

Moor Sand & Salcombe B Conservation Statement & Management Plan.



Divers recording palstaves on the Moor Sand site in 1977

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Executive Summary

The Moor Sands and Salcombe B wreck site(s) are the remains of one or more Bronze Age Wrecks located off Moor Sand between Prawle Point and the Salcombe Estuary.

The Moor Sand was discovered in late 1977 revealing eight Bronze Age tools and weapons with the suggestion of a larger cache nearby, however only limited finds were recovered and with the death of Keith Muckelroy the project came to a halt in 1982. In 2000 Neville Oldham of South West Maritime Archaeological Group was granted a survey after the team discovered a large concentration on Bronze Age material to the east of the 17th century cannon site. This site, Salcombe B, revealed material including gold jewellery and an object identified by the British Museum as an *instrumento con immanicatura a cannone*, providing the first secure context in Britain for a Bronze Age object of Mediterranean. Another cache of Bronze Age material was discovered in 2009 including copper, tin and gold, probably representing part of the cargo of the vessel (SWMAG, 2009) or a separate site.

A leaf sword recovered in 2008 was thought to date to the Ewart Park Period (800-700BC) making it different to the other material recovered from the two sites which has been dated to the Penard Period (1275 – 1140 BC) suggesting that there may be more than one site, however leaf swords were in use from as early as the Wilburton complex (1140 – 1020BC). A Ballintober Sword dating to the Penard Phase (1200-1000BC) has also been recovered from the site. It has not been fully established if there is more than one Bronze Age Wreck within the Protected Zone.

Moor Sand was designated in 1978, the current designation extends for a radius of 300m around position: 50°12.736N 3°44.402W (WGS84). The sites are also partially within the protected area of the Salcombe Cannon Site which extends for a radius of 250m around position: 50° 12.732'N 03° 44.748'W (WGS 84).

This Conservation Statement and Management Plan has been produced to enable local, regional and national stakeholder involvement in Historic England's aspirations for the conservation management of the Moor Sand and Salcombe B Site(s) to balance conservation with economic and social needs. The principle aim of this plan is to identify a shared vision of how the values and features of the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s) can be conserved, maintained and enhanced.

The following management policies have therefore been developed:

Management Policy 1: We will seek to develop appropriate visitor access to the site, given the high value and portability of the artefacts previously recovered from the site, this access would most likely be have to be digital.

Management Policy 2: We seek to promote the analysis of the post-2006 collection and reanalysis of the finds assemblage with these taken into account.

Management Policy 3: We will continue to encourage and support the licensee team in their work on the site.

Management Policy 4: Appropriate mechanisms should be developed to address the shared ownership of the Salcombe Cannon Site and Moor Sand protected wreck sites.

Management Policy 5: Through liaising with the local museums and stakeholders, we will seek to provide interpretive material for the marine historic environment at appropriate locations.

Management Policy 6: Through web-based initiatives, we will continue to develop the accessibility of related material, support appropriate links, in particular with SWMAG and the BM, and enlist effective local support.

Management Policy 7: Mechanisms will be identified as to develop the shared ownership and partnership with SWMAG and other stakeholders.

Management Policy 8: Where projects are commissioned on the site we will encourage the use of the site as a training resource where this is appropriate.

Management Policy 9: Key gaps in the understanding of the significance of the site are now being identified, prioritised and addressed so that these significances can contribute to informing the future conservation management of the site.

Management Policy 10: We seek to commission a staged assessment of the post-2006 finds assemblage to contribute to a fuller understanding of the site(s) in their entirety

Management Policy 11: We will encourage the investigative work and survey of the site(s) and the areas between them. Only when this has been accomplished will the extent of the site be apparent.

Management Policy 12: We will seek to find an appropriate mechanism to allow the Coastwatch Station to establish the position of any vessel potentially illegally impacting the site(s)

Management Policy 13: We will seek to continue to support the work of the SWMAG in their surveys of the site and their work supported by the British Museum.

Management Policy 14: Unnecessary disturbance of the seabed in the restricted area should be avoided where possible to minimise the risk of damage to buried archaeological material on the site. This should take into account the significance of the archaeology and what academic value can be gained from recovery of the find.

Management Policy 15: This CS&MP will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to reflect the conditions and knowledge pertaining to the site.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Project Background

- 1.1.1. Wreck sites may contain the remains of vessels, their fittings, armaments, cargo and other associated objects or deposits and they may merit legal protection if they contribute significantly to our understanding of our maritime past. The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 (PWA 1973) allows Government to designate, in territorial waters, an important wreck site so as to prevent uncontrolled disturbance.
- 1.1.2. Although the National Heritage Act 2002 enabled Historic England to assist in costs relating to works under the Act, the responsibilities of Historic England for the physical management of designated wreck sites must align with our strategic priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2017 to 2020. Here, we seek to identify and protect England's most important heritage.
- 1.1.3. In order to guide an understanding of the special interest and cultural values of each site, Historic England's Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment will provide the foundation to contextualise change. As such, Conservation is taken to be the process of managing change in ways that will best sustain the values of a place in its contexts, and which recognises opportunities to reveal and reinforce those values (Historic England 2008).

1.2. Purpose

- 1.2.1. This document seeks to set out a 'Conservation Statement and Management Plan (CS&MP) for the Bronze Age site(s) of Moor Sand, an archaeological site designated under the Protection of the Wrecks Act 1973, lying off the coast of Moor Sand in the South Hams, Devon, roughly halfway between the Kingsbridge Estuary and Prawle Point. In addition to the protected site of Moor Sand at least two other submerged Bronze Age sites have been located within or just outside the protected area for Moor Sand and have been given the nomenclature Salcombe B, are included in this document (see Appendix One and Appendix Two).
- 1.2.2. Moor Sand is attributed the National Heritage List for England number 1000050.
- 1.2.3. Historic England has published a set of Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2008). These principles are intended to support the quality of our decision making, with the objective of creating a management regime for all aspects of the historic environment that is clear and transparent in its purpose and sustainable in its application. As such, conservation is taken to be the process of managing change in ways that will best sustain the values of a place in its context, and which recognises opportunities to reveal and reinforce those values (Historic England, 2008).
- 1.2.4. The Conservation Statement and Management Plan has therefore been produced to enable local, regional and national stakeholder involvement in identifying aspirations for the

conservation management of the Moor Sand Protected Wreck and the adjacent Salcombe B bronze age sites.

1.3. Aims and Objectives

1.3.1. The principle aims of this Conservation Statement and Management Plan is to identify a shared vision of how the values and features of the Moor Sand can be conserved, maintained and enhanced and balance conservation with economic and social needs.

1.3.2. This will be achieved through the following objectives

- Understanding the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s)
- Assessing the significance of the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s)
- Identifying where the significance of the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s) are vulnerable
- Identifying policies for conserving the significance of the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s)
- Realising the public value of the conservation of the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s)
- Identifying Management Policies.

1.4. Scope and Liaison

1.4.1. Heritage 2020 sets out how heritage organisations will work together to benefit the historic environment. It is coordinated on behalf of the whole sector by the Historic Environment Forum. The Historic England Action Plan forms Historic England's contribution to Heritage 2020. This Action Plan details how the objectives of Historic England's Corporate Plan will be delivered and provides an estimate of the resource needed. Assessing the significance of England's Protected Wreck Sites is an acute priority identified within Historic England's Action Plan, while individual Conservation Statements & Management Plans assist with an improved understanding of the significance and character of these priority areas of our heritage.

1.4.2. Practical measures that can conserve, maintain and enhance the values and features of the Moor Sand identified as being at risk will be delivered through this Conservation Statement and Management Plan.

1.4.3. There are currently 53 historic wrecks in English waters protected under the PWA 1973, access to these sites is managed under a licensing scheme and authorisation from the Secretary of State for the DCMS.

1.5. Authorship

1.5.1. This document is prepared by Bournemouth University (BU), with contributions through stakeholder involvement. Full acknowledgments of those who contributed to, or were consulted on, its preparation will be presented on the final version.

1.5.2. This document is based on the Standard for Conservation Statements for English Heritage and draws on the Conservation Statement and Management Plans for the *Rooswijk*

(Dunkley, 2009), the *Stirling Castle* (Dunkley, 2008) and the *Invincible* (Pascoe & Cowan, 2016).

1.6. Status

- 1.6.1. This plan is in the draft/consultation phase and has yet to be adopted by Historic England.

2. Understanding the Moor Sand Designated Sites

2.1. Historical Development of the Designated Site

- 2.1.1. The Moor Sand and Salcombe B are the site names given to three groups of Bronze Age objects recovered from the seabed just off the south Devon coast. The site(s) lay between 50 and 400 metres off Moor Sand Beach, 'Salcombe B' lies only a little further out to sea, to the west and the third area lies approximately half way between these two positions. The Moor Sand beach is set in a small, secluded bay beneath cliffs, lying roughly halfway between Prawle Point and the Kingsbridge estuary (Appendix 2- Sites within the protected areas).
- 2.1.2. Archaeological work at Moor Sand took place between 1977 and 1982, while the adjacent Salcombe B was discovered in 2004 with the Ingot site area of Salcombe B discovered in 2009 (see Appendix 2). It remains possible that the three sites resulted from the dispersal of material from a single, original site. However the distribution distances of over 300m between the original Moor Sand site and the Salcombe B site may indicate that there are multiple Bronze Age sites within the area.
- 2.1.3. The Moor Sand site was originally found during a Youth Hostels Association 'Adventure Holiday' underwater swimming course, run by Philip Barker, who chose the area due to its shallow, clear water and varied scenery providing a safe and interesting venue for the students. During these dives two bronze swords were recovered and reported to the authorities. These weapons were identified as being a rod-tanged sword of the Early Urnfield period, probably from northern France and a sword of Unterhaching type, found mainly in southern Germany. Details of the weapons were published as a note in the IJNA in 1978 (Baker & Branigan, 1978).
- 2.1.4. The site was designated under Order 1978/199 under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 the designated area was increased in the following year under order 1979/56.
- 2.1.5. In order to gain more information on the site and establish whether or not it was a wreck Barker invited Keith Muckelroy to begin an underwater archaeological survey to establish the extents and characteristics of the site. This survey only located three more finds from the Bronze Age and it was suggested by Muckelroy that the artefacts found were being swept into the find zone from a more stable deposit located nearby. Extensive searches of the seabed continued with little results until Muckelroy's death in 1980 when work was suspended.
- 2.1.6. In 1982 Martin Dean investigated the site as part of the National Maritime Museum discovering a sword handle, which was later identified by the BM as 'Carp's Tongue' type

from a later metal working period (950-850BC). Dean revisited the site as part of the ADU in 1988, 1994, 1995 and 2002 but did not locate any other artefacts.

- 2.1.7. In 2000 a survey license was obtained by Neville Oldham of the South West Maritime Archaeological Group who were working on the adjacent Salcombe Cannon Site who discovered a large concentration on Bronze Age material to the east of the main 17th site just outside and within the overlap of the Moor Sand Protected Area, this assemblage was given the nomenclature Salcombe B to differentiate it from the 17th century site. The material recovered from the Salcombe B site seemed to be contemporary with that recovered at Moor Sand. However, the Salcombe B material also included gold jewellery and an object identified by the British Museum as an *instrumento con immanicatura a cannone*, providing the first secure context in Britain for a Bronze Age object of Mediterranean (Needham & Giardino, 2008)
- 2.1.8. SWMAG continued to find evidence of Bronze Age material and in 2009 they located a large cache of copper, tin and gold ingots from the overlap in the two protected areas, probably representing part of the cargo of the vessel (SWMAG, 2009) or a separate site.
- 2.1.9. A leaf sword recovered in 2008 was thought to date to the Ewart Park Period (800-700BC) making it different to the other material recovered from the two sites which has been dated to the Penard Period (1275 – 1140 BC) suggesting that there may be more than one site, however leaf swords were in use from as early as the Wilburton complex (1140 – 1020BC). A Ballintober Sword dating to the Penard Phase (1200-1000BC) has also been recovered from the site. It has not been fully established if there is more than one Bronze Age Wreck within the Protected Zone.
- 2.1.10. The known information of the Moor Sand, Salcombe B & the Ingot site may be presented as an assessment which draws together the main attributes of the site and provides a statement of the site’s archaeological interest

Period	Unknown. The artefacts are consistent with two phases of metal work, namely Penard (1275 – 1140 BC) and Ewart (800-700BC). The Ewart phase is represented by at least three swords fragments plus the possibility that the ingot haul is of this phase. The other finds are thought to have come from continental Europe and date to around the 12 th century BC.
Rarity	Wreck sites of these ages and dates are extremely rare in British waters with only one other confirmed Bronze Age wreck, Langdon Bay known dating to the Middle Bronze Age (Needham, et al., 2013)
Group Value	This site has an extremely valuable group value, forming part of the national collection of bronze age finds and one of only two know bronze age wreck sites in the UK
Survival/Condition	An assemblage of robust bronze, copper, tin and gold artefacts within a series of offshore gullies
Fragility / Vulnerability	The site consists of a scatter of robust non-ferrous artefacts, the size and value of these items makes them very easy to salvage, it is unknown if any organics survive buried deep within the gullies

Diversity	Only one other confirmed bronze age wreck site has been investigated in the UK, as a site being actively investigated and backed by the British Museum it provides an important link to study the ancient past.
Investigation	The site was originally found in 1977. Extensive survey work was conducted after this date finding very little archaeological material. In 2004 a significant collection of Bronze Age material was found during survey work by the SWMAG in the adjacent 17 th century protected site. In 2009 SWMAG discovered more bronze age artefacts and a collection of copper and tin ingots in between the two sites.

2.2. Description of Surviving Features

- 2.2.1. The site(s) lay in three main areas within the two protected zones of Moor Sand and the Salcombe Cannon Site (see Appendix Two for a chart). The Moor Sand site discovered in 1977 lies at a depth of 4m to 8m within a series of deep gullies and various crevices filled with sand and rock cobbles on shallow rocky reef covered by a kelp forest over 1m in height. These gullies extend out to sea to a depth of 24m where the kelp disappears and the seabed changes to rock gullies with sand infill descending to a sand and gravel seabed (Needham, et al., 2013).
- 2.2.2. Between 1977 and 2004, six Bronze Age artefacts were recovered from the Moor Sand site lying loose on the surface which had clearly been washed around the seabed. In 2004 SWMAG discovered a cache of artefacts in a gully to the north east of the 17th century cannon site (Salcombe B). SWMAG found another cache of Bronze Age artefacts and ingots (Ingot Site) in 2009, in addition to this a small fragments of tin and copper were found to the south west in 2011 (2011 reef). Overlying the site is a series of 19th century bricks from the *Lord Napier* and debris from a modern yacht the *MV Jeran*.

2.3. Ownership, Management and Current Use

- 2.3.1. As a Bronze Age wreck no ownership of the material can be established.
- 2.3.2. The Archaeological Diving Unit visited the site four times in 1988, 1994, 1995 and 2002 where they were unable to find any archaeological remains, Wessex Archaeology returned to the cannon site under the Archaeological Services in Relation to the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) in 2005 primarily to establish survey datums on the 17th century site and Salcombe B (Wessex Archaeology, 2006).
- 2.3.3. Physical access to the site is restricted to divers accompanied by a site licensee. Since 2000 SWMAG have undertaken survey and recovery of artefacts, after 2004 this was done under the archaeological guidance of Dave Parham.
- 2.3.4. The current licensee for Moor Sand is Mick Palmer who also holds the licence for the Salcombe Cannon Site.

- 2.3.5. The protected zones for the Moor Sand and Salcombe Cannon Site overlap by c.130m (an area of approximately eight hectares of seabed) this has the potential to cause issues with site management as the different areas could hold different licensees or permissions.
- 2.3.6. The finds recovered from the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s) currently with the British Museum is 390 artefacts including the original eight artefacts found during the 1977-82 period.

2.4. Gaps in Existing Knowledge

- 2.4.1. As a prehistoric site with no structure remaining the type of vessel(s) that would have carried the cargo cannot be established. It is yet to be established if there is more than one Bronze Age Wreck present on the site, with the large distances (300m) between the sites it is likely that more than one event occurred.
- 2.4.2. Although several surveys have taken place and the finds are plotted against established datums, these surveys have yet to be combined to allow researchers to assess the finds spatially against the topology of the seabed as well as by typology to establish if there are key grouping in the different phases of metalwork.

3. Assessment of Significance

3.1. Basis for Assessment of Significance

- 3.1.1. Significance means the sum of the cultural and natural heritage values of a place (Historic England, 2008). Cultural heritage value has many aspects, including the potential of a place to yield primary information about past human activity (evidential value, which includes archaeological value), the ways in which it can provide direct links to past people, events and aspects of life (historical value), the ways in which people respond to a place through sensory and intellectual experience of it (aesthetic value, which includes architectural value) and the meanings of a place for the people who identify with it, and communities for whom it is part of their collective memory (communal value).
- 3.1.2. In addition, the historic environment is a cultural and natural heritage resource shared by communities characterised not just by geographical location but also by common interests and values. As such, emphasis may be placed upon important consequential (technically, 'instrumental') benefits or potential, for example as an educational, recreational, or economic resource, which the historic environment provides. The seamless cultural and natural strands of the historic environment are a vital part of everyone's heritage, held in stewardship for the benefit of future generations.
- 3.1.3. The basis for assessing significance therefore enables consideration of the varying degrees of significance of different elements of the site. By identifying those elements which are vital to its significance and so must not be lost or compromised, we are able to identify elements which are of lesser value, and elements which have little value or detract from the significance of the site.

3.2. Statement of Significance

- 3.2.1. The Moor Sand/Salcombe B has an important place in British and European history as evidence of Bronze Age seafaring and as possibly being one of the oldest known wrecks in the world. The site(s) are one of only two known prehistoric shipwrecks outside of the Mediterranean (Needham, et al., 2013) Although prehistoric boats survive these tend to be vessels abandoned in estuaries such as the Dover Boat and the Ferriby boats rather than wreck but it is not clear if these vessels would have been used for cross channel, sea going transportation.
- 3.2.2. The evidential significance of the site(s) lies in the rarity and number of artefacts recovered from the seabed with the potential for further discoveries. The majority of 390 finds deposited in the British Museum are copper or tin ingots but the assemblage also includes ten gold object and a selection of weapons and tools including the '*strumenti con immanicatura a cannone*' a tool paralleled on a class of object found in Sicily; possible demonstrating cross channel trade.
- 3.2.3. To date no structure from the wreck or wrecks has been identified and given the conditions on the seabed is unlikely to, however there could be a possibility of small amount of organic material surviving in isolated pockets of deep sediments within the gullies but none has been observed to date.
- 3.2.4. Searches between the three main areas have occurred to locate debris trails but the seabed is interspersed with archaeological material from of several other wrecks dating to as late as the 1980s.
- 3.2.5. A twist torc was found in two cut sections c.100m apart, one section, was to the left hand side of the inshore end of the 'A' gully and the other part, was to the north of the start of the 'E' gully.
- 3.2.6. The following table seeks to summarise these values of the Moor Sand as a whole, by noting how those values relate to the surviving fabric and it's constitute parts.

Evidential	Relating to the potential of the site to yield primary information about past human activity; surveys on the site(s) have revealed a large amount of Bronze Age ingots and a number of high status finds as well as diagnostic finds such as the <i>strumenti con immanicatura a cannone</i> showing the potential trade links between the British Isle and continental Europe.
Historical	Relating to the ways in which the site can provide direct links to past people, events and aspects of life; as a prehistoric site it cannot directly link to past people or events however the site can provide great knowledge of life and seagoing trade in Bronze Age Europe.
Aesthetic	Relating to the ways in which people respond to the site through sensory and intellectual experience the site strength lies in the Bronze Age artefacts recovered. The several of the artefacts recovered from the site

are extremely aesthetics forming part of several museum exhibits such as at Plymouth City Museum and in the Money Gallery at the British Museum.

- Communal Relating to the meanings of the site for people who identify with it, whose collective memory it holds; the original project team from the 1970s and later SWMAG and the BM have a long history of association with the wreck. The SWMAG team have won several awards for their work including the British Archaeology Awards 2010, the Robert Kiln Trust Award in 2010 and they were short listed for the 2012 Best Rescue of any other Heritage Site. The 2013 publication received the Keith Muckelroy Award in 2015.
- Instrumental Economic, education, recreational and other benefits which exist as a consequence of the cultural or natural heritage values of the site by be identified as the site forming part of the national collection at the British Museum who identify the assemblage as of international significance, demonstrating the seaway connections between Britain and Europe during prehistory.

3.3. Gaps in Understanding Significance

- 3.3.1. As one (or more) of only two known Bronze Age shipwrecks in English waters the significance of the site cannot be in doubt and cannot be hindered by the gaps on knowledge identified in section 2.4 above, however certain key gaps in details could increase the sites significance.
- 3.3.2. It has yet to be established if there is more than one Bronze Age site present in the protected area as the material recovered covers two distinct metal working periods. The finds would need to be assessed spatially to aid in this interpretation.

3.4. Statutory and Other Designations

- 3.4.1. Statutory instrument 1979/56 affords protection to a circular area of seabed (radius 300m) around position 50°12.736N 3°44.402W (WGS84) under the Protection of the Wrecks Act 1973. The national grid reference is SX 75942 36145. This supersedes Statutory Instrument 1978/199.
- 3.4.2. The site is also within the Protected area of the Salcombe Cannon site protected by Statutory Instrument 1997/2536 affording protection to a circular area of seabed from a 250m radius of position 50° 12.732'N 03° 44.748'W (WGS 84) under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. The National Grid Reference is SX 75531 36147. (see Appendix One: Site Location)
- 3.4.3. Archaeological interventions that impact the seabed may require a licence issued by the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and a licence from the Crown Estate.
- 3.4.4. The site lays within the Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone Special Area of Conservation and any work conducted may need a Habitat regulations Assessment to assess

whether the impacts will have a likely significant effect on the sites designated features, this will be a requirement of a MMO license.

- 3.4.5. In addition, section 40 of the National Environment and Rural Communities act (2006) places a duty on all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity (Natural England, 2006).

4. Issues and Vulnerability

4.1. Introduction

- 4.1.1. This section summarises the main conservation and management issues that affect the significance of the Moor Sand and its component parts and elements.
- 4.1.2. Vulnerability may be assessed against environmental factors and human impacts on the site including the setting.
- 4.1.3. It is accepted that all wreck sites are vulnerable because of the nature of their environment, for a site to be considered at risk there must be a threat of damage, decay or loss of the monument. Current assessment indicates that sites are at a medium or high risk unless they are buried below bed level during successive tidal cycles. However a programme of positive management may mitigate the loss, deterioration or damage of the monument through natural processes.
- 4.1.4. Practical measures that affect site stability, preservation *in situ* and increased visitor access will be addressed in this document.
- 4.1.5. Issues relating to the values identified in the statement of significance are presented thematically rather than in order of severity or priority for remedial action. Relevant issues cover a wide range, including
- The physical condition of the site and its setting
 - Conservation and presentation philosophy
 - Ownership and legal requirements
 - The existence of appropriate uses
 - Resources, including financial constraints and availability of skills
 - Lack of information or understanding about aspects of the site
 - Conflicts between types of significance

4.2. The Physical Condition of the Site and its Setting

- 4.2.1. The site consists of as a scatter of small robust objects in a series of interconnected gullies. The finds recovered from the Moor Sand Site in the 1970s appeared to have been rolled along the seabed and it was believed that they may have eroded out of a cache further offshore. If this theory is correct the likely source of the cache is Salcombe B which has metal work from the same period suggesting that this area is occasionally subject to erosion. Searches between the shore and Salcombe B have not revealed a strong debris field,

however the Ingot Site lies partway between the two but the metal work found may be of a later date.

- 4.2.2. Beyond the non-ferrous objects the only organic find recovered is a concreted iron awl with a bone handle, this may be intrusive but it is known that iron implements exist in various European locations from the “2nd millennium BC” (Needham, et al., 2013, p. 158). Given the age and site conditions it is not likely that organics will have survived.

4.3. Conservations and Presentation Philosophy

- 4.3.1. There is limited interpretation on the site available on the internet notably on the SWMAG group’s website and the National Heritage List for England. Several news articles about the work by the divers on the site is also available online on the SWMAG website: <http://www.swmag.org/>.
- 4.3.2. The artefacts recovered from the site have all been accessioned by the British Museum who has a selection on display in the Money Gallery.
- 4.3.3. A display board with information about the Bronze Age site(s) and the nearby 17th century site is located at the Gara Rock hotel overlooking the site.

4.4. Visitor and other Occupancy Requirements

- 4.4.1. There is currently no dive trail on the site, and given the lack of visible features and the material value of the finds recovered from the site it is most likely not suitable for a physical trail.
- 4.4.2. Neville Oldham held the licence until 2015 before it was taken over by Dave Parham temporally in 2016 with Mick Palmer taking on the licence from 2017 so both the Cannon Site and Moor Sand have the same licensee. Anyone wishing to access the site is encouraged to contact SWMAG who can control and supervise access to the site.
- 4.4.3. Basic information on the finds recovered is available in the British Museum Online catalogue under the acquisition name ‘Excavated by: South West Maritime Archaeological Group’. However there is a desire to enhance the digital (online) information available and possibly a digital trail but this would need to take into account site security.
- 4.4.4. The site is overlooked by a popular section of the South West Coast Path and is visible from the Gara Rock Hotel who have a plaque in their restaurant terrace (Abbott, 2014).

4.5. The Existence (or Lack) of Appropriate Uses

- 4.5.1. Enforcement of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 is the responsibility of the appropriate County Constabulary as it is a criminal offence to any of the following in a designated area without a licence granted by the appropriate Secretary of State:
- Tamper with, damage or remove any part of a vessel lying wrecked on or in the seabed or any object formerly contained in such a vessel.
 - Carry out diving or salvage operations directed to the exploration of any wreck or to removing objects from it or from the seabed, or uses equipment constructed or adapted for

any purpose of diving or salvage operations. This is likely to include deployment of remotely operated vehicles.

- Deposit anything including anchors and fishing gear which, if it were to fall on the site, would obliterate, obstruct access to, or damage any part of the site.

4.5.2. It is also an offence to cause or permit any of the above activities to be carried out by others, without a licence, in a restricted area.

4.5.3. Unlicensed diving has been reported in the past on both the Cannon Site and Moor Sand by the staffs in the overlooking Coastwatch Station at Prawle Point, who have established a site security protocol. However it is difficult to actually prove if boats visiting the region are diving within the protected area, the licensee team have expressed a desire to have a semi-permanent mark on the site which can be used to establish if illegal diving is occurring.

4.5.4. The SWMAG survey the site(s) on a regular basis monitoring them for any inappropriate use or intrusions.

4.5.5. All of the finds from the site have been acquisitioned by the British Museum, The British Museum have issued a formal 'Letter of support for Investigations on the Salcombe Bronze Age seabed assemblage(s) by the South-West Maritime Archaeology Group for the period: April 2016 to April 2021' (see Appendix Three).

4.6. Resources, Including Financial Constraints and Availability of Skills

4.6.1. There is no doubt that the recovery of archaeological material to date and the work undertaken by SWMAG indicates the high evidential value for the site and that the interaction and displays relates to the aesthetic values.

4.6.2. The South West Maritime Archaeology Group has been at the forefront of the work on the site since 2004 when they discovered the first Bronze Age Cache when working on the adjacent 17th Century Site. This work has been undertaken on a purely voluntary basis and they have become one of the leading avocational underwater archaeological groups in the country winning several awards from the BSAC and Historic England.

4.7. Lack of Information or Understanding about aspects of the Site

4.7.1. *Taking to the Water* (Historic England's Initial Policy for the management of Maritime Archaeology) (Roberts & Trow, 2002) address the backlog from excavations and surveys on protected wreck sites. It was recognised that many of the survey and excavation licences issued over the past 25 years required the academic reporting of the field work results and as the majority of the work was completed a-vocationally the finances for the analysis and dissemination were lacking.

4.7.2. In the case of Moor Sand, the original swords recovered were published in the IJNA (Baker & Branigan, 1978). Between then and 2004 very little Bronze Age archaeological material was recovered until SWMAG located the cache known as 'Salcombe B', the finds recovered up to 2005 were assessed and published by the CBA in 2013 (Needham, et al., 2013).

Significant amounts of material possibly from another metal working phase in the Bronze Age have been recovered since this date and an updated publication need to be produced.

- 4.7.3. There are several groups of Bronze Age artefacts that have been recovered from the site of differing dates, it is still to be established the exact character and number of Bronze Age sites present inside the protected area.

5. Conservation Management Policies

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1. This section of the CS&MP builds on Section 3 (assessment of significance) and Section 4 (Issues and vulnerability) to develop conservation policies which retain or reveal the sites significance providing a framework for decision making in the future management and development of the site or reveal the sites significance meeting statutory requirements and complying with Historic England's standards and guidance.
- 5.1.2. It is intended that the policies will create a framework for managing change on the Moor Sand that is clear in purpose, and transparent and sustainable in its application. The aim is to achieve implantation through the principles of shared ownership and partnership balancing the protection of the site with economic and social needs.

5.2. The Moor Sand is a shared resource

- 5.2.1. The Moor Sand forms a unique record of past human activity which reflects the aspirations, ingenuity and investment of resources of previous generations. It may also be an economic asset as a generator of tourism or inward economic investment.
- 5.2.2. The site is therefore a social asset as a resource for learning and enjoyment. It should be used and enjoyed without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.
- 5.2.3. Learning is central to sustaining the historic environment. It raises people's awareness and understanding of their heritage, including the varied ways in which its values are perceived by different generations and communities. It encourages informed and active participation in caring for the historic environment.
- 5.2.4. Education at all stages should help to raise awareness and understanding of the site's values, including the varied ways in which these values are perceived by different generations and communities.
- 5.2.5. Although a physical trail may not be suitable for this site, due to the value and portability of the finds, remote visitor access could be made available via a physical display at the local museum or a digital trail showing the finds and their relationship to each other.
- 5.2.6. The majority of the finds recovered from the site are from the new areas discovered by SWMAG known as Salcombe B, part of this assemblage is outside the Moor Sand protected area but within the Salcombe Cannon Site. There is also a large overlap between the two

protected areas, mechanisms should be developed to address the shared ownership between these two protected areas.

- 5.2.7. Management Policy 1: We will seek to develop appropriate visitor access to the site, given the high value and portability of the artefacts previously recovered from the site, this access would most likely be have to be digital.
- 5.2.8. Management Policy 2: We seek to promote the analysis of the post-2006 collection and reanalysis of the finds assemblage with these taken into account.
- 5.2.9. Management Policy 3: We will continue to encourage and support the licensee team in their work on the site.
- 5.2.10. Management Policy 4: Appropriate mechanisms should be developed to address the shared ownership of the Salcombe Cannon Site and Moor Sand protected wreck sites in relation to licencing and the overlap between areas.
- 5.2.11. Management Policy 5: Through liaising with the local museums and stakeholders, we will seek to provide interpretive material for the marine historic environment at appropriate locations.

5.3. Everyone should be able to participate in the sustaining the Moor Sand

- 5.3.1. Local, regional, national and international stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the understanding and sustaining of the Moor Sand. Judgments about the values and decisions about the future of the Moor Sand will be made in ways that are accessible, inclusive and informed
- 5.3.2. Participants should use their knowledge, skill and experience to help other understand the value of the site. They will play a crucial role in communicating and sustaining the established values of the site encouraging other to understand, value and care for the site and helping others articulate the values they attach to the Moor Sand
- 5.3.3. Specialist skills and knowledge relating to the site should be maintained, developed and passed on. Written agreements with project partners should be developed to formulate a future strategy for continuing work on the site.
- 5.3.4. Management Policy 6: Through web-based initiatives, we will continue to develop the accessibility of related material, support appropriate links, in particular with SWMAG and the BM, and enlist effective local support.
- 5.3.5. Management Policy 7: Mechanisms will be identified to develop the shared ownership, curation and partnership with SWMAG and other stakeholders.
- 5.3.6. Management Policy 8: Where projects are commissioned on the site we will encourage the use of the site as a training resource where this is appropriate.

5.4. Understanding the Significance of the Moor Sand is vital

- 5.4.1. The significance of Moor Sand embraces all the cultural and natural heritage values that are associated with it. To identify and appreciate those values, it is essential first to understand the structure and ecology of the site, how and why that changes over time and its present character.
- 5.4.2. Judgments about the value of the site are specific to the time in which they are made. As the understanding of the site develops and people's perceptions change alongside any physical changes the values, priorities and significance of the site and its features will evolve and tend to grow more complex.
- 5.4.3. The purpose of understanding and articulating the significance of the site is to inform decisions about its future.
- 5.4.4. A staged assessment of the post-2006 finds should occur to see where they fit into the current assemblage and the site(s) should be reassessed with this in light.
- 5.4.5. There is a concern that there is no way to establish the position of the site in relation to potential illegal diving activity as observed from the Prawle Coastwatch Station. Appropriate methods should be researched to resolve this.
- 5.4.6. Management Policy 9: Key gaps in the understanding of the significance of the site are now being identified, prioritised and addressed so that these significances can contribute to informing the future conservation management of the site.
- 5.4.7. Management Policy 10: We seek to commission a staged assessment of the post-2006 finds assemblage to contribute to a fuller understanding of the site(s) in their entirety
- 5.4.8. Management Policy 11: We will encourage the investigative work and survey of the site(s) and the areas between them. Only when this has been accomplished will the extent of the site be apparent.
- 5.4.9. Management Policy 12: We will seek to find an appropriate mechanism to allow the Coastwatch Station to establish the position of any vessel potentially illegally impacting the site(s)

5.5. The Moor Sand should be managed to sustain their values

- 5.5.1. Changes to the site are inevitable and it is acknowledged that all wreck sites are vulnerable simply because of the nature of their environment. Action undertaken to understand natural changes will be proportionate to the identified risks and sustainable in the long term.
- 5.5.2. Intervention that caused limited harm to the value of the wreck will be justified if it increases our understanding of the past, reveals or reinforces particular heritage values, or is necessary to sustain those values for future generations, so long as any harm is outweighed by the benefits.

- 5.5.3. New work should aspire to a quality of design and execution, related to its setting which may be valued both now and in the future. This neither implies not precludes working in traditional or new ways, but demands respect for the significance of a place in its settings.
- 5.5.4. Management Policy 13: We will seek to continue to support the work of the SWMAG in their surveys of the site and their work supported by the British Museum.
- 5.5.5. Management Policy 14: Unnecessary disturbance of the seabed in the restricted area should be avoided where possible to minimise the risk of damage to buried archaeological material on the site. This should take into account the significance of the archaeology and what academic value can be gained from recovery of the find.
- 5.5.6. Management Policy 15: This CS&MP will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to reflect the conditions and knowledge pertaining to the site.

6. Forward Plan

6.1. Introduction

- 6.1.1. In order to commence the implementation of the proposed Management Policies outlined in Section 5 the following projects are recommended.

6.2. Proposed Projects in relation to the Moor Sand

- 6.2.1. The multibeam data conducted on the site needs to be reprocessed in order to ...concentrating on the main areas where objects have been found and exported into a more accessible format, this could be completed in conjunction with the Salcombe Cannon Site and would form the basis of any research and interpretive material on the site. (Policies: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, & 10)
- 6.2.2. A find database compatible with GIS should be produced including all the finds from the area to allow the finds, in particular the post-2006 finds, to be assessed spatially as well as chronologically, this could also be combined with the 17th century site and linked to the BM online collection database. This could be morphed into a digital trail with the added functionality of a public education and research tool. (Policies: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 12) A find database compatible with GIS should be produced including all the finds from the area to allow the finds, in particular the post-2006 finds, to be assessed spatially as well as chronologically, this could also be combined with the 17th century site and linked to the BM online collection database. This could be morphed into a digital trail with the added functionality of a public education and research tool. (Policies: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 12)
- 6.2.3. SWMAG are working with Dr Benjamin Roberts of Durham University to reappraise the post 2006 Bronze Age finds from this and the Salcombe Cannon Site (Policy 10).
- 6.2.4. An appropriate method for the establishing of site position from shore should be established, the simplest form would be a marker buoy. (Policies 11 & 13)

7. Implementation

7.1. Consultation

- 7.1.1. This document will be internally reviewed by Historic England.
- 7.1.2. The Conservation and Management Plan for the Moor Sand Site(s) shall be circulated for a four-week stakeholder consultation to refine how the values and features of Moor Sand Site(s) can be conserved, maintained and enhanced. Responses to the consultation will be considered and the Plan revised as appropriate.

7.2. Adoption of Policies

- 7.2.1. Following consultation, the Plan was adopted.
- 7.2.2. A programme that identifies a realistic timescale for implementing the Plan, taking into account those areas which need immediate action, those which can be implemented in the medium or long term, and those which are ongoing will be devised.
- 7.2.3. Responsibilities for management of the site lies with Historic England (led by the Designation Department), all stakeholder will work toward implantation of this plan. In addition, provision will be made for periodic review and updating the Plan.

7.3. Authorship and Consultation

- 7.3.1. This Conservation Statement & Management Plan for the Moor Sand and Salcombe B site(s) has been prepared by:

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- 7.3.2. The following individuals and organisations have been invited to comment on this draft plan:

- Heritage Organisations
 - British Museum
 - Devon County Archaeologist
 - Historic England
 - Nautical Archaeological Society
 - Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery
 - Receiver of Wreck
 - Salcombe Maritime Museum
- Recreational Diving Organisations
 - All South Devon Charter Boats
 - All South Devon Sub Aqua Clubs

- All South Devon Diving Schools
- Port Authorities
 - South Hams District Council
 - Yealm Harbour Master
- Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities
 - Devon Wildlife Trust
 - South Devon Estuary Officer, (Salcombe – Kingsbridge, Erme, Yealm & Avon Estuaries)
 - Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (SIFCA)
- Other Bodies
 - Crown Estates
 - South West Maritime Archaeology Group
 - Natural England

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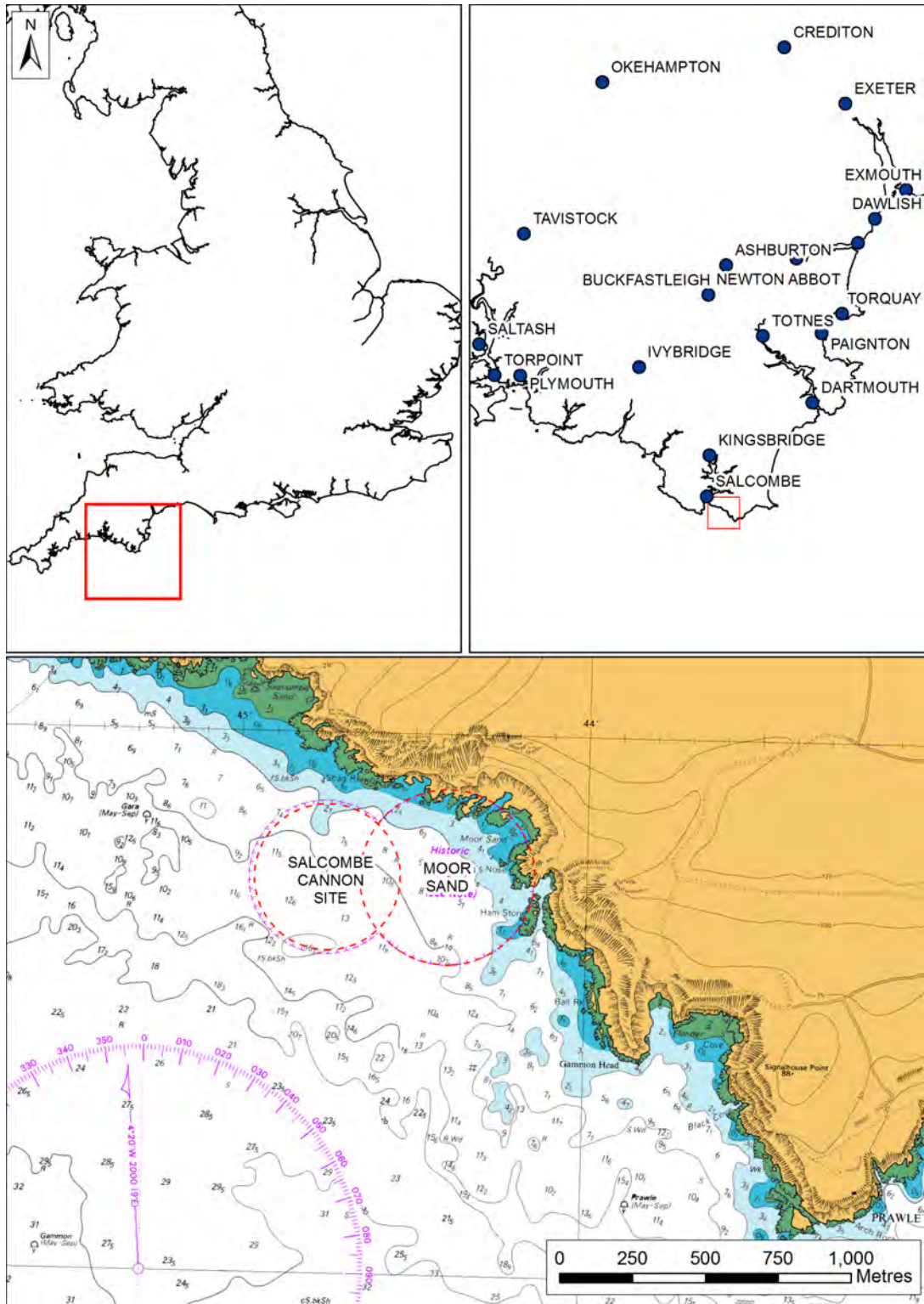
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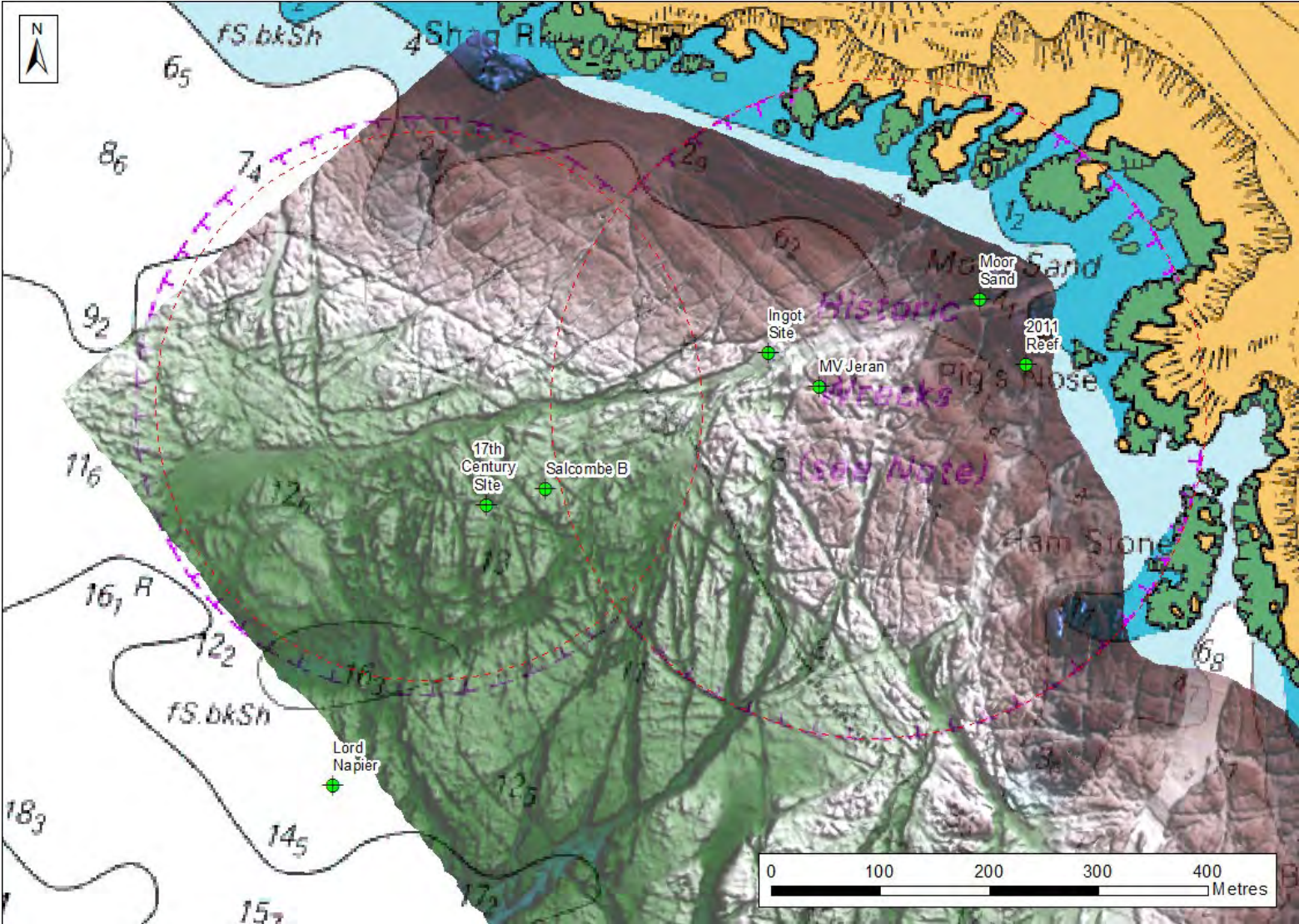
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Appendix One: Site Location



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Appendix Two: Sites within the protected areas



Appendix Three: Letter of Support from the British Museum

The British
Museum

Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG
britishmuseum.org

Letter of support for Investigations on the Salcombe 'B' Bronze Age seabed assemblage by the South-West Maritime Archaeology Group for the period: April 2016 to April 2021

8th April 2016

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as confirmation of support for the project to conduct appropriate archaeological exploration of the Bronze Age concentration of finds known as 'Salcombe B', found by the South West Maritime Archaeology Group in 2004. The definition of this concentration of Bronze Age finds is understood to be that given in S. Needham, D. Parham, and C.J. Frieman, *Claimed by the Sea: Salcombe, Langdon Bay, and other marine finds of the Bronze Age* (2013). Acquisition of all the finds and the site archive by the British Museum is agreed by all interested parties and is facilitated by the Receiver of Wreck through her jurisdiction over material salvaged from the seabed, dependant on available funds and storage facilities. British Museum acquisition would permit appropriate loans of the material for display in the region of discovery.

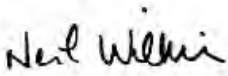
The terms of the British Museum's current acquisition policy states that acquisitions that are valued at over £25,000 must be approved by the British Museum's Acquisition Committee. This threshold is subject to change and the Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory (or future configurations of the same) cannot, therefore, guarantee that acquisition will be supported for collections or objects that are over and above this threshold. The British Museum will also review whether material that is deemed to be unconnected to the 'Salcombe B' concentration (spatially or chronologically) is appropriate for acquisition. It may be more appropriate, in these circumstances, for a suitable local or regional museum to acquire the objects. The British Museum will offer advice on this arrangement should it arise.

The Bronze Age objects already recovered from the 'Salcombe B' site fully comply with the criteria of the British Museum's Acquisition Strategy to 2020. The assemblage is of international significance, demonstrating the seaway connections between Britain and Europe during prehistory. Indeed, amongst the assemblage is an object of Sicilian origin, the only example of a Mediterranean object of Bronze Age date from the coastal waters of Britain. The public-facing significance of the existing of the 'Salcombe B' material to the Museum's collection has been demonstrated by its display a selection of objects from the site currently on display in the Citi Money Gallery (Gallery 68), the loans of other objects from the site to Plymouth Museum and the inclusion of yet more objects from the site in the temporary exhibition: *Hoards: the hidden history of ancient Britain* (3 December 2015 – 22 May 2016) in Gallery 69a. The research potential of the existing collection is demonstrated by the aforementioned Council for British Archaeology *Claimed by the Sea* volume, the lead author (Stuart Needham) is emeritus curator of the Bronze Age collection at the British Museum. The volume was awarded **The Keith Muckelroy Memorial Award 2015 by the Nautical Archaeology Society. An ongoing programme of research and publication on the material has included the recent publication of, 'Tin ingots from a probable Bronze Age shipwreck off the coast of**

Salcombe, Devon: Composition and microstructure', in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (March 2016) by Quanyu Wang (BM), Stanislav Strekopytov, Benjamin Roberts (ex-BM), and Neil Wilkin (BM). Future discoveries are only likely to contribute to these public and research outputs.

There is no doubt that the work of the South West Maritime Archaeology Group, with support from other bodies (Bournemouth University Department of Archaeology and Historic England), is of the utmost significance for understanding maritime contacts, trade and exchange in Bronze Age Europe (and beyond) and should be commended and supported as much as possible within the restrictions of available funds and space.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Wilkin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Neil C. A. Wilkin, BA, M.Phil, PhD, FSA Scot

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