through the NMR / Heritage Portal and the Historic Environment Records.

As noted above (5.4-5), this strategy seeks to embed outreach and dissemination through the active provision of lectures, public and professional events where possible, and building on partnership and local links, to reach as wide an audience as possible.

## **5.9 Consultation and Review**

This strategy will be mounted on the English Heritage website and will be considered a live document. Priorities and programmes will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary. Delivery of projects, programmes and research will be monitored through both appropriate internal EH mechanisms and the formal flowline established to deliver action on the National Park and AONB accords.

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## APPENDIX I. Current and proposed projects, and suggested priority areas, in Protected Landscapes Research (SHAPE 23111.110)

### CURRENT PROJECTS

#### **HIDDEN DARTMOOR (Proj No 4902).**

**Progress:** Fieldwork complete, monograph in preparation and scheduled for publication in 2010.

**Aims:** Undertaken to inform conservation, management and presentation strategies.

**Research Priorities:** Industry in Marginal Areas and Post-Industrial Landscapes (4.3.1); The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Major Partners:** Dartmoor National Park and Ministry of Defence.

#### **DARTMOOR PREMIER ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES (Proj No 4903).**

**Progress:** Completion of project in 2010.

**Aims:** Undertaken to address management and conservation issues as part of the pan-organisational Dartmoor Futures Project.

**Research Priorities:** The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Plough Damage to the Historic Environment (4.3.9).

**Big Issues:** Responses to Climate Change (4.4.1); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Major Partners:** Dartmoor National Park, English Nature and DEFRA.

#### **MENDIPS HILLS AONB (Proj No 4904).**

**Progress:** Fieldwork complete March 09, book preparation complete March 2010.

**Aims:** Undertaken to provide AONB with management and conservation data.

**Research Priorities:** Industry in Marginal Areas and Post-Industrial Landscapes (4.3.1); The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); The Study of Vernacular Architecture in Protected Landscapes (4.3.7); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Responses to Climate Change (4.4.1); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Major partners:** the AONB Authority, Somerset County Council.

#### **SOUTH DOWNS CANDIDATE NATIONAL PARK (Proj No 4575).**

**Progress:** Fieldwork complete March 09, various publications/web dissemination by April 2010.

**Aims:** Project undertaken to input to management, conservation and interpretation strategies.

**Research Priorities:** The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); The Study of Vernacular Architecture in Protected Landscapes (4.3.7); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Responses to Climate Change (4.4.1); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Major partners:** Hants and Sussex County Councils, AONB Authorities, Forestry Commission, Sussex Archaeological Society, Lewes Archaeological Group.

#### **SOUTH DORSET AONB (Proj No 4901).**

**Progress:** Project complete, journal papers in preparation.

**Aims:** Project undertaken as a Community Archaeological Project to engage and skill local communities.

**Research Priorities:** The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); Impacts of Tourism on Sensitive Sites (4.3.6); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5).

**Major partners:** the AONB Authority

#### **MINER-FARMER LANDSCAPES OF THE NORTH PENNINES AONB (Proj No 5330).**

**Progress:** Preliminary fieldwork underway, to complete in 2012.

**Aims:** Undertaken to address major management and conservation concerns such as upland erosion and flooding

**Research Priorities:** Industry in Marginal Areas and Post-Industrial Landscapes (4.3.1); The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); Bracken Growth Impacts on Archaeological Sites (4.3.3); The Study of Vernacular Architecture in Protected Landscapes (4.3.7); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Historic Routeways (4.3.10); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Responses to Climate Change (4.4.1); Impacts of Past Climate Change (4.4.2); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Major partners:** the North Pennines AONB Authority, Ministry of Defence, Natural England, Birmingham University, British Geological Society.

#### **WHITLEY CASTLE (North Pennines AONB) (Proj No 5539).**

**Progress:** Fieldwork complete, report preparation underway.

**Aims:** Project undertaken to provide understanding and contextualisation to underpin site management and presentation proposals.

**Research Priorities:** The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Historic Routeways (4.3.10); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Impacts of Past Climate Change (4.4.2); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Major partners:** the North Pennines AONB Authority.

### **PROPOSED PROJECTS**

**Suggested Priority Areas:** by addressing specific types of environment or habitat, these suggested projects have the capacity to be used as exemplars for the conservation and management of similar areas nationally, and will also be able to inform national policy and strategies.

#### **ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AONB**

**Aims:** this landscape would provide opportunities to investigate a range of upland issues.

**Research Priorities:** Industry in Marginal Areas and Post-Industrial Landscapes (4.3.1); The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); The Study of Vernacular Architecture in Protected Landscapes (4.3.7); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Historic Routeways (4.3.10); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Responses to Climate Change (4.4.1); Impacts of Past Climate Change (4.4.2); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Partners:** the AONB Authority, HER, Natural England.

#### **NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AONB**

**Aims:** this area would allow the investigation of downland environments and issues.

**Research Priorities:** The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); The Study of Vernacular Architecture in Protected Landscapes (4.3.7); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Historic Routeways (4.3.10); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Responses to Climate Change (4.4.1); Impacts of Past Climate Change (4.4.2); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Partners:** the AONB Authority, HER, Natural England.

### **CHICHESTER HARBOUR AONB**

**Aims:** a study of this area would provide the opportunity to investigate issues surrounding estuarine/coastal zones, the inter-tidal zone and their hinterland.

**Research Priorities:** Industry in Marginal Areas and Post-Industrial Landscapes (4.3.1); The Legacy of Historic Agriculture (4.3.2); The Study of Vernacular Architecture in Protected Landscapes (4.3.7); Historic Settlements and Settlement Patterns (4.3.8); Historic Routeways (4.3.10); Sensitivity to Climate Change (4.3.11).

**Big Issues:** Responses to Climate Change (4.4.1); Impacts of Past Climate Change (4.4.2); Rural Affairs (4.4.3); Integration of historic environment conservation agendas (4.4.4); Economic Sustainability (4.4.5); Changes in Land Management (4.4.6).

**Partners:** the AONB Authority, HER, Natural England, Marine Archaeologists, Sussex Archaeological Society.

## APPENDIX 2 Research Frameworks

### 1 English Regional Research Frameworks

Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties (East Anglian Archaeology, 1997 [resource assessment], 2000 [research agenda and strategy]; <http://www.eaareports.org.uk>)

The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda (Leicester University Press, 2006; draft documents at <http://www.le.ac.uk>)

North-East Regional Research Framework (Document at <http://www.durham.gov.uk>)

North-West Region Archaeological Research Framework: prehistoric period research agenda (Draft document at <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk>)

South-West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Draft documents at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk>)

West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology (Seminar papers at <http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk>)

The Archaeology of Yorkshire: an assessment at the beginning of the 21st century (Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 2003 [resource assessment])

### 2 Other Areas/Landscapes in Britain (& offshore)

England's Coastal Heritage (English Heritage & RCHME, 1997)

An Archaeological Research Framework for the Greater Thames Estuary (Essex County Council, 1999)

Submarine Protected Landscapes of the North Sea: research priorities and collaboration with industry (CBA, 2004)

Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey: towards a research framework for the county (Surrey Archaeological Society, 2004)

Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: an archaeological research framework (Museum of London, 2004) ([http://www.conservancy.co.uk/environment/archaeology\\_research.htm](http://www.conservancy.co.uk/environment/archaeology_research.htm))

Dorset Coast Historic Environment Research Framework – Draft  
Wessex Archaeology, 2004; [http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/eh/dorset\\_coast](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/eh/dorset_coast))

Stonehenge World Heritage Site: an archaeological research framework (EH & Bournemouth University, 2005)

Murphy, P 2001. Review of Mollusca and Other Non-insect Invertebrates from Archaeological Sites in the west and East Midlands, and the East of England (Centre for Archaeology Report 68/2001). Unpublished report, English Heritage.

Murphy, P 2001 'Review of Wood and Macroscopic Wood Charcoal from Archaeological Sites in the Midland Region (Centre for Archaeology Report 23/2001). Unpublished report, English Heritage

Robinson, M 2003 'English Heritage Reviews of Environmental Archaeology: Midlands Region Insects (Centre for Archaeology Report 9/2003)'. Unpublished report, English Heritage

Robinson, M 2002 'English Heritage Reviews of Environmental Archaeology: Southern Region Insects (Centre for Archaeology Report 39/2002)'. Unpublished report, English Heritage

Smith, W 2002 'A Review of Archaeological Wood Analyses in Southern England (Centre for Archaeology Report 75/2002)'. Unpublished report, English Heritage

Usai, R 2005 'Geoarchaeology in Northern England I: The Landscape and Geography of Northern England (Centre for Archaeology Report 54/2005)'. Unpublished report, English Heritage

Usai, R 2002 'Northern Regional Review of Environmental Archaeology: Geoarchaeology in Northern England II: Site Review, Discussion, and Research Priorities (Centre for Archaeology Report 24/2002)'. Unpublished report, English Heritage

### 3 Periods

Research Frameworks for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of Britain and Ireland (Prehistoric Society, 1999)

Understanding the British Iron Age: an agenda for action (Wessex Archaeology, 2001)

Britons and Romans: advancing an archaeological agenda (CBA, 2001)

### 4 Habitat Types

English Heritage Strategy for Wetlands (EH, 2002)

### 5 'Historic' Documents (pre-1996)

Protected Landscapes, Priorities and Society: the way forward (Prehistoric Society, 1984)

Saving our Prehistoric Heritage: landscapes under threat (Prehistoric Society, 1988)