Programmes of peatland restoration have been established on the uplands of southwest England since the 1990s. The uplands of the South West also contain some of the most important, best preserved and visible archaeological landscapes and sites in Britain. These form part of the ‘cultural’ ecosystem services group and are generally protected by local and national designations. Upland peatlands do not sit in isolation from the cultural landscape, and are very much a part of the Historic Environment. Furthermore, there are many historic features located in uplands that have yet to be recognised and recorded.

The archaeo-environmental record can provide long-term ecological datasets; e.g.: pollen, plant macrofossils and testate amoeba. These can assist in measuring restoration successes and are indicative of past ecosystems and their reaction to human and environmental pressures.

A major success of the peatland restoration projects in the South West has been the explicit recognition of the importance of the Historic Environment, and appropriate inclusion of this within the restoration project. Best practice for the inclusion of Historic Environment in peatland restoration programmes would comprise the following:

- including Historic Environment representatives on project steering committees from their inception
- identifying funding to undertake appropriate Historic Environment work
- desk- and field-based Historic Environment survey for restoration sites
- incorporation of archaeo-environmental knowledge and recognising the potential benefits to restoration practice
- involving local communities in archaeological work wherever possible; recording and disseminating the results