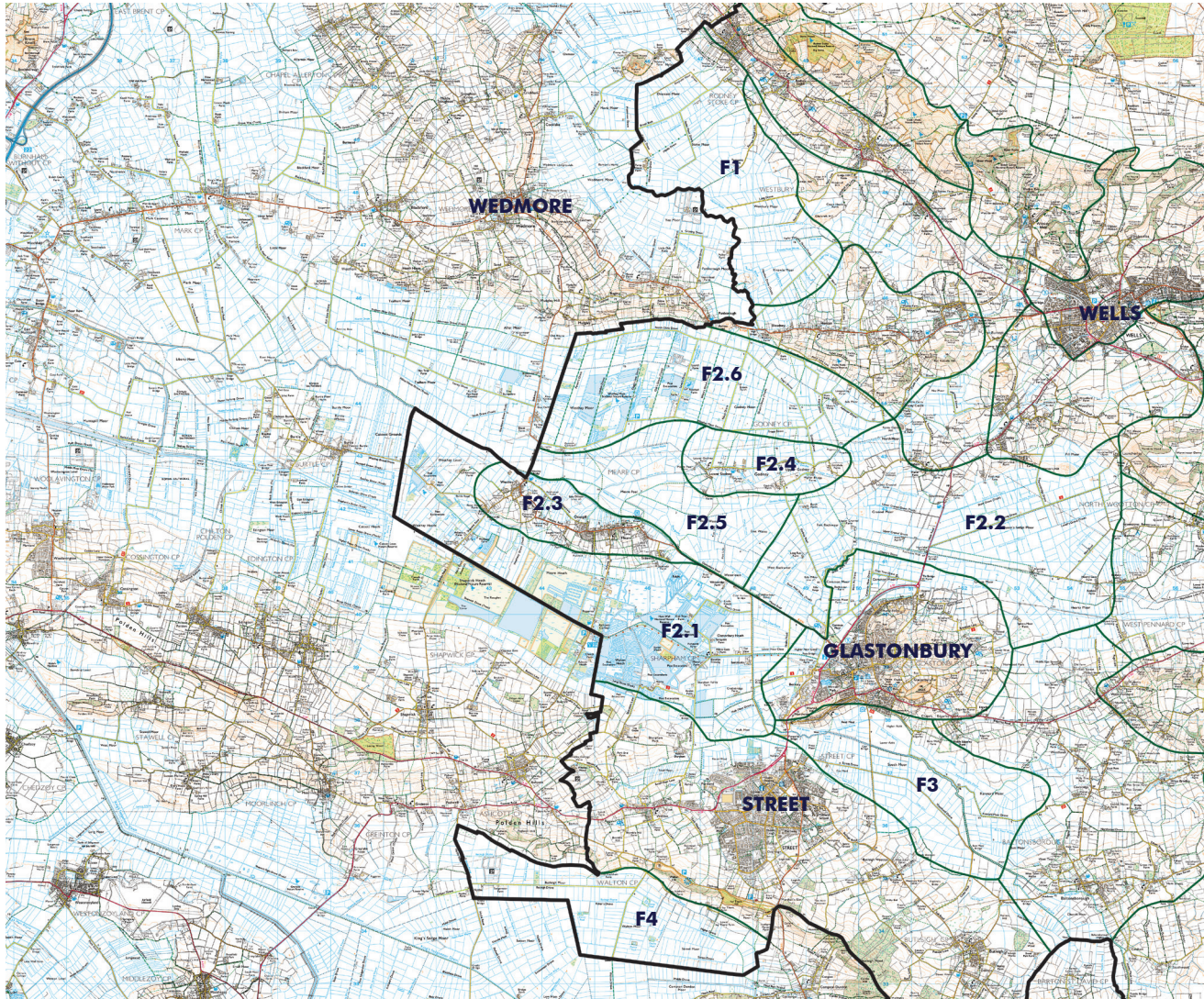


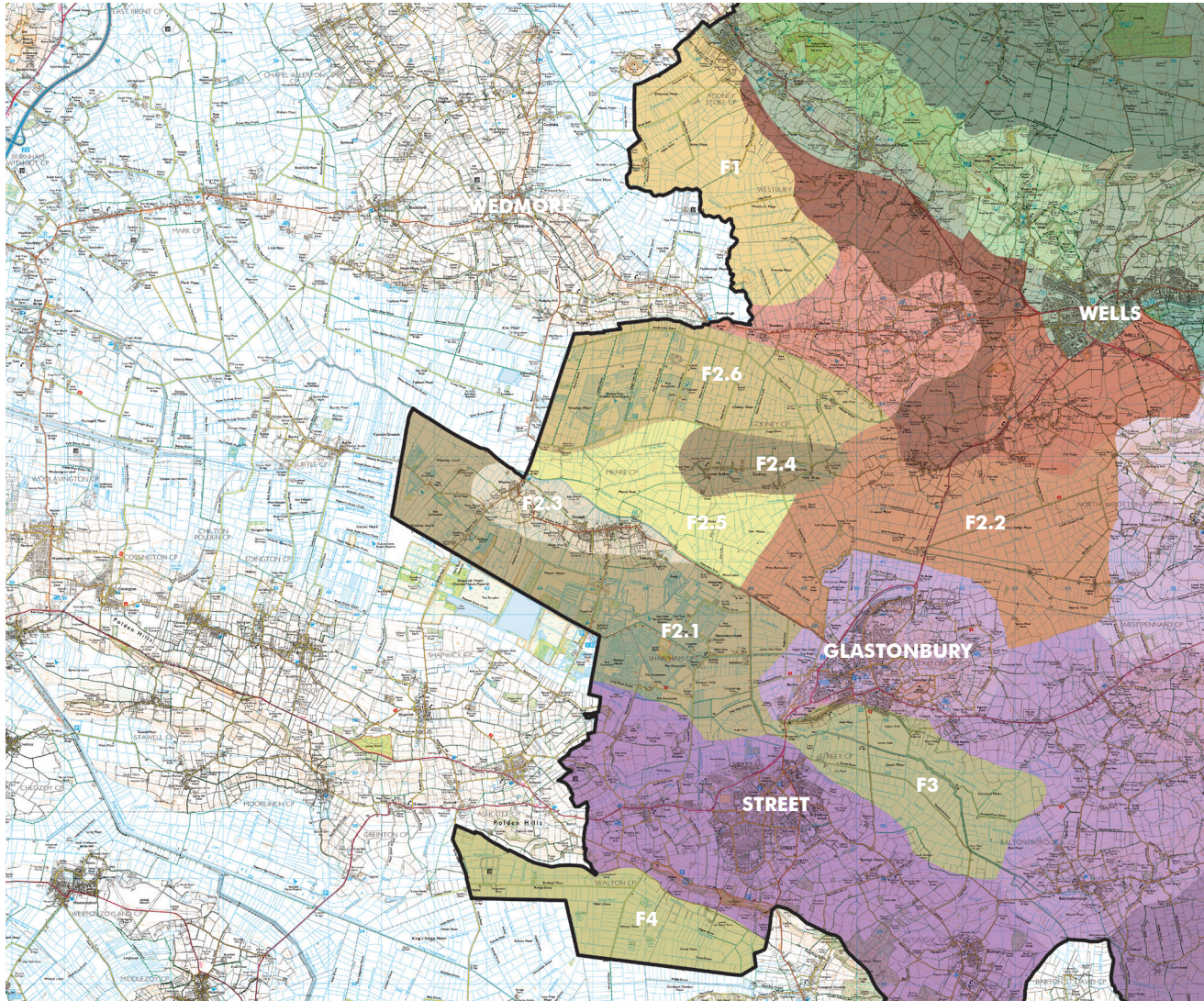
6.7 THE MOORS



MENDIP CHARACTER AREAS

F1	Stoke Westbury / Knowle Moor
F2	Godney / Meare Island
F2.1	Meare Heath
F2.2	Queen's Sedge Moor
F2.3	Westhay - Meare Island
F2.4	Godney Island
F2.5	Meare Pool
F2.6	Westhay and Meare Moor
F3	South Moor and Kennard Moor
F4	Butleigh Moor

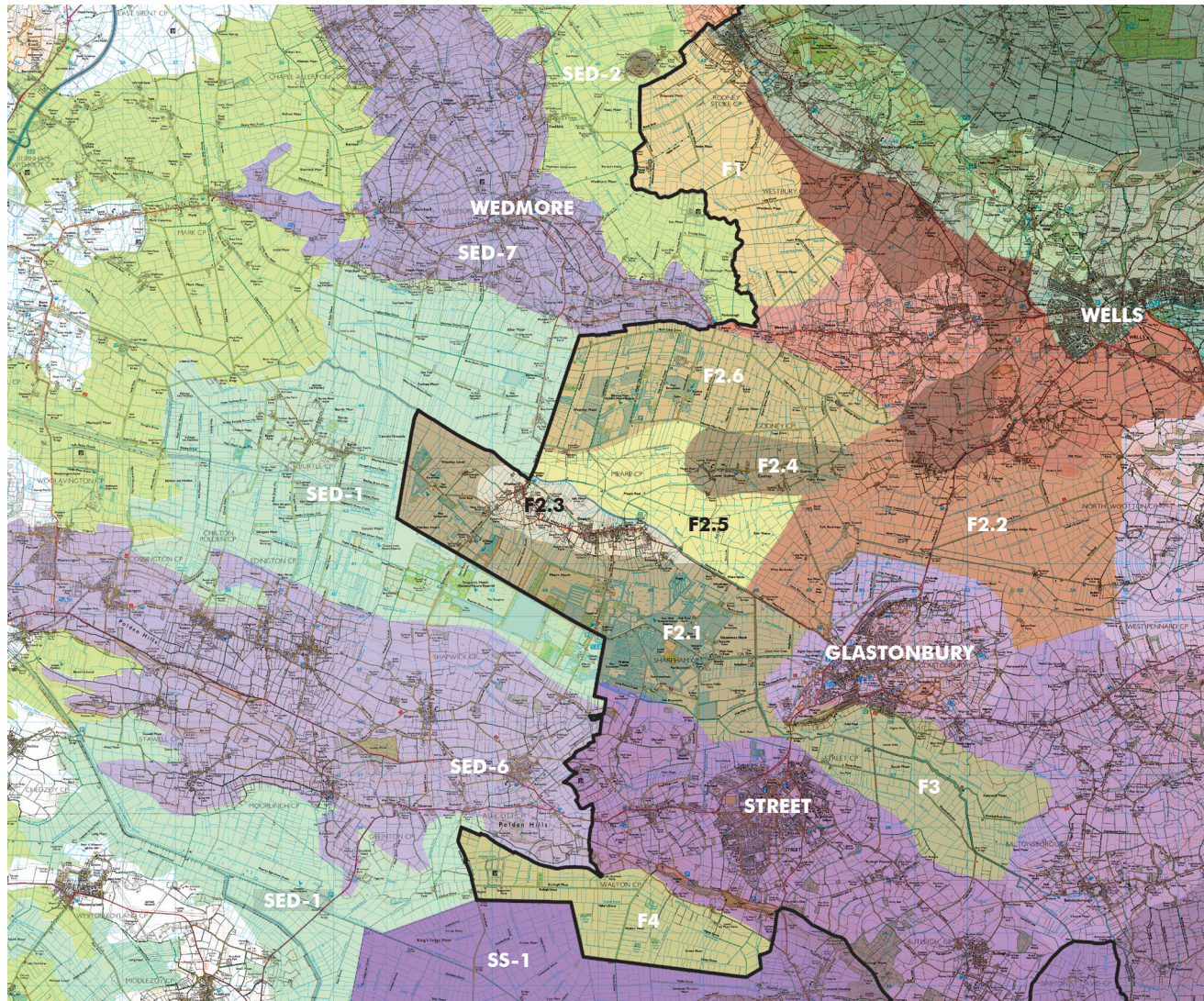
6.7 THE MOORS



MENDIP CHARACTER AREAS

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F2	Godney / Meare Island
F2.1	Meare Heath
F2.2	Queen's Sedge Moor
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6.7 THE MOORS



MENDIP CHARACTER AREAS

F1	Stoke Westbury / Knowle Moor
F2	Godney / Meare Island
F2.1	Meare Heath
F2.2	Queen's Sedge Moor
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F2.4	Godney Island
F2.5	Meare Pool
F2.6	Westhay and Meare Moor
F3	South Moor and Kennard Moor
F4	Butleigh Moor

ADJACENT CHARACTER AREAS

South Somerset

SS-1	Five Head & High Ham Escarpments Valleys and Moors
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Sedgemoor

SED-1	Levels and Moors: Peat Moors
SED-2	Levels and Moors: Clay Moors
SED-6	Lowland Hills: Polden Hills
SED-7	Lowland Hills: Isle of Wedmore

6.7 THE MOORS

6.7.1 The MDC area includes four areas of low lying moors:

- Stoke / Westbury / Knowle Moor (F1)
- The Godney / Meare Moors (F2)
- South Moor and Kennard Moor (F3)
- Butleigh Moor (F4)

6.7.2 For the purposes of this study the areas of low lying moors are set out under a series of headings F1 – F4 (with subheadings F2.1 – F2.5), all relating to small areas of subtly varied character. The areas are subdivided by topography and in places the boundaries of administrative districts. As described in previous sections the MDC areas are contiguous with the more extensive areas of the Somerset Levels and Moors landscape.

6.7.3 The two terms Levels and Moors are sometimes seen as interchangeable; for example the whole area is covered by the Living Landscapes Somerset Levels area. Elsewhere the Levels are described as the areas underlain by marine clays closer to the coast and the Moors are the areas with greater deposits of peat found further inland such as within the MDC area.

LCA FI STOKE, WESTBURY KNOWLE MOOR AREAS

6.7.4 This relatively modest LCA forms half the area of Moor between Rodney Stoke and Wedmore. The area is divided by the River Axe which forms the district boundary between Sedgemoor and MDC. Within the adjoining authority area the low lying landscape continues as the 'Clay Moors' SDC LCA.

6.7.5 Overall the moor is around 4Km across, with the Axe River in the middle of this for much of the length of the district boundary within the LCA. On either side the land rises steeply to contain the landscape with overlooking high ground. To the south the Wedmore Ridge (in SDC) rises to around 70 m AOD. To the north the landscape is enclosed by the Mendip scarp rising above the Strawberry Line Villages up to approx. 270 m AOD. Occasional low hills form prominent and distinct features on the edge of the Moor; such as Nyland Hill (outside of MDC area) and the Lodge Hill, Windmill Hill and Chalcroft Hill within LCA G3. These hillocks form part of a separate character area but are also part of the setting and character of this landscape.

6.7.6 The Moor landscape is virtually flat and generally around only 6 – 8m AOD. The landscape is extensively subdivided by drainage ditches (rhynes) creating numerous small pastures. There are few areas of tree cover and limited hedges. Some loose scrub vegetation exists along some of the roadside ditches. The fields being defined by the ditches and some limited fencing. The area is predominantly

grazing with permanent grassland and hay meadows. Although dominated by such small scale fields and extensive drainage requirements the landscape is evidently managed.

6.7.7 The area is served by a number of minor lanes or Drovers. A few of these connect across the landscape or link to footpaths. But several are dead end single track roads with grass in the middle, serving only fields with no other public access; as such these Drovers are essentially agricultural accesses and their alignment ties in with the pattern of drains and pastures. A footpath route exists along the meandering course of the Axe River.

6.7.8 Overall the landscape has an isolated and remote character with limited human presence. Views of the villages to the north and south are more glimpsed than dominant. Traffic on the A371 is constantly audible as a low level intrusion throughout the character area. A solar farm is another intrusive element encountered on the River Axe path; the site is located just outside of the district boundary and viewed from the north/north east with the main panels facing away from the district. While this is set low in



Stoke Moor - View from path by River Axe

the landscape and faces away from the MDC area; given the otherwise remote location the installation has an impact on the degree of tranquil character experienced. (Refer to section 5.6 for wider view of the landscape impact of energy developments within the district)

6.7.9 Despite the physical containment provided by the surrounding topography with the limited tree or hedge vegetation this is a very open exposed landscape which could be bleak in winter. At other times with isolation and a good degree of tranquillity make this an attractive semi wilderness landscape. The presence of bird life within the wet meadows brings tangible wildlife interest in what feels like a very natural setting.

6.7.10 The area contains three Scheduled Ancient Monuments including two ancient settlements. The larger settlement area is a Romano British settlement extending to some 18 ha. This settlement partially excavated in 1925 and surveyed again in 1985, provided evidence of the area having been close to a more coastal salt marsh environment. The second settlement site is believed to be an early Christian and monastic site located on a very small natural high point at Marchey Farm with connections to the Abbey at Glastonbury. The third SAM is a duck decoy similar to other medieval traps found in the Moors.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / REFERENCES

Historic England Map Search

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Slight realignment to include Knowle Moor Drove and exclude Chalcroft Hill

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F1 STOKE, WESTHAY AND KNOWLE MOOR AREAS	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- Extensive flat topography with regular pattern of straight drainage ditches connecting to the meandering Axe - Open landscape with few trees, hedges and patches of roadside scrub - Very small pastures / meadows served by dead end drove roads - Minimal buildings / scatter of farmsteads	- Uninhabited landscape with low levels of human presence - Solar farm installation – influence on tranquillity and sense of remote setting
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
Livestock grazing and hay/silage production	- Remote quiet isolated area with long single track, dead end lanes - Areas with strong semi-natural wild character
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- Ancient Monument Settlement Sites - Hillocks in adjoining LCA - Extensive wetland habitat - Medieval duck decoy site	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
Views to Mendip scarp and distinctive hillocks	

LCA F2 GODNEY MEAR MOORS

6.7.11 Overall extensive area of moors wrapping around the western and northern sides of Glastonbury. Areas subdivided into distinct character zones by subtle topography and history of land-use. Area F2.1 Meare Heath to Queens Sedge Moor formerly described (1997 study) as single LCA subdivided in this study due to distinctions between areas to the north and south of the Meare Road.

6.7.12 Adjoining area in SDC Landscape Character Assessment covered by the Peat Moors & Isle of Wedmore.

F2.1A MEARE HEATH

6.7.13 This moor area lies to the south of the Village of Meare and the Meare - Glastonbury Road. The area is formed as a shallow vale of low lying land sandwiched between areas of higher ground to the north and south and extends beyond the district boundary towards Shapwick.

6.7.14 The landscape lies at around 3 – 5m AOD. As an area of more extensive peat deposits this is one of the more extensive areas of peat workings within the district. Extraction has taken place from parcels of land to the east and south of Meare. The areas remain as flooded ponds with narrow strips of land between pits. A large proportion of these have now been taken over as managed nature reserves with reed beds and open water habitats.

6.7.15 Some small scale peat extraction continues and some areas of defunct workings also remain with the clutter of fences and redundant or re-purposed buildings.

6.7.16 The areas of farmland that remain unaffected by the peat workings are generally small scale pastures subdivided by the extensive drainage network. The pattern of fields and ditches appears more irregular and less efficient than in other areas of the Moors. Sections of the landscape are divided into long very thin strips of land that may extend to around 1h but are barely more than 35m across. The areas are predominantly grazing with areas cut for hay or silage.

6.7.17 The area is more heavily vegetated than the Moors to the north with stands of trees and scrub between parcels of land and some areas of former workings now supporting regenerating wet woodland. Many areas of the workings are also filled with extensive and dense reed growth which fill blocks of the former pits as a sea of tall vegetation.

6.7.18 The area is served by only a small number of minor roads that cross the low lying landscape. As with other sections of the Moors the roads are elevated with adjacent ditches. Many of these are typically suffering subsidence with potholes and severely undulating surfaces. The Meare Glastonbury Road as a larger road leading into the town is quite busy and generates some back ground noise across the area. At the eastern end of the LCA the proximity to the town and the A39 adds to this intrusion. Beyond Westhay to the West the area is noticeably quieter.

6.7.19 The reserve areas are extensive and provide many different opportunities to overlook the exhausted pit areas. The provision of parking, visitor centre, surfaced paths, signage and formal hides creates a more managed environment around the main visitor attraction areas. While the areas provide for many people to engage with the wildlife interest of the

landscape this is often a different experience being more of a formal visitor attraction than some of the other wilder sections of the Moors.

6.7.20 The disused Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway line extended through the LCA from Glastonbury to a minor halt at Ashcott Corner. The line sits alongside a main drainage rhyne and is now converted to well-used shared footway cycleway. The Sustrans cycle route links the visitor attractions of the reserves and continues on to follow the district boundary through to Westhay Heath. With another former station site at Shapwick. The evidence of the disused railway is reasonably subtle a few bridges have railway design details and signage and there are buildings with railway signage that hint at the former track.

6.7.21 Of greater archaeological significance in the location of the Shapwick halt the line of the ancient Sweet Track is identified as a series of Scheduled Ancient Monuments that cross the line of the district boundary and old railway. This is one of several trackway finds discovered within the peat in this LCA.



View from footpath - Sharpham Park

6.7.22 Overall this is an interesting landscape with aspects of disruption to the semi natural or traditional agricultural patterns. In some areas it is possible to find more remote and isolated conditions which reflect more of the natural landscape condition but aspects of the peat operation and abandonment or reuse of workings frequently introduce some intrusion. At the same time the restoration of the former workings into reserves is evident as a restorative process (albeit at an early stage relative to the previous condition of the land). The reserves act as visitor attractions allowing extensive public access and engagement with the natural interest but at the same time this activity makes for a less tranquil character setting. Alongside the reserves in the few remaining areas of extraction the process or even around the abandoned spaces there is a lower level of tranquility and landscape quality; but again this may be a transitory condition.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Sub division of previous area L2.1 - Meare Heath to Queens Sedge Moor into two separate LCA's.

Slight adjustments to extent of F2.2 to include more of Westhay Level in this area and minor adjustment to position of line to south of Walton Heath to include former pit / lake area.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F2.1A MEARE HEATH	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- Extensive peat workings – mainly at post extraction stage and naturally regenerating as lakes and wetlands - Public access nature reserves with paths, signage and visitor activity - Extensive tree and scrub cover on lines of banks between pits - Active pits, reuse of processing sites and other abandoned compounds - Small scale residual pastoral farmland - Minor undulating roads	- Absence of settlements – sporadic housing / farmsteads - Former railway line – subtle hints of previous infrastructure present in the landscape - Line now a shared recreation route – with associated visitor activity and interest
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
- Strong semi natural character emerging within reserve areas. - Concentration of visitor facilities influence on tranquillity	
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- National Nature Reserve – Ham Wall and several other reserve site areas with various designations. - Scheduled Ancient Monuments – Sweet Track and other sections of ancient trackways - Medieval duck decoy - Somerset and Dorset Railway line including former railway station sites.	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
Glimpsed views to Glastonbury Tor and Pen Hill	

F2.2 QUEENS SEDGE MOOR

- 6.7.23 This area extends north from Meare Road around the northern side of Glastonbury. It is further subdivided by the A39 Wells Road. The low lying area sits between the high ground of Glastonbury town and the more subtle landform of Polsham and Coxley (up to 25m AOD). The LCA area itself sits at around 5m AOD with occasional higher spots at 8 – 10m AOD.
- 6.7.24 Most of the landscape is subdivided by a grid pattern of drainage ditches (rhynes) and a small number of minor lanes. Most of these are again the typical very straight small drove roads; the A39 is obviously bigger but also takes a very straight route. The Great Withy Drove is a very narrow Lane with a distinctly winding course and a deep ditch alongside this route is quite different character from the other drove roads. With the route enclosed on the south-side by trees (screening views towards the town) and grass growing in the middle of the road this feels remote.
- 6.7.25 By contrast Chasey's Drove and Long Drove on either side of the A39 reflect the wider character of long straight routes that follow the drainage pattern. Both these connect the backroads to the fast busy main road and cross more open landscape.
- 6.7.26 The ditch lines through this character area include random groups of trees and scrub that break up the views across the landscape. The A39 embankments are more heavily vegetated with scrub and trees. In a few areas the trees are the distinctive willow pollards.
- 6.7.27 As with the other Moors areas the presence of human habitation within the area is strictly limited. There are a small number of farmsteads scattered across the area. A small cluster of buildings sit alongside

the A39 on a shallow promontory of higher ground close to Southway Farm. Views out include the higher parts of Glastonbury and the Tor is a constant landmark to the south. The Pen Hill mast also occurs in views north.

- 6.7.28 To the north east of the A39 a power transmission line cuts across the landscape introducing the visual and audible intrusion over the Long Drove lane. In the south east corner of the LCA a short section of the former railway Somerset and Dorset Railway can be traced across the fields.

- 6.7.29 Earlier human activity is noted with the site of the Glastonbury Lake Village located at the junction of Godney Road and the Great Withy Drove. Subtle earthworks in the triangular field hint at the location and interest of this site.



Long Drove - Queen's Sedge Moor



Long Drove - Queen's Sedge Moor

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F2.2 QUEENS SEDGE MOOR	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- Open landscape comprised of small scale pastures - Extensive drainage rhynes and small rivers - Long straight drove roads, causeway profiles with roadside ditches - Willow pollards, rhyne side tree and scrub cover	Isolated farmsteads
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
- Areas of semi remote, distinctive and visually tranquil landscape - Background noise close to main road	- A39 busy main road - Power transmission line – visual and audible intrusion
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- Great Withy Drove - Glastonbury Lake Village Site - Earthworks	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
Views to Glastonbury Tor and Pen Hill	

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Slight adjustment to northern boundary to exclude low hills from this LCA

LCA F2.3 WESTHAY-MEARE ISLAND

- 6.7.30 This area relates to a shallow ridge of locally higher ground separating two areas of open Moor. Ridge area settled with the small villages of Westhay, Oxenpill and Meare strung out along the main road linking Glastonbury to the village of Wedmore.
- 6.7.31 The villages occupy a small area of drier ground at about 8 – 10m AOD. The land falls away to the north and south of the settlements down to around 3 – 4m AOD. The land on either side is extensively drained by a pattern of ditches running north/south down the slopes to join larger east west draining rhynes (the River Brue to the north).
- 6.7.32 The landscape is comprised of small scale paddocks and grazing fields. Where the field boundaries include hedges and trees the pattern of vegetation cover reflects the layout of the drainage channels with lines of trees radiating out on the north south pattern. Numerous small orchards infill some of the paddock areas close to the villages.
- 6.7.33 The areas are predominantly used for livestock grazing with some of the larger drier areas being managed as more improved grassland.
- 6.7.34 The village areas contrast with the surrounding Moors; as clearly more habitable land the development has been created as a dense village street-scape with many areas of 'side road infill' as well. Development fronts hard on to the roadside in places and the two villages are almost continuous. The settlement pattern gives the sense that the ridge was one of only a few locations that could accommodate and so historically all opportunities to site habitation would have been taken.

6.7.35 As a route on higher ground the road through the villages is a more strategic route than many of the lanes that extend north and south down on the Moors. The road is quite busy and impacts on the internal character of both village streetscapes. A quieter smaller parallel side road the 'Meareway' links Westhay to Oxenpill with cottages fronting tightly onto the road frontage. The strong presence of settlement and human activity stands out against the much more remote and semi natural landscapes of the low Moors.

6.7.36 Although only a small area the LCA includes three areas of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Two relate to ancient remains of a lake village between Westhay and Meare. The third is the imposing Abbots Fish House building at the eastern end of Meare. This is set within a sloping field (also part of the SAM) and forms a distinctive local landmark with an attractive meadow surround.



Glastonbury Canal - Ham Wall

6.7.37 The Fish House originally owned by the Glastonbury Monastery is owned by English Heritage and is openly accessible to the public. As a Scheduled Ancient Monument the building is an obvious historic asset for the village the surrounding meadow provides an attractive setting and views out to the adjoining moors. The building provides a tangible link with the historic location of Meare Pool, a substantial lake that previously occupied the open landscape to the north of the village (LCA 2.4). These areas overlap with the designated Special Landscape Feature of 348m (predominantly extending over part of LCA 2.4).

6.7.38 Smaller scale lanes recreational footpaths lead out from the villages down to the lower adjoining LCA's.



Meare Fish House



Cycleway at Ham Wall



View towards Meare from Ashcott Road



View over the former Meare Pool from the Meareway

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F2.3 WESTHAY-MEARE ISLAND	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- Settled low ridge between moors - Small scale paddocks with hedges and drainage ditches radiating north and south from villages - Occasional orchard areas	- Long linear settlement pattern dictated by the extent of high ground - Pattern follows strategic route along low ridge - Buildings in local Lias limestone and brick
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
- Areas of semi remote, distinctive and visually tranquil landscape - Background noise close to main road	- A39 busy main road - Power transmission line – visual and audible intrusion
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- Abbots Fish House and associated meadow (building and meadow designated SAM) - Lake Village Site - Pill Box Location	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
Pen Hill	

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Adjustment consequent on amendment to 2.4 and extent of area reduced to west of Westhay.

LCA F2.4 GODNEY ISLAND

- 6.7.39 Godney is a dispersed hamlet located in a very low lying area (approx. 5-6m AOD) alongside the river Sheppey. The properties are located alongside a minor road linking Upper and Lower Godney; there is barely more than a 1m level difference between the two ends of the hamlet. For many the water course is set either between the road and the dwellings or as the rear garden boundary. The river and lane runs east west the areas to the north and south drain with numerous ditches down towards the properties.
- 6.7.40 The hamlet is approached via minor but typically straight drove roads from the adjoining character areas (LCA 2.1.2, 2.4 & 2.5). The lane between upper and lower Godney is a more winding single track road. Where properties back onto the river most have a frontage directly onto the lane. The properties and winding character create interest and a changing scene along the route.
- 6.7.41 The river and drainage rhynes form distinctive features being set so close to the residential properties. Several dwellings have bridges linking to the lane and the roadside verges provide elevated banks to the water course. The settlement pattern appears closely linked to the river course with many properties wedged into a narrow spaces or hard up against the water and strung out along the line of the lane.
- 6.7.42 A small church and farm buildings at Godney Farm occupy a noticeably higher spot to the south of the village. As a distinctive building seen on the skyline from the main hamlet this is noted as a local land mark. The lanes and footpaths also provide many views to Glastonbury Tor and the Pen Hill Mast.

- 6.7.43 A pill box near upper Godney sits close to a rhyme and the river highlighting the presence of defences that were set out through the levels and moors. The feature appears to be strategically positioned adjacent to the drainage channels.
- 6.7.44 The position of these features individually and collectively illustrate a consideration of the ways in which the natural landscape may have provided a key advantage in the planning of the strategic defences.
- 6.7.45 The majority of the development within the hamlet is small scale residential and farmsteads. A set of larger rearing units in Lower Godney stand out as a different scale and more industrial purpose. A power transmission line lies to the north of the character area.
- 6.7.46 For the most part although settled the landscape feels quite remote and unspoilt. The settlement is quite directly influenced by its natural landscape setting; with some sense of being perilously close to the water.



Lower Godney



River Sheppey, Lower Godney

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F2.4 GODNEY ISLAND	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT/INFRASTRUCTURE
- Settled area of low lying moor - Straight drainage rhynes feeding into small scale channel of River Sheppey - Straight droves provide access to hamlet - Settlement and lane follow more irregular line of river channel	- Properties closely related to drainage features - Many served with individual access bridges from lane over River Sheppey
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
Open surrounding landscape	Lias limestone and brick buildings and garden walls
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- Local Church modest building on local high point - Pill Box adjacent to natural defence feature of rhynes	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
- Church on sky line from parts of Hamlet - Glastonbury Tor & Pen Hill Visible from points	

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Adjustment - original outline appears plotted slightly north also to include Godney Farm & Church

LCA F2.5 MEARE POOL

6.7.47 The name Meare Pool appears on the ordnance survey recording the past location of what was an extensive lake. The extent of the feature varied; 16th century records suggest it was up to one and a half miles wide with a circumference of up to 5 miles. The extent may have fluctuated during the year and changed over time. The lake was an important fishery and was part of the Glastonbury monastic estates. The nearby Abbots Fish House at Meare was used for drying catches and provided accommodation for visiting representatives of the Abbey. The building remains as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (located within LCA 2.2). The lake however was drained between 1620 and 1740.

6.7.48 The landscape that remains is a shallow low lying moor around 3 – 5 m AOD. The southern edge of the moor is defined by the River Brue which is one of the larger drainage features. Many other smaller channels cross the landscape dividing the area down in to irregular pastures. The area is more open than some of the other moors with only occasional ditch side trees and scrub vegetation.

6.7.49 The area is in generally managed for grazing or hay/silage with mainly permanent grasslands. The area includes a small extent of arable (maize production). With the extensive ditches and active grazing the landscape has a managed character. The settlements, Meare and Godney are in view from much of the area giving a background human presence. This coupled with road noise from the Meare – Westhay Road and power transmission line in the northern edge of the LCA mean the area is not particularly tranquil.

6.7.50 The open even exposed conditions and long views up towards the Mendip scarp do create a dramatic landscape. The semi-natural setting of the many drainage ditches and low key agricultural land use mean the area is interesting and distinctive. The history of the landscape as a lake and part of the setting to the lakeside villages and Abbots Fish House provides another aspect of interest.

6.7.51 The landscape is accessible via rights of way including a section of riverside path.



Orchard alongside Meareway Lane

SPECIAL REFERENCES INFORMATION

History of Meare pool

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Slight adjustment to boundary along River Brue and resulting from adjustment to LCA 2.3

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F2.5 MEARE POOL	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
• Very low lying landform with numerous drainage features • Lack of tree cover and hedge lines provides open landscape • Long views to the Mendip Scarp • Woodland areas seen in distance around Westhay Moor (LCA 2.5). • Occasional scrub / incidental tree cover	• Lack of settlements / farmsteads within landscape area • Back drop of village/hamlet development
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
• Lightly managed farmland predominantly unimproved grassland hay meadows • Orchards on edge of adjoining LCA settlement	• Quiet away from village edge but with back-ground noise • With views to settlement in several directions & managed landscape not overly remote or isolated •
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
• Ancient monument – lake villages • River Brue with sections of riverside path on banks • Pill box line	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
• Church on skyline from parts of Hamlet • Glastonbury Tor & Pen Hill Visible from points	

LCA F2.6 WESTHAY-MEARE MOORS

6.7.52 This section of Moor is enclosed on its northern side by the ridge of higher ground between Hembury Hill and Panborough (LCA G2) and to the south by the Godney hamlet. On the western side the area includes an area of former peat workings, the eastern area is more continuous farmland.

6.7.53 Most of the area is subdivided down into a very regular pattern of small fields defined by ditches and a series of minor drove roads and tracks. A pattern of these are laid out on a repeating north south axis between Westhay and Godney Moors. The landscape pattern becomes a little more irregular to the east where Ashmoor Drove follows the winding course of the River Sheppey.

6.7.54 The landscape is broken down by tree and scrub cover along the drainage features and lanes and drove tracks. At Westhay Moor the former peat workings are becoming heavily vegetated with wet woodland tree cover and extensive reed growth. Areas of open water are located between the north south tracks. These combined have become recognised as important for bird life and wetland habitat with the area being designated as the Westhay Moor National Nature Reserve.

6.7.55 The straight roads are generally quite quiet. In places near the peat works the roads are often undulating or subsiding at the sides. A visitor car park for the reserve attracts some traffic into the western side of the area with a small area of parking being well used.

6.7.56 The agricultural management is generally low key grazing and hay silage cutting. Some areas of maize occurs in dense blocks.

6.7.57 The area is generally devoid of settlement or much habitation. A few properties and a farmstead sit alongside the River Sheppey on Ashmoor Drove. The farm having a bridged access off the lane as seen in other areas of the moors. Remnants of the peat extraction industry remain with small areas of disturbed pits still evident as extraction sites and small works / packing plants.

6.7.58 As an extensive area the occasional remaining semi industrial element of the peat works are now only localised intrusions. The establishment of extensive tree cover around the reserve also help diminish the

effect of these developments. With the quiet smaller lanes and ridge of high ground to the north this area is more tranquil in terms of traffic noise. The landscape is visually interesting with the combination of distinct low moor and backdrop of the Yartley Ridge. The presence of the wildlife interest of the reserve area provides wildlife and biodiversity interest.

6.7.59 The landscape is well used with the extensive network of quiet flat lanes being popular with cyclists and the good network of drove tracks and other rights of way. In addition to the nature reserve includes various hides and trails which appear well used.



Dagg's Lane Drove - Westhay Moor

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Slight adjustment to positions of boundary drafting relating to this and LCA areas F2.3, F2.4 & G2

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F2.6 WESTHAY-MEARE MOORS	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
• Low lying flat landscape contained by rising ground to the north • Regular grid pattern of drainage rhynes with contrasting winding course of River Sheppey • Distinct pattern of repeated drove lanes and tracks • Extensive area of lakes and ponds in former peat extraction pits • Mix of open moderately vegetated landscape to the east and more heavily treed area to the west	• Limited settlement – occasional remote properties and farmsteads. • Minor roads
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
• Low key pastoral management and limited arable production maize blocks	• Relatively quiet and unspoilt landscape providing extensive area of interest and access
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
• National Nature Reserve – major habitat feature • Fenny Castle Hill Fort Hill – located on boundary with adjoining LCA G3	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
• Barrow Hill stands out on northern edge (SFL) • Yartley Hill Ridge forms attractive backdrop	

LCA F3 SOUTH MOOR AND KENNARD MOOR

- 6.7.60 This small area of moor lies alongside the River Brue and is separated from the wider Moors by the high ground of Wearyall Hill. The river flows into the area around the edge of Baltonsborough and out through the gap between Glastonbury and Street.
- 6.7.61 The river barely drops along the length of this area; ordnance survey spot levels indicated near the river at 9 m AOD at both ends of its route from Butt Moor Bridge to the weir next to Clyce Hole. After this the level drops to 7 m AOD for the short section left to where the river passes below the A361.
- 6.7.62 The river channel is contained within raised banks through this landscape. Nearby sections of road are indicated at levels of 6m and 7m AOD. Giving the unusual circumstance of the river being at a higher level than the surrounding farmland. Ditches and Rhynes drain the field areas down to the point where the river is lower below and downstream of the main road.
- 6.7.63 The landscape is virtually flat across most of the moor rising only at the edges of the character area.
- 6.7.64 The field boundaries are formed by ditches and occasional fence lines. The area includes no woodlands as such, tree cover is restricted to individual trees dotted along the lanes and field ditches. These include occasional groups of willow pollards and larger specimen roadside trees. Two sections of avenue planting occur on roads near Street. On Street Drove the small lane is dominated by mature poplar planting. On Cow Bridge Road young oaks are established set back into the fields on either site. The Junction of the two roads is marked by a single mature oak. The area is predominantly grazing and silage/hay-cropping land.

- 6.7.65 The area is not occupied by any residential buildings and only occasional farm sheds or barns; it is entirely located within the flood plain of the Brue. The area is overlooked by the hillside development areas of Wearyall Hill on the outskirts of Glastonbury.
- 6.7.66 The area is free from significant infrastructure apart from the short section of the main A361 causeway between the two towns.
- 6.7.67 Several minor lanes cross the area but where these provide back road links between the towns and villages they are quite busy. A smaller winding lane (Kennard Moor Drove) extends out from the edge of Glastonbury and follows the river for a short

distance. As a long single track road the route is not heavily used but at the time of this study is occupied by many caravans. These have some impact on the landscape by reducing the sense of isolation and unspoilt condition.

- 6.7.68 The area includes a few footpath links across the moor and along the river. As a quite open landscape the views change only moderately on exploring these. The Kennard Moor Drove forms part of Sustrans Route 26.



Orchard next to Kennard Moor Drove

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F3 SOUTH MOOR AND KENNARD MOOR	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
• Low lying flat landscape contained by Wearyall Hill • Poldered river • Varied field sizes • Ditch field boundaries with occasional pollarded willows • Roadside trees including poplar & young oak avenues & pollards	• No settlement within area but views often include residential development on the edges.
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
• Managed farmland predominantly meadow grasslands • Numerous old caravans along minor lane	• Potential for area to be seen as remote quiet backwater but caravans intrude. • Far end of Kennard Moor Drove – sense of isolation in big scale landscape
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
• Medieval road (SAM) next to modern causeway of A361	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
• Long views out from area towards Glastonbury Tor & Pen Hill	

LCA F4 BUTLEIGH MOOR

6.7.69 This small area of the MDC district is part of the extensive Kings Sedge Moor area that extends across the district boundary. The area sits below the Walton Hill section of the Polden Ridge (LCA E3). The MDC area is defined by a large drainage rhyne aptly named the Eighteen Feet Rhyne. This forms the district boundary to the south.

6.7.70 The area lies at around 5 m AOD and is dominated by the backdrop of the Walton Hill Ridge (which rises to around 77m AOD). The land starts to rise up slightly at the western end of the LCA where a dwelling and farm buildings sit. On the low lying area the landscape is comprised of flat grazing / hay meadows defined by drainage ditches rather than any hedges. To the north east the land starts to rise up to form the Polden Ridge; a few farms and cottages lie above the moor at this point. Some field areas appear to be only lightly stocked or managed. There is also a contrast between the very rectilinear nature of the layout of the drainage rhynes and how some are very naturalised features.

6.7.71 The field pattern is medium scale and very rectilinear (more so than the other areas of MDC moors). A small amount of arable production is included on the edge of the area. The area includes a few small rectangular woodlands / blocks of trees. Three of these comprise a collection of historic duck decoys (all protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments).

6.7.72 The landscape is crossed by single track drove lanes. As back roads and dead end links to fields the roads are not heavily used. The lanes and paths feel quite remote; and the landscape has a quite strong semi natural character. Distant views are limited and the

Walton Hill ridge acts as a distinct backdrop. The Walton Hill windmill stands out on the hill above as a significant landmark.

6.7.73 With the ridge blocking views and noise to the north and the expanse of unoccupied landscape to the south this area offers a good degree of tranquillity. The unusual and semi natural character of the watery landscape also feels unspoilt and remote.



View from Ivy Thorne Lane



Walton Drove

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA F4 BUTLEIGH MOOR	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
• Very low lying flat landscape contained by steep rising ground • Rectilinear drainage ditch field boundary pattern • Occasional small blocks of woodland • Grassland hay meadows & pasture	• Single farm & dwellings on higher ground main area unoccupied • Glimpsed views to individual properties on ridgeline above
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
• Lightly managed grasslands & ditches • Solar farm	• Area feels very remote & tranquil • Bird life & rampant marginal vegetation in wetland ditches give strong semi natural character
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
• Dead-end drove roads • Medieval duck decoy ponds (SAM)	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
• Limited views up from levels include Walton Hill Windmill on skyline	