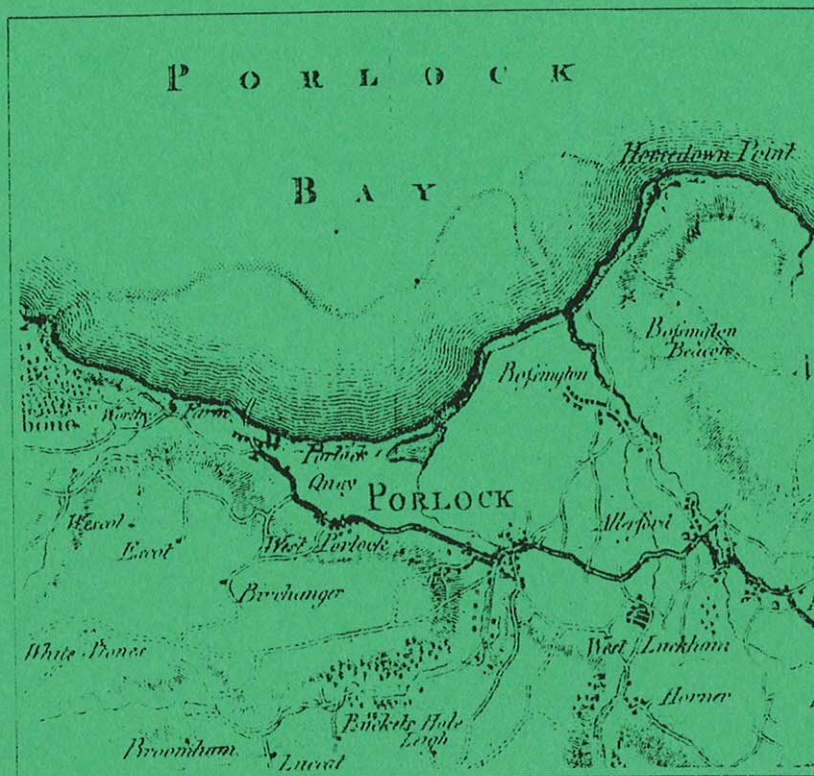


P O R L O C K B A Y A N D M A R S H

A R A P I D P R E L I M I N A R Y A S S E S S M E N T



O F T H E
C U L T U R A L A N D P A L A E O E N V I R O N M E N T A L R E S O U R C E

Prepared for
The Exmoor National Park Authority

March 1995

PORLOCK BAY AND PORLOCK MARSH
A RAPID PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
OF THE
CULTURAL AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE

Prepared for
The Exmoor National Park Authority

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The illustration on the cover is taken from
Day and Masters Map of Somerset
1782.

1.0.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1.0 The assessment

1.1.1 This assessment was commissioned by the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) and funded by English Heritage (EH). It comprised rapid preliminary assessment of the above ground physical resource and the aerial photographic, cartographic and documentary evidence. It forms part of a broader geo-archaeological investigation of this area.

1.1.2 This report presents a summary account of the work, the preliminary conclusions and the assessment records. It has been produced as a reference document for internal use within the ENPA; locational and background information have therefore been assumed.

1.1.3 The work was undertaken during February and March 1995 by Richard McDonnell and Keith Faxon. The assessment of the documentary evidence was undertaken at the Local History Library, Taunton Castle and the Somerset Record Office, Taunton.

1.1.4 Both cultural and natural landscape features were recorded in an attempt to locate the cultural features within their geomorphological context. An understanding of the geomorphological sequence and development in Porlock Bay is essential if sense is to be made of the archaeology.

1.2.0 Area of the assessment

1.2.1 The area of the assessment includes both Porlock Marsh and Porlock Bay and lies between the 10m OD contour and Chart Datum (CD). The vertical range is some 15.20m. The western limit lies east of a line drawn seaward of Gibraltar while the eastern limit is formed by Hurlstone Point.

1.2.2 The area between the 10m contour and the shingle ridge, called Porlock Marsh, extends for 147.25ha. The area between the shingle ridge and CD, called Porlock Bay, extends for some 85.25ha. This last figure is an approximation since there are no published, large scale charts of Porlock Bay from which to measure CD. The total area is therefore in the region of 232.5ha.

2.0.0 THE EVIDENCE

2.1.0 All sources

- 2.1.1 A total of 45 records were raised as a result of this preliminary assessment. Thirty sites (66.66%) were recorded as structures, earthworks or extant deposits in the field. Many of these features were also recorded by other sources of evidence. Seven sites (15.55%) were recorded only from documentary sources, five sites (11.11%) were recorded only from cartographic sources and three sites (6.66%) were recorded only from aerial photographic sources.
- 2.1.2 All records were allocated a Primary Record Number (PRN) which for general purposes should be preceded by the survey code prefix PB95. Throughout this report only the three figure PRN is used to identify a record.
- 2.1.3 At the beginning of this assessment there were five sites recorded on the NMR and six on the SMR. With the exception of the additional fish weirs (037) the SMR and NMR sites were the same. These are as follows:

Name	PRN	SMR	NMR
Lime kiln	015	33992	SS 84 NE 38
Peat deposits	021	33924*	SS 84 NE 12*
Submerged forest	022	33942*	SS 84 NE 12*
Mesolithic material	024	33990	SS 84 NE 8
Limekiln	030	33921	SS 84 NE 26
Fish weirs	037	33776	-- -- -- --
Decoy	042	33923	SS 84 NE 21
Mesolithic material	043	33942*	SS 84 NE 12*

During this assessment the peat, submerged forest remains and the records of mesolithic material were given separate PRNs whereas they are combined on the NMR and SMR.

2.2.0 Field evidence

- 2.2.1 The field assessment was undertaken in two parts. The first part comprised a walk over survey of the area between the shingle ridge and the 10m OD contour, the second part comprised a similar survey of the intertidal zone between the shingle ridge and CD.
- 2.2.2 Features were recorded in the field in an A5 notebook and transferred onto Record Forms in the office. The

degree of recording depended on the extent and complexity of a site but included a written description with dimensions and where appropriate sketch plans and elevations. The photographic record was constrained by poor weather conditions.

2.3.0 The cartographic evidence

2.3.1 The cartographic evidence examined was all locally held. The following is a list of maps consulted:

1710-20	Porlock Bay (Pub. in Corner, D., 1992. p 10)
1782	Day and Masters Map of Somerset
1809	OS, 1:63360
1809-12	Estate Map. SRO Copy at Holnicote Estate Office
1822	Greenwoods Map of Somerset
1840	Porlock Tithe Map
1840	Selworthy Tithe Map
Undated	Luccombe Tithe Map
1876	Estate Map. Holnicote Estate Office
1889	OS, 1:2500
1931	OS, 1:10560

2.3.2 No charts or nautical surveys were consulted at this preliminary stage and any approach to the MOD Hydrographic Office at future stages of assessment or evaluation will need to be adequately costed. Nautical surveys were made of Porlock Bay between 1832 and 1993 and range in scale from 1:6100 to 1:18300. These will need to be consulted at a future date.

2.4.0 The aerial photographic evidence

2.4.1 The aerial photographic coverages that were examined were all held by the ENPA. All of this material is false colour infra-red and of excellent resolution. The following is a list of the dates of the sorties and the relevant runs for the Bay and the Marsh.

2.4.2	20th May 1977	southern run	13.006 - 13.008
	19th Jun 1978	northern run	2564 - 2566
		southern run	2626 - 2628
	30th Aug 1985	northern run	4185.008 - 4185.010
		southern run	4185.024 - 4185.026
	Apr/May 1988	northern run	64 88.036 - 64 88.039
		southern run	64 88.104 - 64 88.107
	15th Jun 1989	southern run	2/426.18 - 2/426.20
	8th Aug 1991	northern run	505.433 - 505.435
		southern run	505.442 - 505.444

2.4.3 The aerial photographic evidence was used primarily to plot, freehand, the complex of geomorphological features which were too extensive to plot on the ground without detailed metrical survey. These were the creek system (038) on the west end of the Marsh, the palaeochannels (034) at the eastern end of the area and the area of standing water (026) between those two. The shingle ridges and fans were not plotted.

2.5.0 Documentary evidence

2.5.1 No primary documentary sources were approached at this preliminary stage of the assessment. References were followed up in miscellaneous journals and proceedings. One particularly useful source was a local history which provided both new records and background material to known sites (Corner 1992).

3.0.0 CONCLUSION

3.1.0 Field assessment

- 3.1.1 The field assessment of Porlock Marsh is considered to be complete given the rapid and preliminary level of engagement. The area was adequately covered for assessment purposes but bad weather precluded a comprehensive photographic record being made for each site. This aspect of the record is therefore incomplete.
- 3.1.2 The large palaeochannel (034) is a large, complex feature that was difficult to interpret on the ground, it is here plotted on the basis of the aerial photographic evidence which does not include some of the detail evident in the field. Some sites, such as the linear landscape features, extend beyond the area of this preliminary assessment. The substantial banks (019) on the east side of the site of Butchers Plantation, and possibly associated with the Town Brook, will need to be examined beyond the boundaries of this survey in order to understand their function. Similarly any future work on phasing the enclosure of the Marsh will also need to take account of the field systems that extend beyond the assessment area.
- 3.1.3 Given the generally poor weather throughout February and the beginning of March the tidal windows for work in the intertidal area, were limited. Some of the lowest tides of the year were predicted for 19th March and 17th April. However, a spell of clement, if windy, weather enabled the intertidal assessment to take place on the 19th March 1995. Unfortunately the north westerly wind increased throughout the morning and held back the ebb so that the tide did not fall to its predicted height. The marine call forecast some two hours before low water was NW F4 but a significant sea breeze increased that sufficiently to hold the ebb. Low water that day did not fall more than twenty metres from the north end of the outfall pipe on the west end of Bossington Beach. Local fishermen report that the area of kelp, seen in the sea, should have been well exposed on that particular tide.
- 3.1.4 The intertidal area of Porlock Bay will require more field work to bring it up to a similar level of assessment as the area of the marsh. Further work in both the lower and the mid tide range will be required. With the exception of the small bay on the east side of Porlock Beach the intertidal zone was covered with boulders up to one metre wide or long. Progress over this surface is slow and small items of debris will be easily missed. The small bay contained an area of red sand, peat and mud. The boulder surface on Porlock and
-

Bossington beaches make this a particularly difficult but not impossible intertidal area to assess.

3.2.0 Potential and significance

3.2.1 Despite the rapid and preliminary nature of this assessment there are several areas of archaeological potential that have been identified. The relationship between the geomorphology and the cultural material is perhaps the most significant and possesses the potential for relating and dating the development of both the natural and cultural landscapes in the assessment area.

3.2.2 The organic material in the form of peat and submerged forest remains and the marine alluvium on the foreshore provides datable evidence of Holocene sea level change. There is also the potential that these materials will continue southwards, under the shingle ridge, and lay sealed within the deposits of alluvium that form parts of the marsh. With the deployment of an appropriate evaluation methodology Porlock Bay, and possibly Porlock Marsh, will provide the opportunity to increase the resolution of the data relating to rising sea levels in the Bristol Channel, Severn Estuary during the Holocene. The intertidal deposits of peat and submerged forest material in Porlock Bay might be usefully compared with those at Stolford on the western end of Bridgwater Bay. Work on the extensive woody peats, intercalated clays and submerged forest material there have formed part of a long term research programme on sea level change and a palynological and dendrochronological study of submerged forests (Kidson and Heyworth 1973; 1978) (Heyworth and Kidson 1982). Porlock Bay is the most westerly site on the southern side of the upper Bristol Channel where peat and submerged forest material are exposed intertidally.

3.2.3 The configuration of the enclosed landscape on the marsh, and above the 10m OD contour, suggests a compartmentalised approach to the enclosure of that area. There are also long boundary features that while relating to the compartments of fields also suggest a parentage whose function may have reflected previous shore lines or marsh edge boundaries. There is potential in both the field and cartographic evidence to produce a phaseable, and possibly dated, series of landscape plans. Apart from the value of understanding the nature and method of enclosure the blank areas along the rear of the shingle ridge will also provide circumstantial evidence for the regression of the palaeochannels and creek systems. Similar work, on a far larger scale, is currently underway on the Gwent Levels that fringe the Severn Estuary (Rippon and Turner 1993).

-
- 3.2.4 The evidence of the name Porlock, the enclosure by the harbour (see 027 in Appendix II) (Ekwall 1977) (Mills 1991), raises the possibility of some part of the Pill (026) or the palaeochannel (034) containing structures, debris or vessels associated with such a feature. No specific site for a harbour was identified at this preliminary stage but should it lay on the apparently wetter, western part of the marsh there is a good chance of waterlogged material surviving.
- 3.2.5 The records of mesolithic material (043) being recovered from stratified contexts associated with the peat (021) and submerged forest material (022) on Porlock Beach (Boyd-Dawkins 1870) and the further records (024) from the area to the north of the Horner Water lagoons are significant within the context of Exmoor's upland landscape. The probability that the extensive site at Hawkcombe Head was a seasonal hunting camp (Norman 1982) might be set against the potential evidence of the sites in Porlock Bay which lie 3.5km away and 413m lower down.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Isabel Richardson of the Holnicote Estate Office of the National Trust kindly allowed inspection of Estate maps and copies of the tithe maps. David Bromwich of the local History Library, Taunton Castle is thanked for his services as are the staff of the Somerset Record Office.

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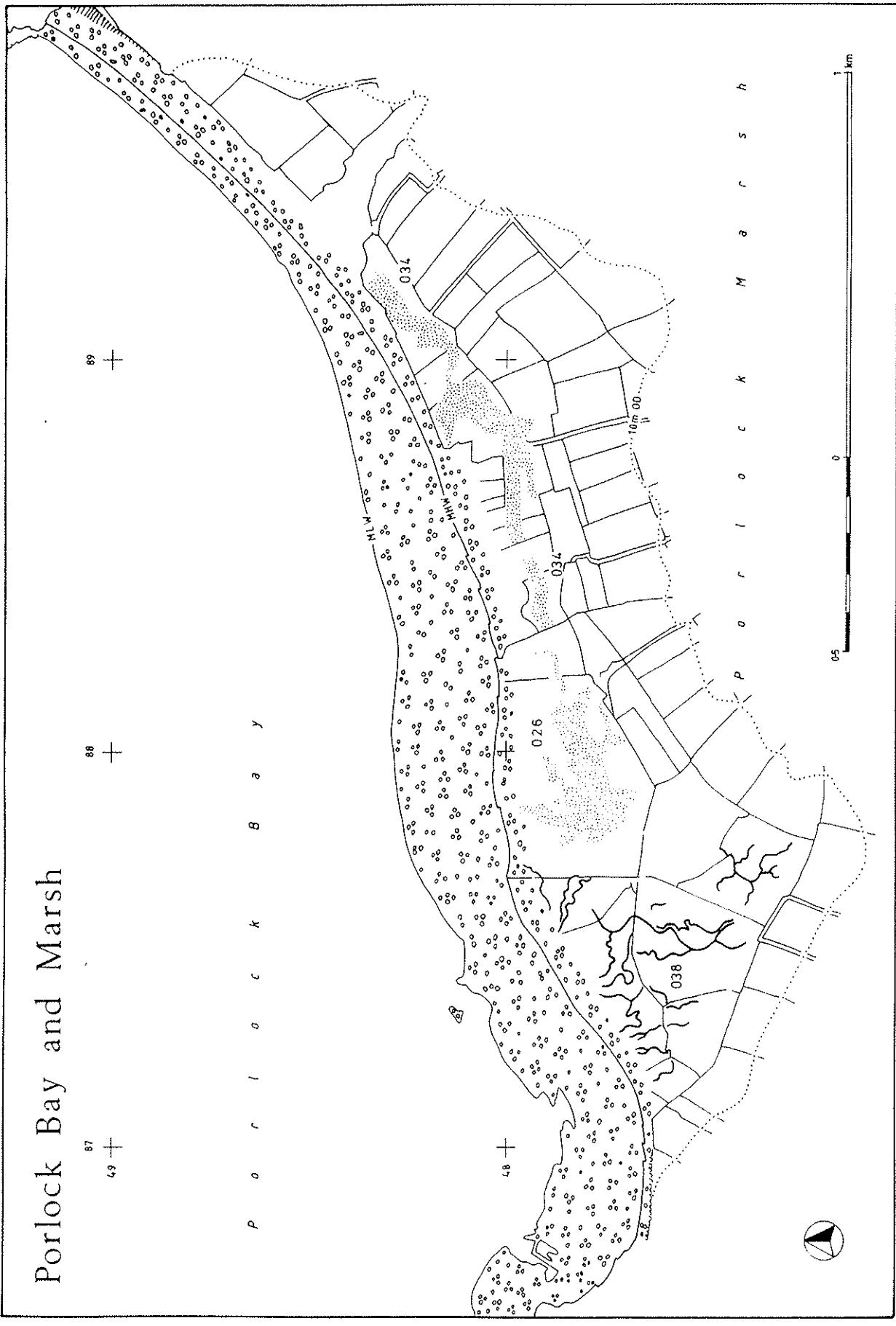


Figure 2. Natural drainage features plotted from the aerial photographic evidence.

INVENTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SITES

SMR	NMR	PRN	
		001	Bridge
		002	Bridge
		003	Bridge
		004	Earthworks
		005	Peat deposit
		006	Building (golf clubhouse)
		007	Earthwork
		008	Wall
		009	Pill box
		010	Wall
		011	Earthwork
		012	Memorial
		013	Pill box
		014	Pill box
33992	SS 84 NE 84	015	Lime kiln
		016	Lime kiln
		017	Lime kiln
		018	Lime kiln
		019	Earthworks
		020	Leat
33924	SS 84 NE 12	021	Peat on beach
33942	SS 84 NE 12	022	Submerged forest
		023	Aircraft crash site
33990	SS 84 NE 8	024	Mesolithic site
		025	Decoy linhay
		026	Porlock pill or fishpond
		027	Port (place name) ? loc
		028	Lower road to Porlock Weir
		029	Building E of Sparkhayes Lane
33921	SS 84 NE 26	030	Old limekiln
		031	Building W of Old Limekiln
		032	Marland Lane
		033	Fish weir x2
		034	Palaeochannels
		035	Site of war memorial
		036	Fish weir Porlock Beach
33776		037	Pair of fish weirs Porlock Beach
		038	Palaeocreek system
		039	Wall
		040	Quarry
		041	Quarry
33923	SS 84 NE 21	042	Duck decoy
33942	SS 84 NE 12	043	Mesolithic site Porlock Beach
		044	Aircraft crash site, Porlock Marsh ? loc
		045	Lane on tithe map

Survey: PB95

PRN: 001

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Bridge, 450m N of West Porlock.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8721 4758
Parish: Porlock

Description: Remains of masonry structure, approximately 3.6m long by 1.8m wide, crossing silted up ditch. Side walls broken down to maximum height of 0.4m above decking <1>. Possibly associated with Porlock Golf Course <2>.

Date: Modern <1>; 1910 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 002

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Bridge, 300m NW of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8768 4764
Parish: Porlock

Description: Remains of masonry structure, approximately 3.6m long by 1.8m wide, crossing, drainage ditch. Generally in good condition and maintained <1>. Possibly associated with Porlock Golf Course <2>.

Date: Modern <1>; 1910 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 003

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Bridge, 250m NxW of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8779 4764
Parish: Porlock

Description: Remains of masonry structure, approximately 3.6m long by 1.8m wide, crossing, drainage ditch. Generally in good condition and maintained <1>. Possibly associated with Porlock Golf Course <2>.

Date: Modern <1>; 1910 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 004

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Earthworks, 300m E of Riding School.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8720 4749
Parish: Porlock

Description: Linear group of small grass covered mounds about 2m long by 1m wide and 200-300mm high. Possibly eroded remains of field bank.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 005

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Deposit of Peat, exposed on SE side of lagoon at mouth of Horner Water.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 3919 4846
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Thin band about 500mm thick of grey, woody peat sealed and sealing recent fluvial deposits <1>. Probably recent <2>. Deposits not relocated with recent erosion of this side of the lagoon evident <3>.

Date: Uncertain <1>; Post medieval <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 09 02 95/ Faxon K
 <2> Field assessment/ 13 02 95/ McDonnell R
 <3> Field assessment/ 27 02 95/ McDonnell R

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 006

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Building, 730m NE of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8828 4797
Parish: Porlock

Description: Three sides of a masonry building approximately 9.0m long by 4.0m wide and surviving to about 3.0m high. Brick quoins on corners and doorway which is on the west side. The structure has been built into the boundary wall between the Blathwayt and Holnicote Estates <1>. This building is reported to be the clubhouse for the Porlock Golf Club which operated from August 1910 until the course was washed away in the autumn of that year by high tides <2>.

Date: Modern <1>; 1910 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 09 02 95/ Faxon K
 <2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/
 Exmoor Books

.

Survey: PB95 **PRN:** 007
SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Leat, 200m NxE of the N end of Sparkhayes Lane.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8830 4791 - SS 8860 4805
Parish: Porlock

Description: Grass covered, stone faced bank up to 600mm high by 1.8m wide with a ditch, on its north side, 500mm deep by 1.8m wide. The feature runs a curving course along the base of the rear of the shingle fans, is of variable condition <1>.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 09 02 95/ Faxon K

.

Survey: PB95 **PRN:** 008
SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Wall, 150m W of the N end of Villes Lane.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8865 4791
Parish: Porlock (Located on the boundary of what was Luccombe)

Description: Short length of masonry wall approximately 6.0m long, 450mm wide and 1.5m high. No obvious reason for construction <1>. Possibly associated with the leat 020 or the old parish boundary between Porlock and Luccombe <2><3>.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 09 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Pers comm/ McDonnell R
<3> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560

.

Survey: PB95 PRN: 009
SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Pill box, 450m NW of Bossington Farm.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8930 4830
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Roughly octagonal structure, brick interior encased in reinforced concrete, approximately 5.5m diameter and 2.3m high. The pebble camouflage facing has been removed <1>.

Date: Modern <1>; Built 1940 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992; Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books/ p73

.

Survey: PB95 PRN: 010
SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Wall, 650m NE of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8817 4800 - SS 8818 4789
Parish: Porlock

Description: A mortared wall, running south from the shingle ridge, constructed with large shingle stone. It is approximately 100m long, 450mm wide and up to 1.5m high. It is built on the west side of a natural shingle mound which has been quarried away on the west site to almost under the wall. The ground surface on the west side is therefore some 2m to

3m lower than the ground surface on the east side. Foundations can be seen extending to the south <1>.

Date: Post medieval <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 011

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Earthwork, 670m NE of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE

NGR : SS 8790 4794

Parish: Porlock

Description: Shallow grass covered depression about 11m by 13m and 700mm deep. This feature lies on the east side of the wall 010, where it has collapsed, and may have been used to quarry material for the repair of the wall. Possibly natural <1>.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 012

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Memorial stone, 550m N of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE

NGR : SS 8790 4794

Parish: Porlock

Description: Concrete and stone memorial approximately 1.6m high with two brass or copper plates commemorating the dead crew of an American Consolidated B-24D Liberator that crashed on the marsh on 29th

October 1942 <1>. The memorial has been moved from its original location (035) <2>.

Date: Modern; 1940's <1><2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books
<3> Photograph/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books

.

Survey: PB95 **PRN:** 013

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Pill box on Bossington Beach, 300m SW of the point where Horner Water ponds up behind the shingle ridge.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8906 4828
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Sub-circular structure with brick interior encased in reinforced concrete and faced on the outside with beach stone as camouflage. It is some 6.0m diameter and 2.0m high with the entrance on the south side <1>.

Date: Modern; 1940's <1>; Built 1940 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books/ p 73

.

Survey: PB95 **PRN:** 014

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Pill box on Bossington Beach, 150m SW of the point where Horner Water ponds up behind the shingle ridge.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8918 4839
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Sub-circular structure with brick interior encased in reinforced concrete and faced on the outside with beach stone as camouflage. It is some 6.0m diameter and 1.5m high <1>.

Date: Modern: 1940's <1>; Built 1940 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books/ p 73

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 015

SMR: 33992

NMR: SS 84 NE 38

Name and Location: Lime kiln at rear of Bossington Beach, 250m SW of where Horner Water ponds up behind the shingle ridge.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8913 4832
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Ruinous masonry structure approximately 11m by 11m and surviving to about 4.5m high. There are single draw holes on the east and west sides and numerous buttresses <1>. It is an impressive structure but is in poor condition and requires attention. Despite other kilns in the immediate area being on the Tithe Map of 1840 this feature is not. It does appear on an estate map of 1876 but by 1889 the OS record it as 'Old Limekiln' <2><3><4>.

Date: Post medieval <1>; 1876-1889 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Map/ Estate Map/ 1876/ Holnicote Estate Office, NT
<3> Map/ OS/ 1889/ 1:2500/ 1st ed
<4> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 016

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Remains of limekiln behind Bossington Beach, 200m SW of where Horner Water ponds up behind the shingle ridge.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8915 4834
Parish: Selworthy

Description: 'L' shaped remains of masonry structure extending for approximately 4.0m by 2.5m and surviving to a height of 1.7m. Remains of small building with entrance on west side <1>. This site is plotted on the tithe map of 1840 and an estate map of 1876 where it is annotated 'Lime Kilns' with two other structures (017; 018) <2><3>. The OS of 1889 and 1931 do not plot this feature <4>.

Date: Post medieval <1>; 1876-1889 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Map/ Tithe/ 1840
<3> Map/ OS/ 1:2500/ 1889
<4> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 017

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Remains of Limekiln, behind Bossington Beach 650m NW of Bossington Farm

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8917 4835
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Remains of masonry structure 7.0m by 2.0m surviving to a height of 2.5m. Remains of a small hearth on the north side <1>. This site is plotted on the tithe map of 1840 and an estate map of 1876 where it is annotated 'Lime Kilns' with two other

structures (016; 018) <2><3>. The OS of 1889 and 1931 do not plot this feature <4>.

Date: Post medieval <1>; 1876-1889 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Map/ Tithe/ 1840
<3> Map/ OS/ 1889/ 1:2500
<4> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 018

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Remains of Limekiln behind Bossington Beach
650m NW of Bossington Farm.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8922 4838
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Grass covered, stone and pebble, mortared foundations approximately 3.0 by 1.5m and 500mm high exposed in the side of a natural, probably shingle, bank. This site is plotted on the tithe map of 1840 and an estate map of 1876 where it is annotated 'Lime Kilns' with two other structures (016; 017) <2><3>. The OS of 1889 and 1931 do not plot this feature <4>.

Date: Post medieval <1>; 1876-1889 <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Map/ Tithe/ 1840
<3> Map/ OS/ 1889/ 1:2500/
<4> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 019

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Linear earthworks, extending 250m SExS of the site of the War Memorial (035) to the edge of the area of the assessment.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8815 4774 - SS 8832 4752
Parish: Porlock

Description: Two grass covered banks on the east and west side of the stream that runs from Porlock Village into the area of marsh near the site of the War Memorial (035). The bank on the west side of the stream is approximately 15m wide and up to 2.5m high. The bank on the east side is about 11m wide and up to 2.5m high. Both banks extend beyond the area of the assessment above the 10m contour <1>. Probably a water management site <2>.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 020

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Remains of a leat that ran from Bossington Village to the current marsh north of the Decoy (42).

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8810 8773 - 8959 4806
Parish: Selworthy; Porlock; that part of Luccombe now in Porlock

Description: Some 2.4km of leats that survive as either low earthworks or functioning ditches <1>. The OS of 1889 and 1931 plot these features and additionally annotate two 'sluice's at the eastern end <2><3>. The reason for taking water so far when other,

more local sources were available is not clear. There are several ditches running off the main leat which may have serviced a water meadow at the eastern end of the assessment area <4>.

Date: Uncertain <1>; Post medieval (1889-1931) <2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R
 <2> Map/ OS/ 1889/ 1:2500
 <3> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560
 <4> Pers Comm/ McDonnell R

.

Survey: PB95 **PRN:** 021
SMR: 33924
NMR: SS 84 NE 12

Name and Location: Deposits of peat on Porlock Beach 600m E of Gibraltar.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8715 4780 (Centre)
Parish: Porlock

Description: Deposits of peat surviving in fragmented areas and with associated submerged forest remains (022). On the eastern side of the exposures the peat appears as low domes whose arched centres have broken away. The deposits of shingle that overlie this material on the north and east side appear to have prevented erosion of the peat. The deposits form relatively thin layers no more than 200mm thick <1>. There is a detailed C19 description of the stratigraphy <2>.

Date: Holocene <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R
 <2> Desc text/ Boyd-Dawkins W/ 1870/ On the Discovery of Flint and Chert under a Submerged Forest in West Somerset/ Jour Ethn Soc/ New series Vol II pp 141-145.

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 022

SMR: 33942

NMR: SS 84 NE 12

Name and Location: Remains of submerged forest material on
Porlock Beach 600m E of Gibraltar.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE

NGR : SS 8715 4780 (Centre)

Parish: Porlock

Description: Scattered remains of submerged forest material surviving as low eroded root bowls and only occasional small trunks lying in associated deposits of peat (021). Much of the area was covered with sand at the time of the field visit and very few items were visible <1>. There is a detailed C19 description of the stratigraphy <2>.

Date: Holocene <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R
<2> Desc text/ Boyd-Dawkins W/ 1870/ On the Discovery of Flint and Chert under a Submerged Forest in West Somerset/ Jour Ethn Soc/ New series Vol II pp 141-145.

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 023

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Crash site of Junkers 88 on Porlock Beach.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE

NGR : SS 8705 4790 LO

Parish: Porlock

Description: Crash site of Junkers 88 at low water near Redsands <1><2>.

Date: 27 09 40 <1>

Sources: <1> Desc text/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books/ p 73

<2> Photo/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/
Exmoor Books/ p 74

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 024

SMR: 33990

NMR: ST 84 NE 8

Name and Location: Mesolithic site on north side of Horner
Water lagoon.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8935 4850 LO
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Mesolithic core and flakes found in this area by
A. D. Hallam in 1956, now in SCC Museum. A
fragment of microlith (!) was found in the area SS
8899 4900 (Acc No 56.A.39), a pebble core was
found at SS 899 489 (Acc No 56.A.50) and a core
trimming was found at SS 896 484 (Acc No 56.A.51)
<1><2>

Date: Mesolithic

Sources: <1> Mention/ 1954/ PSANHS/ Vol 99, p7
<2> Det recs/ OSAD/ 1965/ SS 84 NE 8

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 025

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Decoy Linhay SE of the Decoy (042).

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS8784 4740
Parish: Porlock

Description: Linhay said to be formerly the decoyman's house
which by 1820 had fallen into decay and was
considered to be more useful as a linhay <1>.
Marked on the tithe map of 1840 but not annotated

<2>. Subsequently plotted by the OS 1889 and 1931 and called 'Decoy Linhay' <3><4>. In current agricultural use <5>.

Date: Post medieval <1>

- Sources: <1> Mention/ SRO (DD/BR/6n 22)
- <2> Map/ Tithe/ 1840
- <3> Map/ OS/ 1889/ 1:2500
- <4> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560
- <5> Field assessment/ Faxon K

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 026

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Porlock Pill or Fish Pond, N of the decoy (042).

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8790 4785
Parish: Porlock

Description: In 1650 a survey showed that "Fowling at the Pill in the winter season" had been leased out <1>. A map of 1710-20 shows a large irregular shaped pond fed by 'Porlock Town Brook', 'West Porlock Water Brook' and 'Porlock Ford Water'; there is a tidal breach in shingle ridge to the north. Annotated 'Porlock Pill or Fish Pond' <2><3>. Plotted by Day and Masters in 1782 <4> and by the Greenwoods in 1822 who annotate it 'Decoy' <5>. The OS of 1889 show it as two smaller ponds and spread the annotation 'Decoy' across it <6>. The OS of 1931 plot a much larger complex of ponds with similar annotation <7>. Currently very much larger in the field than previously plotted due to heavy rain <8>. Kendall <9>, quoting from the VCH, mentions a coastal survey of 1625 where the coast south and west of Portishead is described "...the rest is all almost flat ground whereon is only two fathoms of water even to Porlock a little creek the march between Somerset and Devon."

Date: 1650 <1>; 1720 <2><3>

- Sources: <1> Mention/ SRO (T/PH/gc 5)
- <2> Map/ SRO (T/PH/gc 15)

- <3> Map/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books/ p 10
- <4> Map/ Day and Masters/ 1782
- <5> Map/ Greenwoods/ 1822
- <6> Map/ OS/ 1889/ 1:2500
- <7> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560
- <8> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K
- <9> Mention/ Kendall O D/ 1937/ The coast of Somerset (1)/ Proc Brist Nats Soc/ Vol VIII, Pt II, pp 186-208

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 027

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Porlock, place name.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE

NGR : SS 8800 4600

Parish: Porlock; and that part of Porlock that was Luccombe

Description: Enclosure by the harbour (Portloca 918 AD, Portloc DB)<1>. Enclosure by the harbour (Portloca 10th cent., Portloc 1086 (DB)) OE port+loca <2>.

Date: 10th and 11th cents. <1><2>

Sources: <1> Mention/ Ekwall E/ 1977/ The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names/ Clarendon Press/ 4th Ed/ p 371

<2> Mention/ Mills A D/ 1991/ A Dictionary of English Place Names/ Oxford University Press/ p 261

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 028

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Lower road to Porlock Weir, extending WxN of the Courtmead Lane to Porlock Beach.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8706 4762 - SS 8755 4704
Parish: Porlock

Description: Extension of Courtmead Lane westwards to Porlock Weir plotted on map of 1710-20 and annotated 'Mead Lane and Lower Way to Key' <1>. This feature does not appear on Day and Masters Map of 1782 <2>.

Date: Post medieval, 1710 or 20 <1>

Sources: <1> Map/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/ Exmoor Books/ p 10
<2> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 029

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Building at the end of Sparkhayes Lane.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8852 4778
Parish: Porlock

Description: Small building plotted on the east side of the northern end of Sparkhayes Lane on the OS 1931 edition <1>. No evidence recorded in the field <2>.

Date: Modern <1>

Sources: <1> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560
<2> Field assessment/ 09 02 95/ Faxon K

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 030

SMR: 33921
NMR: SS 84 NE 26

Name and Location: Limekiln plotted behind shingle ridge on Bossington Beach 200m N of the N end of Sparkhayes Lane.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8847 4804
Parish: Porlock

Description: Small, roofless, rectangular building plotted on the OS 1931 edition and annotated 'Old Limekiln' <1>. No evidence recorded in the field <2>.

Date: Modern <1>

Sources: <1> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560
<2> Field assessment/ 09 02 95/ Faxon K

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 031

SMR: 33921

NMR:

Name and Location: Building plotted behind shingle ridge on Bossington Beach 200m N of the N end of Sparkhayes Lane.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS8842 4802
Parish: Porlock

Description: Rectangular, roofless building plotted 50m west by south of the building (030) annotated 'Old Limekiln' (030) <1>. That annotation may include this structure <2>. No evidence recorded in the field <3>.

Date: Modern <1>

Sources: <1> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560
<2> Pers comm/ McDonnell R
<3> Field assessment/ 09 02 95/ Faxon K

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 032

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Marland Lane, N of Bossington.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
 NGR : SS 8958 4865 - SS 8974 4823
 Parish: Selworthy

Description: Track extending north, from the north side of Horner Water at Bossington, for approximately 420m. There is a spur some 130m long extending south westwards from about halfway along its length. The earliest record is on Day and Masters map of 1782 where it is shown running northwards almost to the sea. Cartographic and aerial photographic evidence indicate a retraction of this feature culminating in its destruction in the late 1970s or early 80s.

The earliest evidence is equivocal and comes from Day and Masters map of 1782 where a track is shown in the vicinity running only to the sea. This feature, however, may be Hurlstone Lane <1><2>. The aerial photographic evidence confirms this course <3>. An estate map of 1809/12 shows the track for only half its length and it now turns south westwards <4>. This 'hooked' shaped feature appears on the tithe map of 1840 <5> but on an estate map of 1876 <6>, the OS of 1889 <7> and the OS of 1931 <8> the lane terminates at the south westwards bend. The aerial photographic evidence shows the entire north - south line of the lane with additional, possibly field boundary, features at the northern end <2>.

It is perhaps noteworthy that the second element of the place name Peters Marland in Devon is given as **Merland** in 1086 and **Merlanda** in 1185 and is derived from the OE meaning 'land on a lake' <9>. It is also interpreted as 'Cultivated land by a pool' (OE mere + land) <10>. Given the proximity of the Horner lagoon and the evidence of palaeochannels (034) in this vicinity this name may be significant.

Date: Post medieval; 1809 <4><5><6><7><8>

Sources: <1> Map/ Day and Masters/ 1782
 <2> Pers comm/ McDonnell R
 <3> AP/ 2564-2566/ 19 06 78/ Held by ENPA (FCIR)
 <4> Map/ Estate Map/ 1809 or 12/ Held by NT, Holnicote Estate Office
 <5> Map/ Tithe/ 1840
 <6> Map/ Estate Map/ 1876/ Held by NT, Holnicote Estate Office
 <7> Map/ OS/ 1889/ 1:2500
 <8> Map/ OS/ 1931/ 1:10560

- <9> Mention/ Ekwall E/ 1977/ The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names/ Clarendon Press/ 4th Ed
- <10> Mention/ Mills A D/ 1991/ A Dictionary of English Place Names/ Oxford University Press

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 033

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Two possible fish weirs 200m N of the large Tidal Pond on Porlock Beach.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8735 4808 & SS 8737 4816
Parish: Porlock

Description: Two acute angled 'V' shaped features located just below mean low water (OS); recorded from the aerial photographic evidence <1>. Not located in the field <2>.

Date: Uncertain

Sources: <1> AP/ 4185 008-010/ 30 08 85/ Held by ENPA (FCIR)
<2> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 034

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Palaeochannels behind the shingle ridge on Bossington Beach extending from the mouth of Horner Water to the site of the War Memorial.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8830 4790 - SS 8920 4830
Parish: Selworthy; Porlock; that part of Porlock that was Luccombe

Description: Vegetation marks on false colour infra-red aerial photography forming broad sinuous bands suggesting palaeochannels lying behind, and roughly parallel to, the shingle ridge and extending west south west for one kilometre <1>. It is possible that these channels may be the negative areas between shingle spreads and fans and were never channels as such <2>. These features appear more complex on the ground and in some cases there is the suggestion of cultural interference. The depth varies and is difficult to determine but does not exceed 2m <3>.

Date: Uncertain <2>

Sources: <1> AP/ various/ 1977, 1978, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991/
Held by the ENPA (FCIR)
<2> Pers comm/ McDonnell R
<3> Field assessment/ 13 02 95/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 035

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Site of War Memorial, 480m NE of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8815 4777
Parish: Porlock

Description: 'War Memorial' annotation on OS 1975 <1>. Previous site of 012 subsequently moved to present position <2>.

Date: Modern, 1940s

Sources: <1> Map/ OS/ 1975/ 1:10000
<2> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those days/
Exmoor Books

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 036

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Possible fish weir on E side of Porlock Beach 100m north of the large Tidal Pond.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8730 4797
Parish: Porlock

Description: Low, dumped wall of beach boulders about 1.0m high and 4.0m wide forming a right angled junction with either another broader wall or natural spread. The wings are about 20.0m long and the feature retained water <1>.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 037

SMR: 33776

NMR:

Name and Location: Pair of fish weirs annotated 'Tidal Pond' by OS, located in small bay 300m E of Porlock Weir Harbour.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8674 4790
Parish: Porlock

Description: Two stone built fish weirs one enclosing another suggesting phasing. The larger outer weir has wings approximately 100m long <1>. These features were originally recorded from the aerea| photographic evidence <2>.

Date: Uncertain <1><2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R
<2> Mention/ McDonnell R/ 1980/ Tidal Fish Weirs, West Somerset/ PSANHS/ Vol 124 pp 134-135
<3> Mention/ VCH/ 1911/ Vol 2, p 482

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 038

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Palaeocreek system on the W side of Porlock Marsh.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8740 4760
Parish: Porlock

Description: Area of small creeks extending for some 22ha on the west side of the decoy (042). Recorded from the aerial photographic evidence <1> and examined in the field <2>. Possibly relict tidal marsh <3>.

In the ground immediately to the west of the decoy (042) a ponded element of the creek system looks suspiciously like another decoy pond <1>. Field assessment was not conclusive and a fortuitous configuration of creeks seems most likely <2>. On the Tithe Map this field is called 'Marsh' and in 1840 was listed as pasture <3>.

Date: Uncertain <1><2>

Sources: <1> AP/ 505.433-435 & 505.442-444/ Held by the ENPA (FCIR)
<2> Field assessment/ 27 02 95/ McDonnell R
<3> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 039

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Wall, 800m NE of the Decoy Linhay.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8842 4796
Parish: Porlock

Description: Short length of mortared wall reduced to ground level and lying in a gap in the bank of the leat 007 where a current drain meets the leat <1>. It is possible that this structure relates either to the drain or the gap that has been cut in the leat bank <2>.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 10 02 95/ Faxon K
<2> Pers comm/ McDonnell R

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 040

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Quarry, 950m WxN of Bossington Farm.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8875 4810
Parish: Porlock; formerly Luccombe

Description: Area of shingle fan quarried away over an area of approximately 0.5ha extending west south west from angle in stone wall <1>.

Date: Uncertain

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 041

SMR:
NMR:

Name and Location: Quarry, on W side of boundary wall 800m E of the large 'Tidal Pond'.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8815 4795
Parish: Porlock

Description: Area of shingle fan quarried away over an area of approximately 0.5ha on the west side of the boundary wall between the Blathwayt and Holnicote estates <1>.

Date: Uncertain <1>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 042

SMR: 33923

NMR: SS 84 NE 21

Name and Location: Duck decoy, N of the Decoy Linhay

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8780 4755
Parish: Porlock

Description: Large, coastal duck decoy surviving as a substantial earthwork with five sided pond and ten pipes <1>. Listed in gazetteer of Somerset Decoys <2>.

Date: Post medieval <1><2>

Sources: <1> Field assessment/ 08 02 95/ Faxon K
 <2> Mention/ McDonnell R/ 1984/ Duck Decoys in Somerset, A Gazetteer/ PSANHS/ Vol 128, pp 25-30

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 043

SMR: 33942

NMR: SS 84 NE 12

Name and Location: Mesolithic material on Porlock Beach.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8700 4780 centred
Parish: Porlock

Description: Nineteenth century record of worked flint and chert described as "...ample traces of man's

handiwork...". There are stratigraphic descriptions of the clay, peat, head and submerged forest material <1>. No cultural material was recorded during field assessment <2>.

Date: Mesolithic <1>

- Sources: <1> Desc text/ Boyd-Dawkins W/ 1870/ On the Discovery of Flint and Chert under a Submerged Forest in West Somerset/ Jour Ethn Soc/ New series, Vol II pp 141-145.
- <2> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R
- <3> Exc rpt/ 1872/ PSANHS/ Vol 18 (i), p 27
- <4> Det recs/ OSAD/ 1965/ SS 84 NE 12

.

Survey: PB95

PRN: 044

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Aircraft crash site on Porlock Marsh at Sparkhayes.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 88 47 LO
Parish: Porlock

Description: Crash site of a Fleet Air Arm Fairy Albacore which made a forced landing on the marsh on or about the 13th Sept 1940 <1>.

Date: Sept 1940

- Sources: <1> Mention/ Corner D/ 1992/ Porlock in those Days/ Exmoor Books/ p73

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Survey: PB95

PRN: 045

SMR:

NMR:

Name and Location: Lanes leading into the fields to the west of Bossington.

OS Sht: SS 84 NE
NGR : SS 8905 4825 - SS 8922 4786 - SS 8952 4811
Parish: Selworthy

Description: Extension to lanes plotted on the OS of 1975 <1>
at the north west end where two further extensions
are recorded on the tithe map <2>. Slight
earthworks recorded in the field <3>.

Date: Post medieval, 1840 <2>

Sources: <1> Map/ OS/ 1975/ 1:10000
<2> Map/ Tithe/ 1840
<3> Field assessment/ 19 03 95/ McDonnell R

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PORLOCK MARSH MONITORING

Monitoring areas, with fixed point for location. (100x100m)
or (100x50m)



— Ditch lengths recorded ($\times 20m$)

MJ6
August 93



Heath Fit data

Trimp's Mill 2013/14

- o. mullin
- Perfluorinated
- Cyl head.
- Forming (D)
- Phil mbc
- Ox cell
- magnesium (C)
- Chlorine (D)
- Glass
- Like vcr
- Phil cog
- Piscarou mill
- Turns box
- Phil 7. vcr
- Trick pad
- Phil 7. vcr

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Porlock Marsh evaluation: location map
 reproduced from OS 1:10 000 SS84NE

NOT TO SCALE

- 1-8 : 700m long @ 100m intervals
- 9-15 : 600m " " "
- 1-21 : 1200m " " 200m "
- 21-10 : 110m " "
- 22-31 : 2000m " @ 200m intervals
- 12-37 : 1200m " " "

Porlock Bay

