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Student ID: 23755194

Unit: Professional History and Heritage

Title of Assessment: Heritage Assessment Report

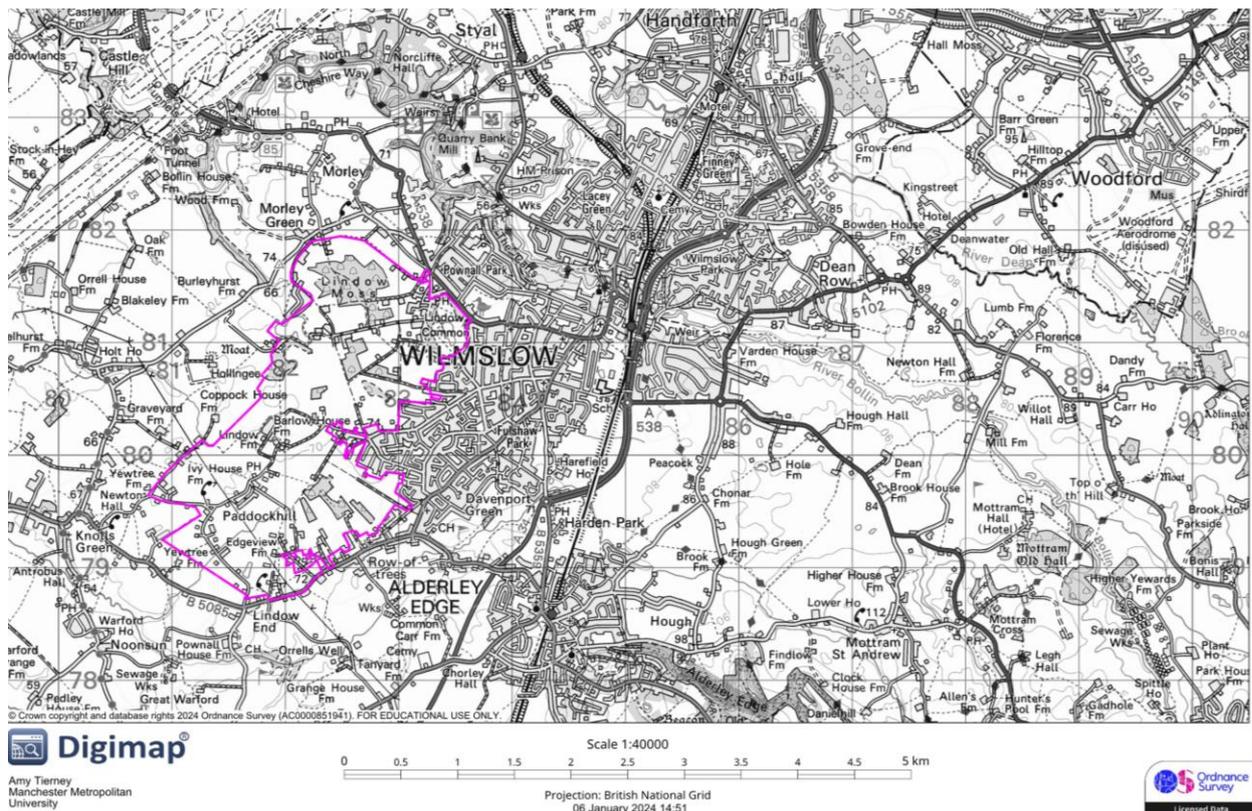
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Heritage Assessment – Lindow Moss

Background and Introduction

For this Heritage Assessment I will be looking at Lindow Moss, a lowland raised mire peat bog found in Wilmslow, Cheshire (Figure 1). This site has a vast and important intangible heritage that could be better understood as well as a tangible heritage that is under appreciated on the site. The purpose behind producing a heritage assessment for this site is to evaluate the sites environmental, historical and archaeological importance in order to analyse the proposed development and enhancement of the site by Transition Wilmslow and produce further recommendations to ensure the preservation and management of the site in the future.



(Figure 1: Current Lindow Moss Location Map, 2024)

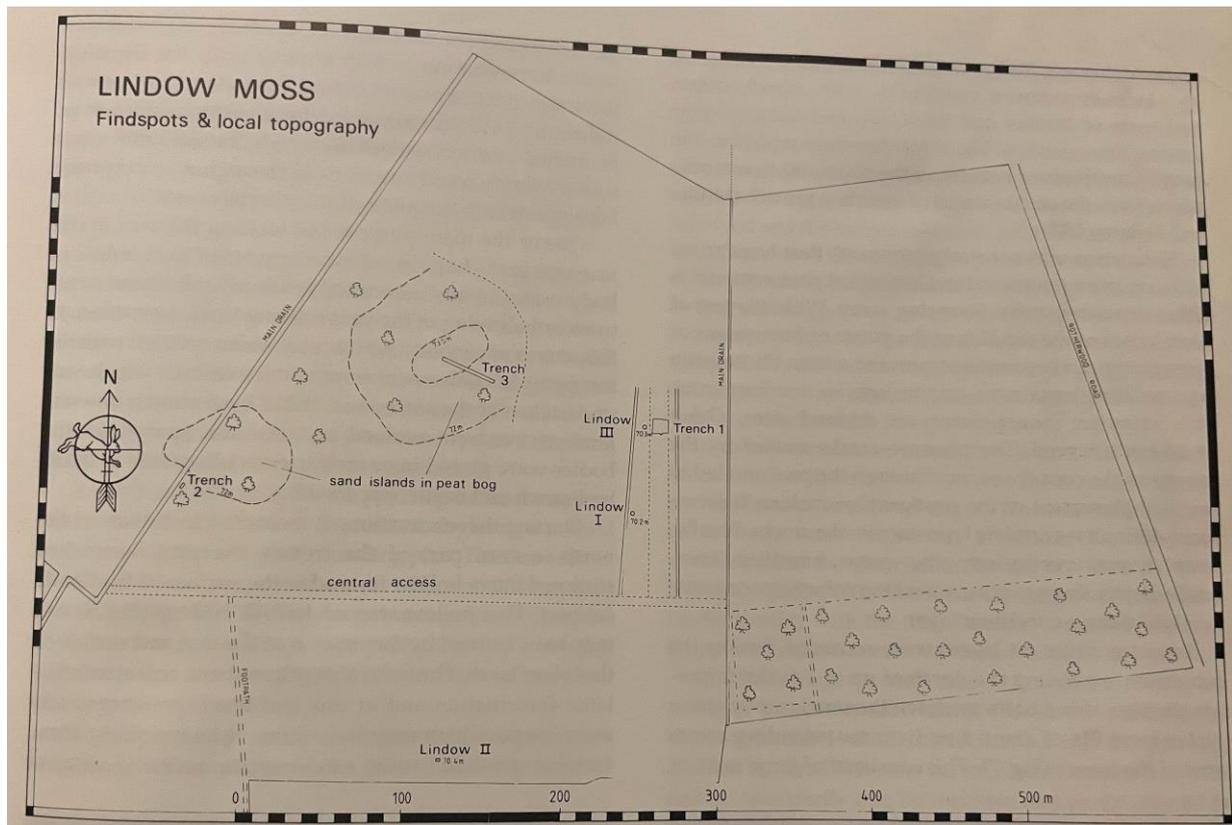
The site's scientific and environmental function has been under threat from the peat farming that has taken place in the area for centuries. The commercial peat farming that has occurred on the site for centuries has resulted in a negative effect on the landscape and the decline of the peat bogs and which have decreased the size of the site and had implications for local wildlife and environment. With the increase of global warming, the restoration of peat bogs is essential considering their role as a natural carbon catcher. This threat has been removed due to Cheshire East Council granting planning permission for a residential housing development, conditional on the ceasing of peat extraction until 2042 and restoration of the peat farm, however there is still much to do to ensure the preservation of the surrounding environment.¹

The historical and archaeological importance of the site has been undervalued, with no acknowledgement of the sites vast and rare history on the land, meaning that without having previous knowledge of Lindow Moss, the history of the area is lost to visitors. There is much that could be better understood and explored on Lindow Moss – excavations on some areas of Lindow Moss have

¹ Cheshire East Council (2019) *Notice of Decision*. Case Reference Number 15/0064M. <https://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk/applicationdetails.aspx?pr=15/0064M> (Accessed December 12 2023).

taken place after three sets of human remains dated to the Iron Age/Roman Period were discovered. These discoveries provided the grounds for County Archaeologist Rick Turner to investigate further in 1987, specifically focusing his search on two sand islands which were thought to be possible settlement sites, indicated by the trenches shown on Figure 2.² This excavation did not provide much evidence of a settlement on the site, however, the long history of Lindow Moss and the discovery of three bog bodies on the land means that discovery of other artefacts is still possible in the future. The site is home to several listed buildings and multiple archaeological findspots, the most significant of these being the spot in which the Lindow Man was found. The Lindow Man is a preserved bog body, that was found in Lindow Moss in 1984; the body is now on exhibition at the British Museum as the discovery was of international importance. The actual find spot on Lindow Moss however, has been vastly under-valued, with nothing in place currently to attest to the location of such a historically significant event. Alongside this, the site is home to a vast amount of local history and folklore forming much of the intangible heritage associated with the site, such as the traveller community's presence, Lizzie's hut and stories of the volunteer rifle range.

² Rick Turner, 'Discoveries and Excavations at Lindow Moss 1983-8', in *Bog Bodies: New Discoveries and New Perspectives*, ed. R. C. Turner and R. G. Scaife (London: British Museum Publications LTD, 1995), p. 14.



(Figure 2: The Archaeological Findspots of the Bog Bodies on Lindow Moss and Excavation Trenches on the adjacent Sand Hills).³

A number of developments to the site have been proposed by Transition Wilmslow, with an application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund currently pending (Jan 2023). Should the grant be accepted, Transition Wilmslow have proposed using the funding for a wide ranging scheme of site conservation and enhancement including the restoration of the peat bogs and the natural environment of the moss, as well as the development of pathways and information boards allowing for a number of self-guided walk routes to be established, including one that focuses on the heritage and history of the site. This heritage assessment is an important step in the work to restore and conserve the site of Lindow Moss by Transition Wilmslow as it highlights the most important areas of the site as a heritage asset, allows for a wider understanding of the condition of the site and will help to formulate a strategy for the proposed development of the site and any further recommendations within the appropriate legislative framework.

³ Turner, 'Discoveries and Excavations at Lindow Moss 1983-8', p.15.

Legislative Framework

Lindow Moss is subject to both statutory and non-statutory designations. Due to this alongside following national government legislation and guidance, it is also necessary to consult documents produced by Cheshire East Council regarding their policies on the preservation and development of the historic and natural environment.

This assessment has been carried out within the context of:

1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012.

1.1. The NPPF defines heritage assets as ‘a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.’⁴ This allows for us to follow the NPPF for both the designated and non-designated heritage assets of Lindow Moss.

1.2. Section 16 of the NPPF focusing on ‘Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment’ gives guidance to groups regarding the conservation and research of heritage assets. These include sustainable development of heritage assets, understanding the social, cultural and environmental benefits of conservation and the recognition of heritage’s value to our understanding of the past.⁵ For this heritage assessment, any proposed development on Lindow Moss will reflect the guidelines put forth by the NPPF.

This framework is relevant to this heritage assessment as any proposed developments or recommendations to the site will have to confer to the guidelines laid out in the NPPF.

2. The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2012) *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). Annex 2. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/annex-2-glossary> (Accessed December 26, 2023).

⁵ National Planning Policy Framework (2012) *Section 16*. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/16-conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment> (Accessed 26 December 2023)

2.1. According to Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, a building is listed ‘by virtue of its special architectural or historical interest’.⁶

2.2. There are four listed buildings on or surrounding the Lindow Moss site. These fall under the designated heritage assets on the site.

Name	Reference	NGR	Description
Saltersley Hall Farmhouse	1139564	SJ 8188 8099	Grade II listed building. 17 th century sandstone and whitewashed brick house with 19 th and 20 th century additions.
Barlow House Farmhouse	1139566	SJ 8189 8010	Grade II listed building. Early 17 th century house with 19 th and 20 th century additions.
Paddock Hill Cottage	1230148	SJ 8128 7957	Grade II listed building. 17 th century timber framed house with 20 th century additions.
Barn at Barlow House Farm to East of the Farmhouse	1230163	SJ 8191 8011	Grade II listed building. Early 17 th century timber framed barn with 19 th century additions

(Table 1 – Cheshire Historical Environment Record: Designation List)

2.3. Section 66 provides legislation for any planning authority on any development that affects a listed building or its setting.⁷

⁶ The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. *Chapter 1 Listing of Special Buildings, Section 1.* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/section/1>. (Accessed 27 December 2023)

⁷ The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. *Chapter 6 Miscellaneous and Supplemental, Section 66.* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/section/1>. (Accessed 27 December 2023)

For this reason, with Lindow Moss acting as the setting for these listed buildings, any developments proposed for the site will be analysed through this legislative framework, ensuring that developments do not directly or indirectly diminish the historical importance of these buildings or their setting.

3. Cheshire East Council Local Plan Strategy 2010-2023. Adopted 27 July 2017.

3.1. The Local Plan Strategy (LPS) is the regional authority on development, planning policies and proposals to ensure that any new development addresses the economic, environmental and social needs of the region. This document will be consulted to ensure that any proposals for the enhancement of Lindow Moss that require planning permission follow the guidance of Cheshire East Council.⁸

3.2. Policy SE 7 of the Local Plan Strategy titled ‘The Historic Environment’ states that “all new development should seek to avoid harm to heritage assets and make a positive contribution to the character of Cheshire East’s historic and built environment, including the setting of assets and where appropriate, the wider historic environment”.⁹ The guidance laid out in this policy include:

- Weighing the direct and indirect impacts any development will have on the site regarding harm and loss of the asset and its setting.
- Any design innovations should be married with the historic context and having a high level of design quality. Any proposed architecture not taking away from the site but respecting and enhancing the heritage and setting.

3.3. Policy SE 4 entitled ‘The Landscape’ is relevant as it attests to the policies surrounding planning focusing on the ecological and environmental importance of sites as well as the historical qualities of an area.¹⁰ This is in accordance with evidence provided by the Cheshire East Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy (2018) in which Lindow Moss is identified as a

⁸ Cheshire East Council (2017) *Local Plan Strategy 2010-2023*, p.3.
<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire-east-local-plan/local-plan-strategy/local-plan-strategy.aspx> (Accessed 22 December 2023).

⁹ Cheshire East Council (2017) *Local Plan Strategy 2010-2023, Policy SE 7: The Historic Environment*
<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire-east-local-plan/local-plan-strategy/local-plan-strategy.aspx> (Accessed 22 December 2023).

¹⁰ Cheshire East Council (2017) *Local Plan Strategy 2010-2023, Policy SE 4: The Landscape*
<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire-east-local-plan/local-plan-strategy/local-plan-strategy.aspx> (Accessed 22 December 2023).

highly distinctive landscape and a valued feature of natural heritage.¹¹ Guidance for managing and building development within landscape of Mosslands like Lindow Moss include:

- Seeking positive restoration schemes for peat extraction sites to mossland habitats and increasing opportunities for recreational use of restored sites.
- Conservation and management of the habitats, including recreating habitats that have been lost with the aim to increase the enjoyment of the site for the public.
- Promoting interpretation of the cultural heritage of the area.
- Protect the atmospheric character of the area and the sense of mystery and tranquillity it provides, including protecting areas of woodland that provide a screening function to adjacent development.

This framework is relevant for this heritage assessment as any development of the landscape will ultimately have an effect on the historic environment and character of Lindow Moss, by following this guidance it will be possible to make recommendations that respect and enhance the setting rather than distract from it.

Methods and Sources

The methodology I have followed included multiple site visits, accompanied by members of Transition Wilmslow and staff from Manchester Metropolitan University. These site visits were essential in assessing the current condition of the site alongside gaining local community and academic insight into the location, its history, the environmental aspects of the site and future proposed developments. The visits also helped to inform how future developments would affect the historic landscape and the access that would be needed for any machine dependant development to take place on site.

Any images that I have taken when undergoing a photographic survey of the site that appear in this heritage assessment were taken on an iPhone 12 and the location of these images were captured using

¹¹ Cheshire East Council (2018) *Landscape Character Assessment*, pp. 111-112.
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/heritage_natural_environment/landscape/landscape_character_assessment.aspx (Accessed 26 December 2023).

the compass app on an iPhone 12. The images show the site's conditions on an overcast, dry day in December / January.

Multiple sources have been consulted in preparation for this heritage assessment. These include;

- Academic Literature on Lindow Man and Lindow Moss - Manchester Metropolitan Library – Physical and Online.
- Newspaper Articles, Tithe Maps, Academic Literature - The Local Collection Reference Library at Wilmslow Library.
- Sale Deeds, Tithe Maps, Newspaper Articles - Cheshire Archives and Local Studies – Physical and Online.
- Primary Source Material gathered on the Lindow Moss bog bodies – British Museum – Online Catalogue.
- Surveys, Development Plans, Opinion Statement Pieces – Documents produced by Transition Wilmslow.
- Cheshire East Council Planning Applications and Local Planning Strategy – Online.
- Landscape Character Assessments – Online.
- Ordnance Survey, Historic and LiDAR mapping of the site – Digimap.
- Cheshire Historic Environment Records.
- Historic England

Limitations to the methodology included the ability to access and photograph the listed building sites as they are actively occupied.

Historical Narrative

This section will highlight the history of Lindow Moss and the importance this history. Where possible, archaeological discoveries and monuments will be identified by their Primary Reference Number (PRN) used by the Cheshire Historical Environment Record (HER). Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments will be identified by their reference number provided by Historic England. Being an undesignated site, there is a lot of local history concerned with the Lindow Moss

site and landscape that is not acknowledged in the HER, however these events are still a part of the historical narrative and will be discussed in this assessment.

Site Name	Reference	Monument Type	Summary	NGR
Paddock Hill Cottage	1384	House, Timber framed building.	17 th century timber framed building.	Centred SJ 812 795 (11m by 24m)
Possible Ancient Field Boundaries	1393	Boundary.	Field Boundaries caused by centuries of peat farming.	SJ 8 7
Saltersley Hall Farmhouse	1466/1	Double ended hall house, timber framed building.	Early post medieval house.	SJ 818 809 (22m by 25m)
Site of Farm Buildings at Saltersley Hall Farm	1466/2	Farm building and farmyard.	Post medieval farm buildings.	SJ 818 809 (69m by 34m)
Barlow House Farmhouse	1468/1/1	Farm, farmhouse.	17 th century farmhouse.	SJ 818 801
Barn at Barlow House Farmhouse	1468/1/2	Timber framed building, barn.	17 th century timber framed barn.	SJ 819 801 (38m by 14m)
Lindow Moss	1472/0/0	Enclosed Field System, In Situ Burnt Deposit, Moss Room Field System, Deposit Sequence.	Post glacial wetland with Flandrian peat deposits.	Centred SJ 8252 8041 (34411m by 3548m)
Cow Jawbone Find	1472/0/1	Findspot.	Cow Jawbone.	SJ 818 805 (point)
Lindow I, Bog Body	1473/0/1	Bog Burial.	Bog Body.	SJ 821 806 (point)
Lindow Man, Lindow II, Bog Body	1473/0/2	Bog Burial.	Bog Body.	SJ 820 805 (point)
Lindow III, Bog Body	1473/0/3	Bog Burial.	Bog Body.	SJ 821 807 (point)
Lindow IV, Bog Body	1473/0/4	Bog Burial.	Bog Body.	SJ 820 805 (point)
Excavated Ditch and Charcoal Deposits	1474/0/1	In Situ Burnt Deposit, Ditch.	Excavated Ditch and Charcoal Deposits.	SJ 818 807 (point)
Flint Scatter	1474/0/2	Flint Scatter.	Flint Scatter.	SJ 819 807 (point)
Shippon Barn, Kenyon House, Mobberley	15190	Cow House.	Early 19 th century shippon barn.	Centred SJ 8164 7868 (18m by 31m)
Peat Processing Building and Railway, Peat Farm	15216	Peat Extraction Site, Railway and Peat Store.	20 th century peat processing building and railway.	Centred SJ 8226 8032 (22m by 31m)

Early 19 th century house, Knutsford Road, Chorley	15753	House.	19 th century house.	Centred SJ 8281 7923 (19m by 14m)
Early 19 th century school, Knutsford Road, Chorley	15754	School.	19 th century school building.	Centred SJ 8270 7918 (43m by 49m)
Post Medieval buckle from Wilmslow	15790	Findspot.	Post medieval copper allot buckle.	SJ 82 81 (point)

(Table 2: Cheshire Historical Environment Record: Monument List)

The Lindow Moss site's history traces back to its formation at the end of the last iron age, when melting glaciers left deposits resulting in waterlogged landscapes which promoted the formation of peatlands. It is estimated that originally, Lindow Moss covered over 600 hectares, but due to peat farming and developments on and around the site it now covers a tenth of its original size.¹² Due to commercial peat working on the site, a number of sub-fossil pine stumps have been uncovered on the site. Jonathan Lageard undertook an analysis revealing that the sub-fossil pine stumps were the remains of a pine woodland that was present on the moss between 4,000 and 6,000 years ago.¹³ Excavations of this area have revealed that oak trunks, preserved by the peat bog, lay beneath the pine and below this the remains of a birch woodland that shows signs of being burnt.¹⁴

The first surviving record that refers to Lindow Moss is the 1421 Right of Turbary agreed by the lords of Mobberley and Wilmslow that granted the rights to digging of peat for fuel on the site.¹⁵ It is possible that peat farming was already taking place on the site prior to the Right of Turbary being granted, but the practice was officially legalised and recorded in 1421.

All the listed buildings referred to on Table 1 were built between in 17th century. Saltersley Hall Farmhouse (1139564) is the only one of the listed buildings in which sandstone is listed as the main building material. Saltersley Hall Farmhouse is situated close to Quarry Bank Mill, the probable

¹² Rick Turner, 'Discovery and Excavation of the Lindow Bodies', in *Lindow Man: The Body in the Bog*, ed. I. M. Stead, J. B. Bourke and Don Brothwell (London: British Museum Publications LTD, 1986), p. 11.

¹³ J. A. Lageard, 'Dendrochronological analysis and dating of subfossil *Pinus Sylvestris* at Lindow Moss, Cheshire,' *Bulletin of British Ecological Society*, 29 (1998), pp. 31-32.

¹⁴ Transition Wilmslow (2020) *Lindow Moss Restoration Scheme – A Contribution from Transition Wilmslow*, p. 9. <https://transitionwilmslow.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/september-2020-transition-wilmslow-assessment-of-lindow-moss-restoration-scheme-september-2020.pdf>. (Accessed December 29, 2023).

¹⁵ T. Worthington-Barlow, 'History of Wilmslow Parish - Lindow Common', *The Cheshire and Lancashire Historical Collector Volume 1* (1853), p. 45.

supplier of the sandstone material used to for the building. The meaning of Saltersley being 'salters' field' could also suggest some link between the farmhouse's location with the ancient salt-ways between Cheshire and Derbyshire. Saltersley Hall Farmhouse is mentioned in Fletcher Moss's *Pilgrimages No 2*, referred to as a 'curious old house standing on the edge of Lindow Moss'.¹⁶

In 1853, Worthington-Barlow refers to a description of Lindow Moss produced in the 1780's by Samuel Finney in which Finney refers to the size of the moss being about 270 hectares and discusses the dangers of the site in which numerous animals and people have died from falling into the trenches and moss pits.¹⁷ A separate account produced in 1884 by Norbury refers to a Roman road through the site and people living around the common prior to 1834.¹⁸ There is no surviving evidence of these events to confirm the descriptions of Finney or Norbury's testimony, however the dangers of peat bogs are well attested to by other bodies and animal remains found in peat bogs believed to have died accidentally, such as Grewelthorpe Man in Yorkshire and the remains of a Cow's Jawbone (1472/0/1) found on Lindow Moss itself. These accounts are therefore important as they attest to the sites atmospheric character as well increase the sites potential archaeological significance, with the possibility of more remains or archaeological finds to be discovered.

As evident when looking at figure 5, Lindow Moss was the site of a volunteer rifle range established in the 1870's. It is likely that the rifle volunteers were granted a licence to use the land as local deeds suggest that the land remained in the private ownership of the Earl of Stamford. It is probable that the rifle range was set up as part of the Rifle Volunteer Movement, that became popular after the Crimean War amid fears of a French invasion of Britain.¹⁹ Folklore about the soldiers and the rifle range is common in Wilmslow, one story suggests that upon returning from the Crimean War, soldiers who were infected with syphilis were outcasted from society and lived on the bog where they had trained for war.²⁰

¹⁶ Fletcher Moss, *Pilgrimages to Old Homes mostly on the Welsh border*. (1903), p. 230.

¹⁷ Worthing-Barlow, 'History of Wilmslow Parish', p. 45.

¹⁸ W. H. Norbury., 'Lindow Common as a Peat Bog: Its Age and People,' *Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society Volume 2* (1884), pp. 66-75.

¹⁹ Robert Bonner, 'The Development of the Rifle Volunteer Movement in Manchester,' *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* 86 (2008), p. 217.

²⁰ Matthew Hyde and Christine Pemberton, *Lindow and The Bog Warriors* (Cheshire: Rex Publishing, 2002), pp. 64-65.

In 1897, Lindow Common was acquired by Wilmslow Council. This can be seen by comparing figure 6 and figure 7 in which the word common is exchanged for the word moss over much of the site, Lindow Common becoming a separate area enclosed by racecourse road. There was a commemorative stone erected on Lindow Common, which still stands today, to attest to this which reads, “This common was purchased from the Countess of Stamford and Sir Humphrey de Trafford and presented to the residents of Wilmslow by Alderman John Royle JP AD 1897”. While it is not confirmed, the most likely reason for the acquisition of Lindow Common is to prevent the presence of travellers who frequented the area. Racecourse road is named after the old circuit that was used by the travellers to showcase their horses, a practice that was considered unruly by local residents, 1,500 of whom petitioned to the council to gain control over the area.²¹ The travellers are rumoured to have been present on Lindow Moss since the Middle Ages and are referred to as ‘gipsys’ by Norbury in 1884.²² The acquisition of Lindow Common by John Royle meant that the travellers were dispelled, however they did return with the permission of the Manchester Police Force at the outbreak of the Second World War for a short period of time.²³ The presence of the traveller community on Lindow Moss and their subsequent expulsion shows the changes that Lindow Moss has undergone in recent years regarding its use and community value. Lindow Common is now managed by Cheshire East Council and was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1987 as well as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This transition shows the site being acknowledged as important for the local community as well as the wider community as a SSSI.

Lindow Moss acted as a home for those who had fallen on hard times or were marginalised from society since the Middle Ages with the presence of the traveller up to the 20th century. One of the best remembered residents of the bog on Lindow Moss is Elizabeth Munnerley, better remembered by locals as Lizzie. Her story plays an integral part in the social history of Lindow Moss, demonstrating the ways in which the history of Lindow Moss can be situated in the early 20th century and the social issues people faced in this period as well as showing the personal links that the moss has with families still local to the area. Lizzie was the daughter of an irreputable woman, who moved to Wilmslow

²¹ Andrew Pearson, ‘A Handbook of Local History,’ *Wilmslow Past and Present* (1897), pp. 48-49.

²² Norbury, ‘Lindow Common as a Peat Bog,’ p. 71.

²³ Hyde and Pemberton, *Bog Warriors*, p. 81.

around 1922.²⁴ Her mother's husband purchased a small plot of land and a hut on Lindow Moss in 1928, the land was purchased to provide Lizzie, her disabled younger brother and the child that Lizzie had out of wedlock housed out of the way of the local community, when the rest of the family moved to America.²⁵ This is an example of the prejudices and stigma that existed in the early 20th century that surrounded those with disabilities and women who had children before marriage – it was considered better for the family and the local community to exile the ‘impure’ members to the outskirts of society, in this case being the bog on Lindow Moss. Lizzie’s children were looked after by other residents of the moss while she went to work at Styal Mill.²⁶ This shows the sense of community felt by those who called the bog home as well as situating Lindow Moss in the wider context of the cotton milling industry in Greater Manchester and Cheshire. Lizzie lived in her hut until 1960 when the state intervened, the hut was then demolished, and Lizzie died in 1984.²⁷ Lizzie’s legacy lives on in her descendants, many of whom still reside in Wilmslow and her story is remembered fondly by the local community as a tale of resilience and Lindow Moss.

Commercial peat farming on the site started in 1960 and evidence of this farming can still be seen on the site today. Peat farming on Lindow Moss was brought to an end in 2019 when Cheshire East Council issued a decision notice linking together two planning consents with a Section 106 agreement.²⁸ Despite this, peat extraction remains part of Lindow Moss’s heritage being crucial in the finding of Lindow Man and other bog bodies on the site. The peat extraction process is also part of the wider industrial heritage of Britain. For this purpose, it is important to preserve any artefacts from the Lindow Moss peat extraction site which can attest to this local industrial heritage and include the process in the historical narrative. Railway track is still visible on the site, shown by figure’s 3 and 4 and this location is one of the points of interest highlighted by Transition Wilmslow for their heritage trail. Much of the equipment used for peat farming on the site has been placed in the hands of the Moseley Railway Trust and is now housed in their Apedale Valley Light Railway Heritage Centre.

²⁴ Hyde and Pemberton, *Bog Warriors*, p.133.

²⁵ Hyde and Pemberton, *Bog Warriors*, p. 135.

²⁶ Hyde and Pemberton, *Bog Warriors*, p. 136.

²⁷ Hyde and Pemberton, *Bog Warriors*, p. 140.

²⁸ Cheshire East Council (2019) *Notice of Decision*. Case Reference Number 15/0064M.

<https://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk/applicationdetails.aspx?pr=15/0064M> (Accessed December 12 2023).



(Figure 3: Map showing the location of remaining railway and peat stacks)



(Figure 4: View of railway remnants from footpath. Image taken facing 17° NW.

Location: 53°19'21" N , 2°15'45" W)

One of the most significant historical events that has taken place on this site is the discovery of Lindow Man in 1984. As a result of commercial peat farming on the site, numerous bog bodies have been discovered on Lindow Moss, the most famous being Lindow II, better known as Lindow Man (1473/0/2).

The first bog body discovered and recorded on Lindow Moss was Lindow I (1473/0/1), commonly known as Lindow Woman in 1983. This find was not only the first bog body discovery on the site but also helped to solve a local murder investigation. Upon hearing of the discovery of a female head on Lindow Moss, Peter Reyn-Bardt confessed to the murder of his wife, who had been missing since the 1960's.²⁹ The Oxford University Research Laboratory for Archaeology and History of Art undertook radiocarbon testing on the skull which dated the skull to around 210 AD. The remains were incomplete, but the skull fragment still had soft tissue and hair attached to it upon discovery. Due to the remains being originally mistaken for modern rather than ancient and being subject to police investigation, the preservation level of Lindow I has declined extensively, meaning only the bone remains. However, the discovery of Lindow Woman meant that the possibility of other bog bodies being discovered on Lindow Moss was ripe in the heads of local residents and peat farmers working the site when a year later a similar circumstance emerged.

In August 1984, Lindow Man was discovered, again on Lindow Moss and coincidentally by the same peat worker who had discovered Lindow Woman the year before, Andy Mould. This time, due to the heightened awareness surrounding bog bodies that came from the Lindow Woman discovery, the police were called in and worked alongside County Archaeologist Rick Turner and his team, to excavate the area in the most conservatory way.³⁰ The body was dated to the late Iron Age / early Romano British period using radiocarbon dating and was moved to the British Museum due to its status as the best-preserved bog body found in Britain. Lindow Man is commonly thought to have been a victim of ritual sacrifice, suffering from a threefold death which was common in Celtic

²⁹ Don Brothwell, *The Bogman and the Archaeology of People* (London: British Museum Publications LTD, 1986), p. 12.

³⁰ Velson Horie, 'Resurrecting Lindow Man,' *Journal of Wetland Archaeology* (2020), p. 40.

traditions.³¹ The discovery was hugely significant for the study of body bodies as a whole and secured Lindow Moss as an important archaeological site.

Another fragmented bog body was discovered in 1987, these fragments and the peat it was located in underwent extensive analysis at the British Museum. The aims of this analysis were to uncover evidence of the changing environment of Lindow Moss, locate any further artefacts and investigate the relationship between the wetland of the peat bogs and the dryland fringes, such as the sand islands adjacent to the bog depositions.³²

These bog body finds provided the grounds for further excavations on the site to take place under the assumption that Lindow Moss had an important Celtic connection and a possible settlement site. No evidence of an iron age settlement was found during these excavations; however, pollen analysis and the discovery of a flint scatter suggests that there was some human activity on the site, likely dated to the Early Neolithic period.³³ Despite no evidence of an iron age settlement being found on Lindow Moss, this does not mean that the site was not important in Celtic tradition. When situating the deposition of bodies, possibly sacrifice victims, into the wetlands of Lindow Moss within a wider historical and archaeological context, a common pattern can be established. Celtic religion was polythetic and chthonic, with ritual activity and deities being linked to the natural world and landscapes.³⁴ Multiple deposits of iron age artefacts have been found in wetlands such as rivers, lakes and bogs, suggesting that Lindow Moss, as a wetland landscape in Cheshire, was considered as an important site and landscape for Celtic ritual activity in a similar way, following the line that Lindow Man and the other bog bodies on Lindow Moss were human sacrifices.³⁵

The analysis of the site and the bodies that the Lindow Man find encouraged attest to Lindow Moss as a long standing historically important landscape providing evidence of prehistoric human activity on the site from as early as the Neolithic period.

³¹ Miranda J. Green, *Exploring the World of the Druids* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1997), p. 81.

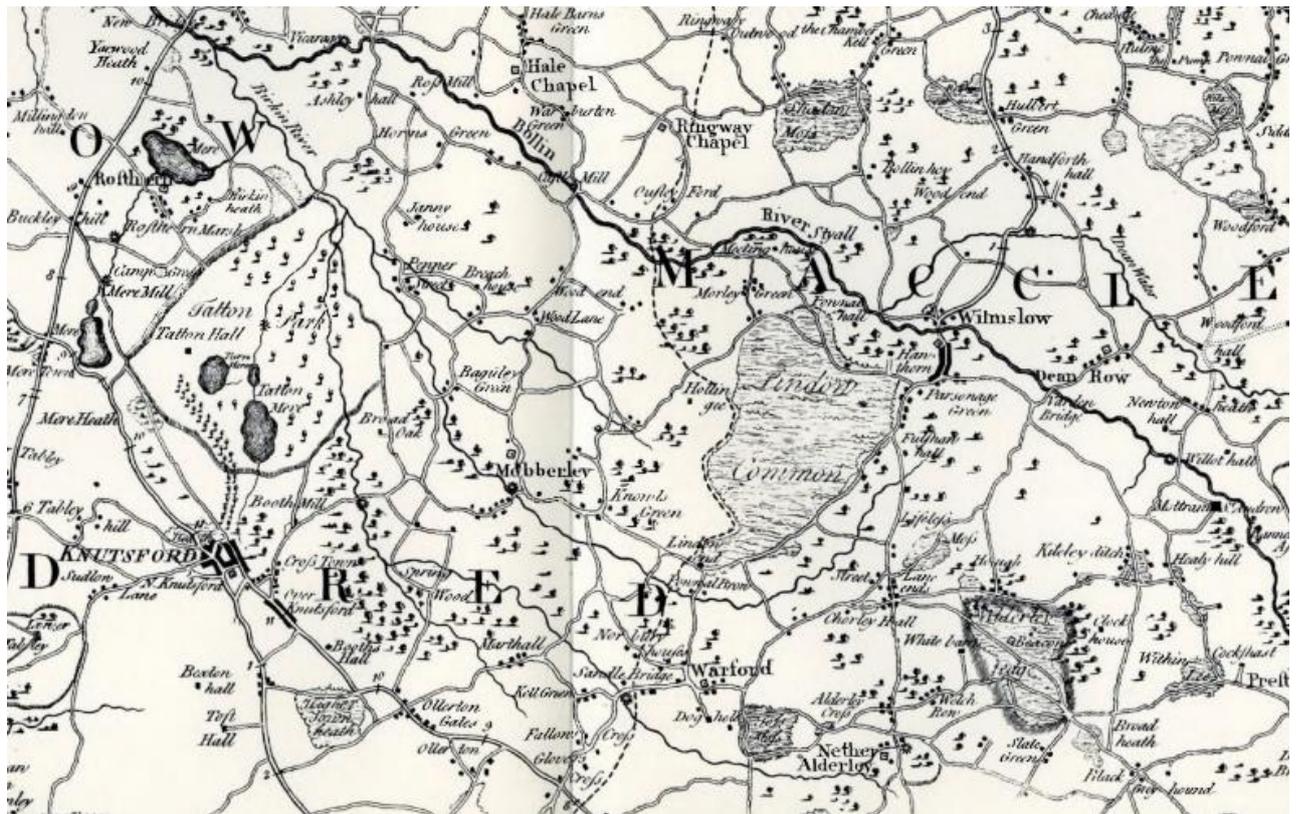
³² Turner, 'Discoveries and Excavations at Lindow Moss 1983-8', p. 14.

³³ Turner, 'Discoveries and Excavations at Lindow Moss 1983-8', p. 17.

³⁴ Green, *Exploring the World of the Druids*, p. 24.

³⁵ Green, *Exploring the World of the Druids*, p. 64.

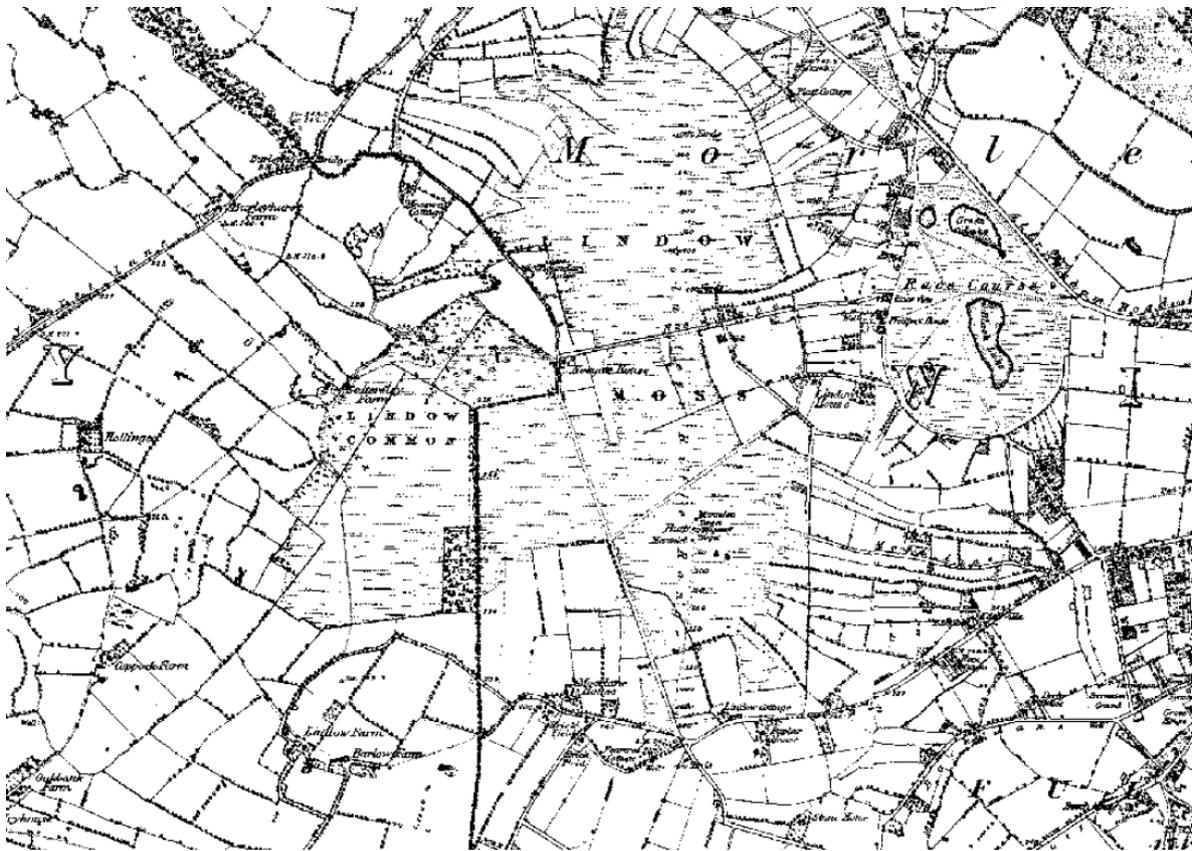
Historical Map Regression



(Figure 5: Extract from Burdett's Map of Cheshire, showing the extent of Lindow Moss, 1777.)

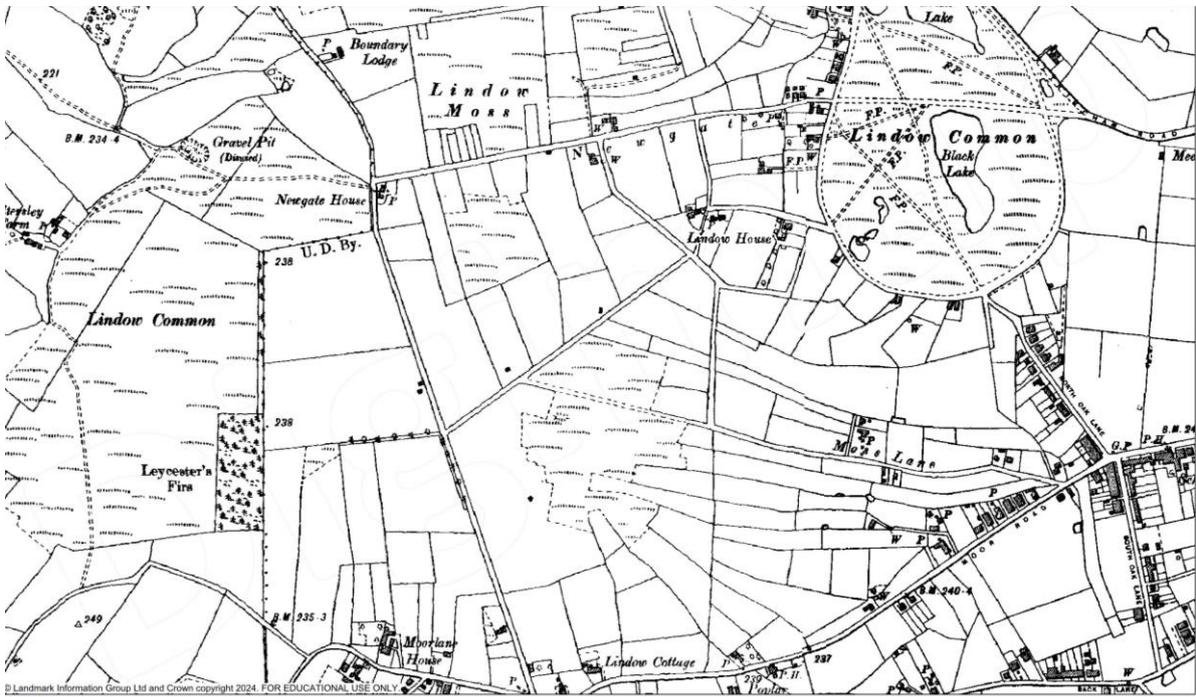


(Figure 6: Extract from Byrant's Map of Chester, 1831. Showing the extent of Lindow Moss, the site has decreased in size from Figure 5.)

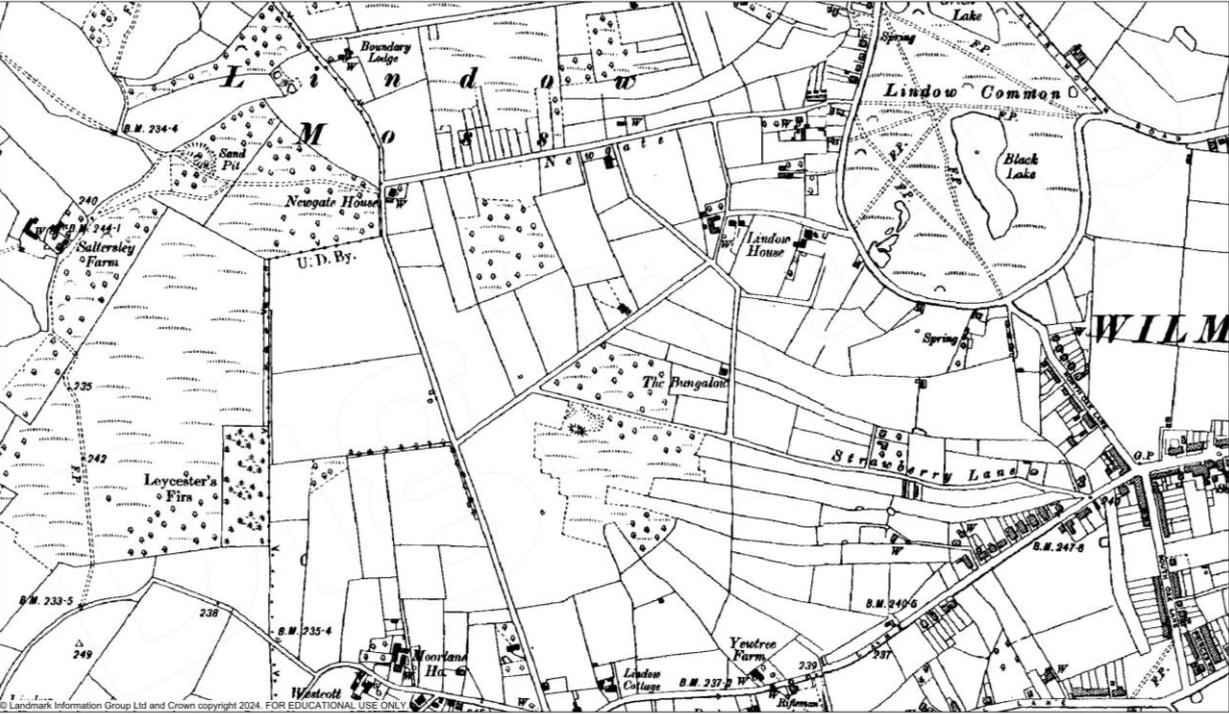


(Figure 7: 1875 OS Map Cheshire Archives and Local Studies Tithe Maps. This map shows Lindow

Common and Lindow Moss being considered separate locations for the first time. The rifle range and Saltersley Hall are shown on this map.)

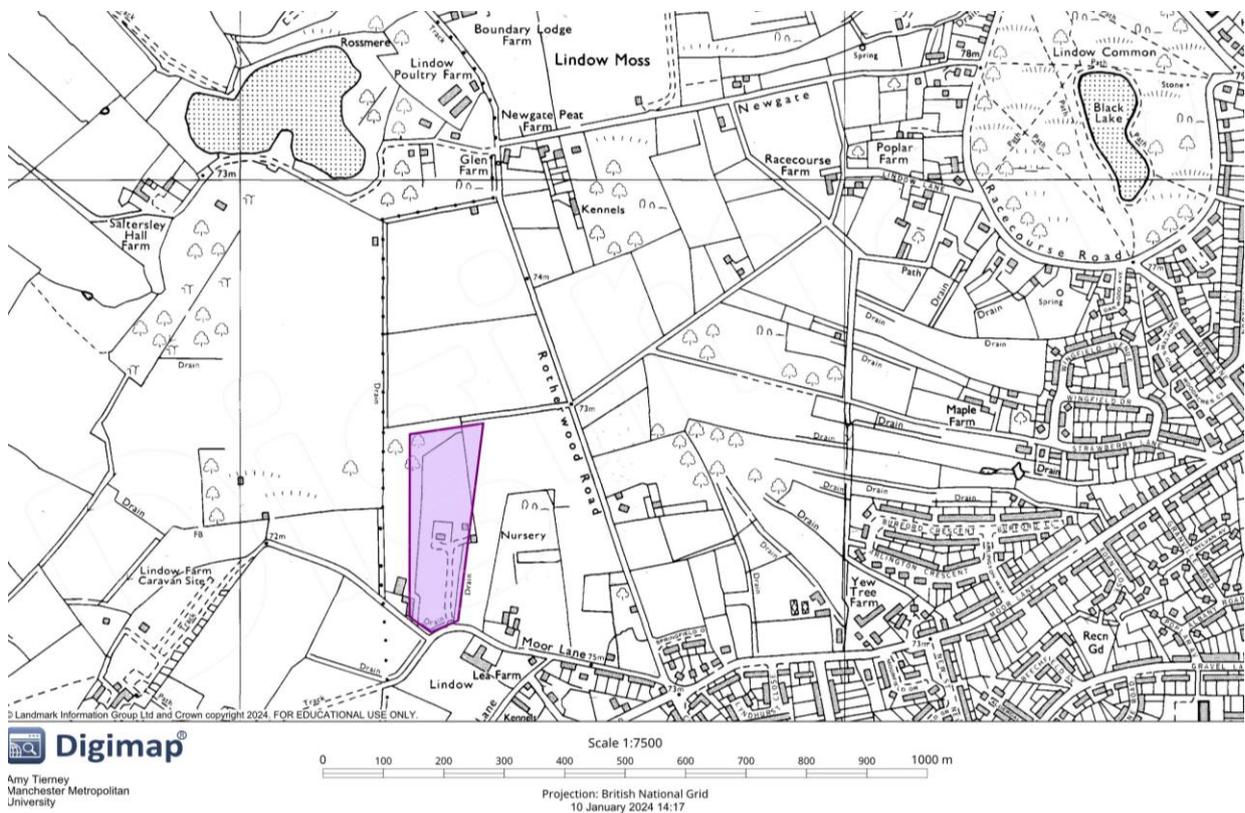


(Figure 8: Historic Map of Lindow Moss in 1890. The rifle range is no longer noted on the map, clearer distinctions of moss rooms are appearing.)



(Figure 9: Historic Map of Lindow Moss in 1910. Shows the distinction between Lindow Common

and Lindow Moss as it is known today. This is because between Figure 8 and Figure 9 being produced, Lindow Common was acquired by Wilmslow Council.)



(Figure 10: Historic Map of Lindow Moss in 1990. Shows the development of the site into a commercial peat farm, drains of the site are visible and the pink highlighted section shows the location of the peat processing building.)



(Figure 11: LiDAR terrain map and aerial photograph of Lindow Moss, 2022. Shows the deep peat farming patterns.)

Current Condition

The current condition of Lindow Moss and its landscape is dominated by the lasting effects of peat farming on the site. What used to be a thriving natural habitat and environment is now left looking desolate and abandoned. By looking at the infographic produced by The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (Figure 12), we can demonstrate that the current condition of Lindow Moss reflects a damaged peatland when comparing a photographic survey of the site I have taken (Figures 13 and 14) with the images on the infographic. With commercial peat farming halted on the site in favour of a restoration scheme, it is hoped that the landscape will be able to recover from the exploitation of its natural resources and be restored to a healthy peatland.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN A HEALTHY PEATLAND



IMPACT ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN A DAMAGED PEATLAND



(Figure 12: Infographic created by the RSPB showing the difference between healthy and damaged peatlands).³⁶

³⁶ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 'Impact on Ecosystem Services in a Damaged Peatland,' <https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/about-peatlands/peatland-benefits>. (Accessed 29 December 2023).

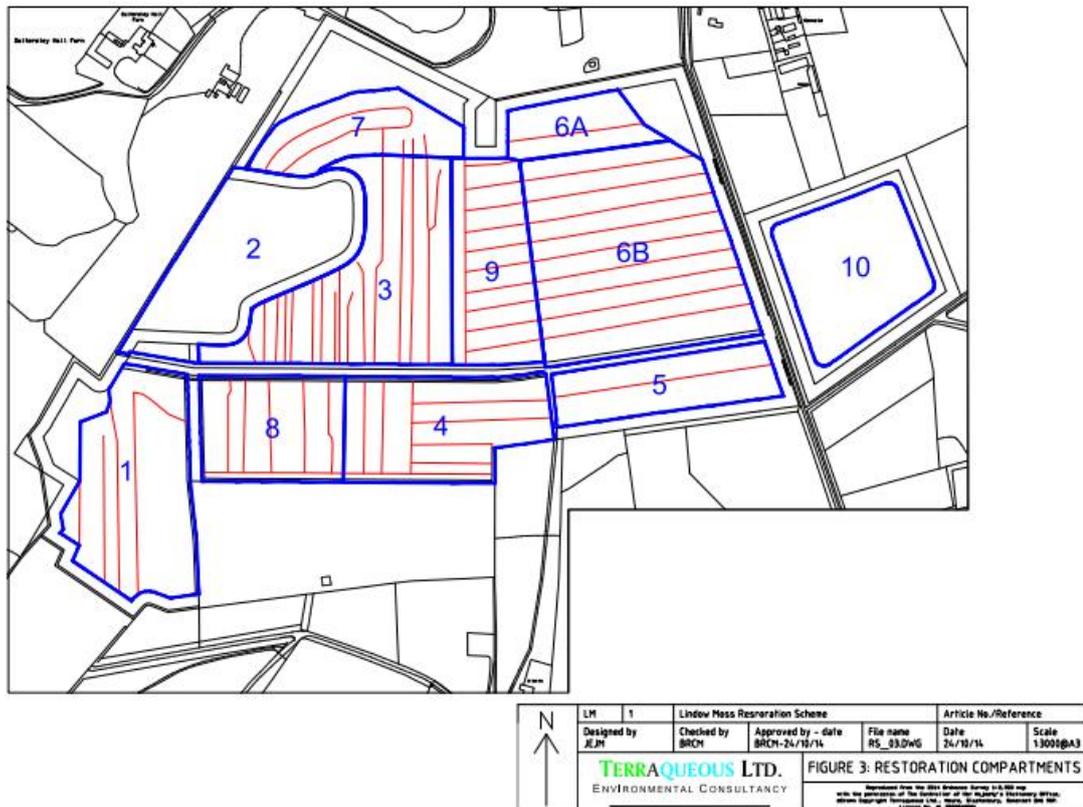


(Figure 13: The damaged peatland at Lindow Moss, Compartment 6B. The image also shows the ancient, fossilised trees. Image taken facing 302° NW. Location: 53°19'21", 2°15'49" W)



(Figure 14: The damaged peatland at Lindow Moss, Compartment 4. Image taken facing 273° W.
Location: 53°19'21"N , 2°16'11" W)

Some evidence of the ongoing site restoration is visible on the site already, with blocks being put in certain areas to prevent different levels of acidity leaking into compartments that would not benefit from it. These compartments can be seen on Figure 15 and the blockades between compartments 3 and 9 are visible on Figure 16, taken from a photographic survey I undertook on the site.



(Figure 15: The compartments that Lindow Moss has been divided into for restoration purposes).



(Figure 16: The blockades between Compartments 3 and 9. Image taken facing 14° N.

Location: 53°19'22" N , 2°16'7" W)

Pathway conditions and accessible routes through the site are also a concern for any future development on the site regarding increased public access and awareness of the site's historical and environmental importance. Due to Lindow Moss being a largely uncovered, wetland habitat, pathways and accessible routes to the site are subject to weather conditions. The current conditions of pathways around the site are not ideal and, in some areas, have the potential to be quite dangerous. One example of the pathway conditions being subject to the weather is shown in Figure 17, where the mud path has become wet and slippery due to the rain.



(Figure 17: Pathway Conditions. Image taken facing 248°W. Location: 53°19'12"N , 2°17'36"W)

Another example of the dangerous conditions on the site's route are the routes leading to the main historical and archaeological asset of the site. On the lead up to the Lindow Man find spot, the only pathway is dominated by exposed tree routes (Figure 18), meaning that great caution has to be taken in order to make it across to the viewing area of the findspot and its landscape. Alongside this, to get across to the path leading to the Lindow Man findspot, there are a number of bridges to cross, one of which is narrow and damaged (Figure 19). Both bridges have accessibility issues, being inaccessible to pram users and wheelchair users, alongside much of the rest of the site.



(Figure 18: Pathway conditions on route to the Lindow Man findspot. Image taken facing 178° S.
Location: 53°19'21"N , 2°16'21"W)



(Figure 19: Shows one of the bridges between the Lindow Man findspot and the Sand Hills. Image taken facing 359°N. Location: 53°19'21" N , 2°16'21" W)

The current condition of the site does not attest at all to the historical significance or environmental importance of Lindow Moss. The adjacent landscape known as Lindow Common hosts multiple information boards acknowledging the sites historical and environmental assets, including referencing Lindow Moss's history with the Lindow Man find and Celtic connections of the area (Figure 20).

The site also lacks effective signposting towards the various routes around the site, without which much of the site could easily be missing by the public unless they were aware of the area before they visited.



(Figure 20 – Information Board on Lindow Common)

The current conditions of the listed buildings on the site are also important as these conditions can impact the landscape as well as have implications for future developments. As listed buildings, any developments on these sites are already subject to planning approval, however due to their landscape as part of Lindow Moss, there is an added level of protection afforded to the sites. The buildings are currently active, and the additions made do not take away from their historical significance.

Saltersley Hall Farmhouse was under threat of its landscape being repurposed, with planning applications being put forward for the repurposing of some of the farmland in order to build 12 holiday lodges on the site in 2021.³⁷ This possible redevelopment attracted backlash from residents with concerns that the development would affect the historic setting of Saltersley Hall Farmhouse in accordance with The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. A Notice of Decision was issued in July 2023, in which the applicant withdrew the application for the development, meaning that the condition of Saltersley Hall Farmhouse and its setting was not affected.³⁸

Assessing the Significance

The significance of Lindow Moss as a heritage site can be analysed by looking at its value to the local community, its role in enhancing and preserving social history, the architectural importance of the listed buildings around the area and the sites natural landscape and environmental impact.

Lindow Moss's local community value can be seen by the formation of multiple local community based and ran groups who are working towards the development, preservation and enhancement of the site. In 2020, Lindow Moss was designated in the Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan as a Landscape of Historic and Cultural Importance with recommendations to establish a Lindow Moss Partnership, made up of members of the local community in order to conserve, restore and enhance the site.³⁹ Transition Wilmslow, The Lindow Moss Community Forum and a new group being launched in 2023, Friends of Lindow Moss are groups founded and ran by members of the local community who are focusing on the preservation, conservation, restoration and enhancement of the site, attesting to the high standard upon which the local community value Lindow Moss as a heritage asset.

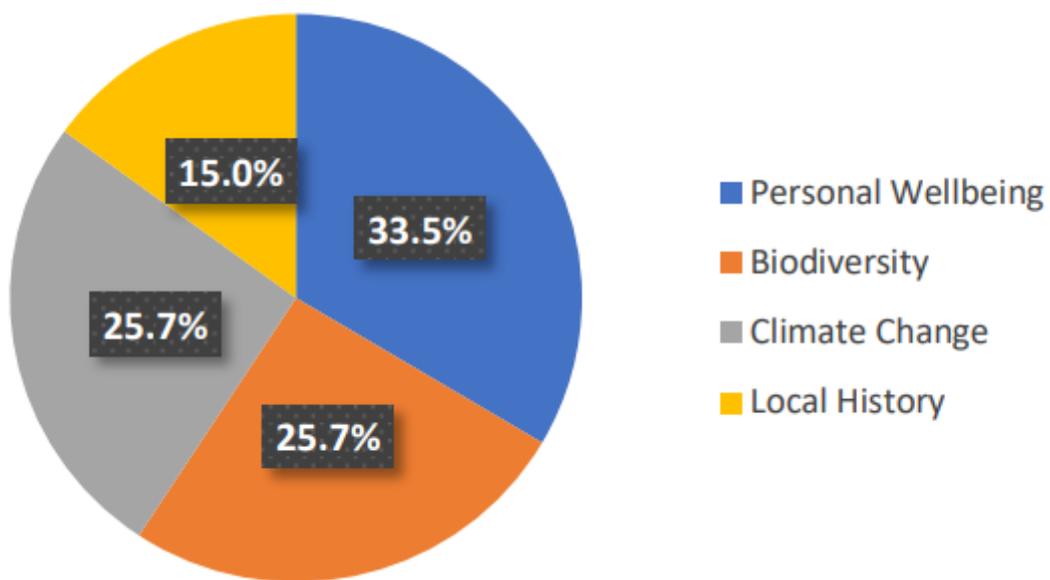
³⁷ Sophie Moore, *Planning Statement* (June 2021). Cheshire East Council Case Reference Number 21/3983M. <https://docs.cheshireeast.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/08318779.pdf> (Accessed 10 January 2024).

³⁸ Cheshire East Council (2023) *Notice of Decision*. Case Reference Number 21/3983M. <https://docs.cheshireeast.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/08488961.pdf> (Accessed 10 January 2024).

³⁹ Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group, *Lindow Moss Partnership: Response to Consultation and Next Steps* (2021) <https://www.wilmslowtowncouncil.gov.uk/council/wilmslow-neighbourhood-plan/neighbourhood-plan-biodiversity-projects/> (Accessed 10 January 2024).

The area's value to the local community can be best assessed by analysing a survey entitled Save Lindow Moss, produced by Transition Wilmslow in 2020.⁴⁰ The survey was undertaken between 12th July 2020 and 16th August 2020, with a total of 431 people opting to take part.⁴¹

Question 3 of the survey asked people to rank the following options from most to least important reasons why Lindow Moss should be restored: a) personal wellbeing, b) biodiversity, c) climate change, d) local history and archaeology. Figure 21, produced by Transition Wilmslow shows the results of this.



(Figure 21: A pie chart showing the results from question 3 of the survey, the percentage represents the first-choice people picked).⁴²

Question 4 of the survey asked people to 'add any comments about what Lindow Moss means to you personally, how you feel about recent events or anything else you feel is relevant', and the responses address the current condition of the site, the importance of the site's history and the role of Lindow Moss within the local community. The survey produced 182 responses, analysing these responses and

⁴⁰ Transition Wilmslow, *Open-Ended Question Responses to the Save Lindow Moss Survey* (2020), <https://transitionwilmslow.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/save-lindow-moss-survey-appx-1-open-ended-question-responses-public-copy.pdf> (Accessed 10 January 2024).

⁴¹ Transition Wilmslow, *Summary and Analysis of Save Lindow Moss Survey* (2020), p. 1. <https://transitionwilmslow.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/save-lindow-moss-survey-report-1.pdf> (Accessed 10 January 2024).

⁴² Transition Wilmslow, *Summary and Analysis of Survey*, p. 2.

the language used in them can help us to understand what the local community consider the most significant role of Lindow Moss;

- The environment and need for the restoration of Lindow Moss was a mentioned in 103 responses.
- Lindow Mosses role as somewhere that people use recreationally, for health and wellbeing purposes was mentioned in 64 responses.
- The historical importance of Lindow Moss was mentioned in 48 responses.

It is unsurprising that personal wellbeing was considered by local people as the most important reason for the protection and restoration of Lindow Moss, with the survey having been circulated during the Covid-19 pandemic, where the presence of local, accessible green spaces were heavily valued by the public. It is also unsurprising that local history and archaeology were considered the least important reason for restoration and protection of the landscape. With no signage, interpretation boards or tourism publicity of the site, the historical importance of Lindow Moss is not widely known by those who visit the site. The discovery of Lindow Man was widely publicised in local newspapers at the time, however anyone visiting the site from further afield or who is not now old enough to remember the discovery is likely to be missing the historical narrative of the site. This will be discussed further in the recommendations section of this heritage assessment.

For those who are aware of the historical importance of the site and those who remember the Lindow Man discovery, the intangible heritage associated with this site and that discovery is a large part of the local community and its social history. Upon the movement of Lindow Man's remains to the British Museum due to the international significance they had in the study of Iron Age history, a local campaign erupted to keep Lindow Man closer to home at the Manchester Museum. This campaign was ran by local woman Barbara O'Brien, supported by staff at the Manchester Museum and accompanied by a theme song, 'Lindow Man We Want You Back' recorded by students at Lindow Primary School.⁴³ While this demonstrates the local community value of the Lindow Man find, it also

⁴³ Stuart Brennan, 'Superstardom beckons chart bustin' bogman', *Wilmslow Express Advertiser*, 29 October 1987, p. 1.

attests to the social history of the site and its wider context, with people's memories and feelings at the time of the discovery being recorded in local newspapers and votives to Lindow Man presented at the exhibition of the remains when they were on loan to Manchester Museum in 2008.⁴⁴ The Lindow Man discovery was extremely important in paving the way for scientific analysis and preservation of bog bodies, making the findspot a significant heritage asset. The location and landscapes of findspots is an understudied area in the historiography of bog bodies, Lindow Moss could play an extremely important role in rectifying this making it a significant heritage site for future studies in the discipline. The social history associated with Lindow Moss makes it an important heritage asset for a wide range of people including those who have worked on the site and those who have lived on the site such as members of the traveller community and returning soldiers who were living on the outskirts of society and often left out of the historical narrative of Wilmslow. This social history is a reason to preserve the site, a heritage asset that attests to the history of marginalised groups in society is one that's protection and value are extremely important to preserve these people's legacies. Lizzie's story in particular is part of the social history of Lindow Moss that could easily be forgotten or deemed unimportant, when it in fact attests to the links Lindow Moss has with the surrounding area, the relationships between those who lived on Lindow Moss and many of the issues associated with the 20th century such as prejudices around childbirth out of wedlock and disabilities.

Lindow Moss's ecological and environmental role is an essential aspect of its value as a heritage site. Analysis that has been undertaken on the site regarding pollen distribution, fossilised trees and peat layers gives us a clear insight to the environmental history of the landscape and the patterns of cultivation that it has endured. Having such a long history, the site can provide not only an important local history, but the landscapes prehistoric connections and natural landscape as a rare habitat is an important resource in the wider history of Britain as well. Despite the damaged condition of the site at present (January 2023), the landscape is still a valuable heritage asset, providing pollen and peat samples which provide an ecological history and showing the industrial effects of peat farming, a practice that will likely be redundant in the next century. The site's value as an environmental heritage

⁴⁴ Bryan Sitch, 'Courting Controversy – The Lindow Man Exhibition at the Manchester Museum', *University Museums and Collections Journal Volume 2* (2009), p. 52.

asset can only be enhanced by restoration of the landscape to its original and natural state, where it will be one of the few examples of a restored wet heath mossland in Britain. The restoration of the peatland of Lindow Moss will also allow the landscape to work as a CO2 catcher, an extremely important role for the issue of climate change.

The architectural importance of the listed building on the site is not to be underestimated. As well-preserved examples of 17th century architecture, the buildings are protected as heritage assets by their designation as Grade II listed buildings. Their value is inherently linked to their time period and their setting on Lindow Moss, which enhances their value as heritage assets. Saltersley Hall Farmhouse in particular enhances the sites significance and standing as a heritage asset in the wider historical context of Cheshire with strong links to Quarry Bank Mill and the ancient saltways between Derbyshire and Cheshire.

Recommendations

This recommendation section will consider the recommended proposals by Transition Wilmslow for the preservation, restoration and enhanced understanding of the site as well as introducing my personal recommendations to better the public presentation and enhance the site's role as an important heritage asset for the wider area of Cheshire.

Public Understanding and Presentation

Firstly, it must be repeated that the results of the Save Lindow Moss survey showed that people considered the historical and archaeological value of the site to be the least important reason for preservation and was mentioned least in people's responses about what they valued, or thought was relevant regarding Lindow Moss. For this reason, it is important that the heritage and history of the site is reflected in future developments, to make the public more aware of the international importance of the site's history and the archaeological role it has had. Transition Wilmslow have proposed multiple developments to this effect;

- The development of a heritage trail around the site, enhanced by several interpretation boards placed around the site to highlight the history to the public. The points of interest for these interpretation boards include the Lindow Man findspot, the volunteer rifle range and Saltersley Hall.
- A series of events produced under the title 'The Lindow Season' taking place in the summer of 2024 to highlight to the local community the 40th anniversary of the Lindow Man discovery and the history and importance of the site. These will include a lecture series taking place at the Wilmslow Guild, an exhibition at Wilmslow Library of photos and artefacts from Lindow Moss and art installations being placed around the Moss to show the history in a creative manner.
- An oral history project, collecting the social history of Lindow Moss using audio recollections of the site from those who have experienced it, including Velson Horie, a member of the excavation team in 1984.

Limitations and Further Recommendations

The recommendations that I have proposed are necessary to improve the understanding of the site's history, this should be a priority as my research has shown that despite the vast and important historical narrative of the site. A long-term recommendation for Lindow Moss would be the inclusion of the site in Cheshire East Councils Local Strategy Plan under the tourism heading, establishing Lindow Moss as a tourist destination in Cheshire.

1.0 Heritage Trail

- The development of a heritage trail should be accompanied by QR codes provided on the interpretation boards, in order to provide further information to those who are interested in it.
- The proposed heritage trail route is 3.5 miles long, with no alternative shorter routes provided for those who may struggle to walk the whole route. I would recommend the establishment of a tiered route through the site, where people can opt to undertake a shorter or longer route.
- While the installation of interpretation boards is useful for those visiting the site, the site is still inaccessible to a range of users such as parents with prams, those with mobility

limitations and those who do not live in the local area. For this purpose, I would recommend an extensive website be produced alongside the interpretation boards that includes a virtual walkthrough of the site where the information and landscape can be appreciated by those who do not feel comfortable physically visiting the site. Macclesfield Town Council have produced a similar document on their website regarding the historic buildings in the town.

- Lindow Moss as a site is lacking places to stop and rest while on the trail, I would recommend that benches should be installed around the site to ensure that those struggling with the walk can take a few minutes to rest. These benches should be placed in areas where the public can also reflect and relax within the atmosphere and nature of the landscape, such as near the Lindow Man findspot or Rossmere Lake. This could also encourage people to sit and observe the wildlife on the site.
- Another recommendation regarding the heritage trail would be to incorporate different styles of presentation that compliment a range of senses. For audio this could include a box connected to the interpretation boards, for the Lindow Man findspot this could be the recording produced by the BBC of Rick Turner's visit to the site 20+ years after he excavated the findspot. Another recommendation would be to have a series of audio accompaniments, such as podcast episodes, that people could listen to on their route. This would be extremely useful for those who are visually impaired or who have dyslexia.
- Any interpretation boards installed on the site should not take away from the site's atmosphere or the landscape, the materials used should be compatible with the general aesthetic of the landscape.
- The promotion and advertisement of the heritage trail should be a priority in order to keep the local community engaged and aware of the location and its history. This could be through newspaper advertisement, leaflets in shops and transport stations around the local and wider area and the establishment of a social media presence, through which people can engage with the site and the heritage from a distance.
- I would recommend working with the local council to establish the site as a tourism location to attract people from the wider community of Cheshire and further afield to the area. This

could also encourage the local council to take a role in the upkeep and management of the interpretation boards and trail.

2.0 The Lindow Season

- The lecture series is scheduled to take place in the Autumn of 2024, with lectures taking place on a Thursday evening and two field trips scheduled for the mornings of Saturday 5th October and Saturday 16th November. The timing of these events could prove a barrier for those with familial commitments and those who have evening work commitments. This would therefore predominantly affect single parents and the younger demographic of the area who are more likely to be employed in evening hospitality jobs. A recommendation that I would propose to combat this issue would be to have the lecture series recorded and posted on a forum that those enrolled on can access in their own time. This could also benefit those who have disabilities that affect their ability to leave their residences on a long- or short-term basis. These recordings should be accompanied by closed captions to make them accessible to those with hearing impairments. By doing this, there is more chance for a wider demographic to engage with the history of the Lindow Man discovery and the history of the landscape. Online access to the lecture series will also allow for a wider participation from people outside of the local area and help to enhance the understanding of the importance of the site's heritage on a wider geographical scale.
- Another way in which to expand the demographic attending the lecture series would be to advertise the series in local colleges and universities. If the course is going to require a fee to take part in, then providing a student discount option for those in education could be a way to encourage younger people to take part. While the content of the lectures may be too advanced for children under 16, a course based on the one taking place at the guild could be modified to teach local school children about the history of the site and discovery. By engaging a younger demographic in the local heritage asset of Lindow Moss, it can be ensured that the site's importance will still be understood for years to come which works towards the site's future preservation. It can also instil a sense of local pride in the area which will help to combat heritage crime or vandalism on the site.

- The exhibition at Wilmslow Library should be promoted and advertised. The exhibition could be promoted to local schools as a field trip option to learn about local history.
- Any art installations on Lindow Moss should be respectful of the landscape and subject to planning permission. Materials used should reflect the site's heritage, local artists and amateur artworks from schools could be included to promote a sense of local community ownership across the area.

3.0 Oral History Project

- The oral history project being undertaken should follow the guidance provided by the Oral History Society on the ethical and legal requirements for an oral history project.
- I would recommend the project to be accessible to the public perhaps linked to a website, where people can listen to the responses and comment on them, allowing for a continued conversation to build around the memories on Lindow Moss.
- I would recommend the project to include people's social memories of the moss and to take a history from below approach, preserving local recollections from residents and workers of Lindow Moss.
- I would also recommend that these oral histories are linked to their respective information boards around the site using a QR code or audio accompaniment.

Renovation and Planning Developments

The current condition of Lindow Moss is not ideal for the development of a heritage trail or events to occur on the area. My recommendations include:

- The restoration of the pathways around the site making them safer and more accessible to members of the public.
- The installation of more benches around the site, as well as the installation of bins to prevent littering.
- Transition Wilmslow have proposed the instalment of a boardwalk leading out onto the peatland in Compartment 8, where Lindow Man was discovered, to ensure the findspot is visible to the public. This is an appropriate way to attract visitors to visit the site and see the

findspot, which is currently inaccessible to the public due to the conditions of the peatland, while also ensuring that the public do not damage the findspot by being able to access it without any barriers. However, the presence of a boardwalk to the findspot might take away from the landscape and the mysterious atmosphere of the findspot location. I would recommend that the boardwalk be made of natural materials in order to fit the landscape and to not go directly to the findspot. I would recommend a marker with a plaque on it be installed at the actual findspot and the boardwalk be used to make this more visible to the public eye.

Care and Conservation

The care and conservation of Lindow Moss for ecological purposes is extremely important in order to preserve the site as not only a carbon catcher and natural habitat but also to preserve the sites historical background. The conservation of the site must include the restoration of the wetland peat habitat that has been damaged after centuries of peat farming. I would recommend that an extensive survey of the site's current condition be undertaken prior to the restoration scheme taking place. This survey would include recording the archaeological discoveries of the site, recording the wildlife and species currently present on the site, analysing the peat layers for microbiological and vegetational substances and a photographic survey of the site's current condition.

In the long term I would recommend that the site should be acquired by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust as a way to protect and manage the site's ecological and biodiversity function. I would also recommend a review of the Cheshire East Council Local Plan Strategy in which Lindow Moss should be designated as a Green Infrastructure Asset, providing the landscape with another layer of protection and including Cheshire East Council in the care and conservation of the area.

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