



LINDOW MOSS SITE REMEDIATION



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The Site

Lindow Moss, also known as Saltersley Common, is a raised mire peat bog on the edge of Wilmslow in Cheshire, England. It has been used as common land since the medieval period and is best known for the discovery of the preserved bog body of Lindow Man in 1984.

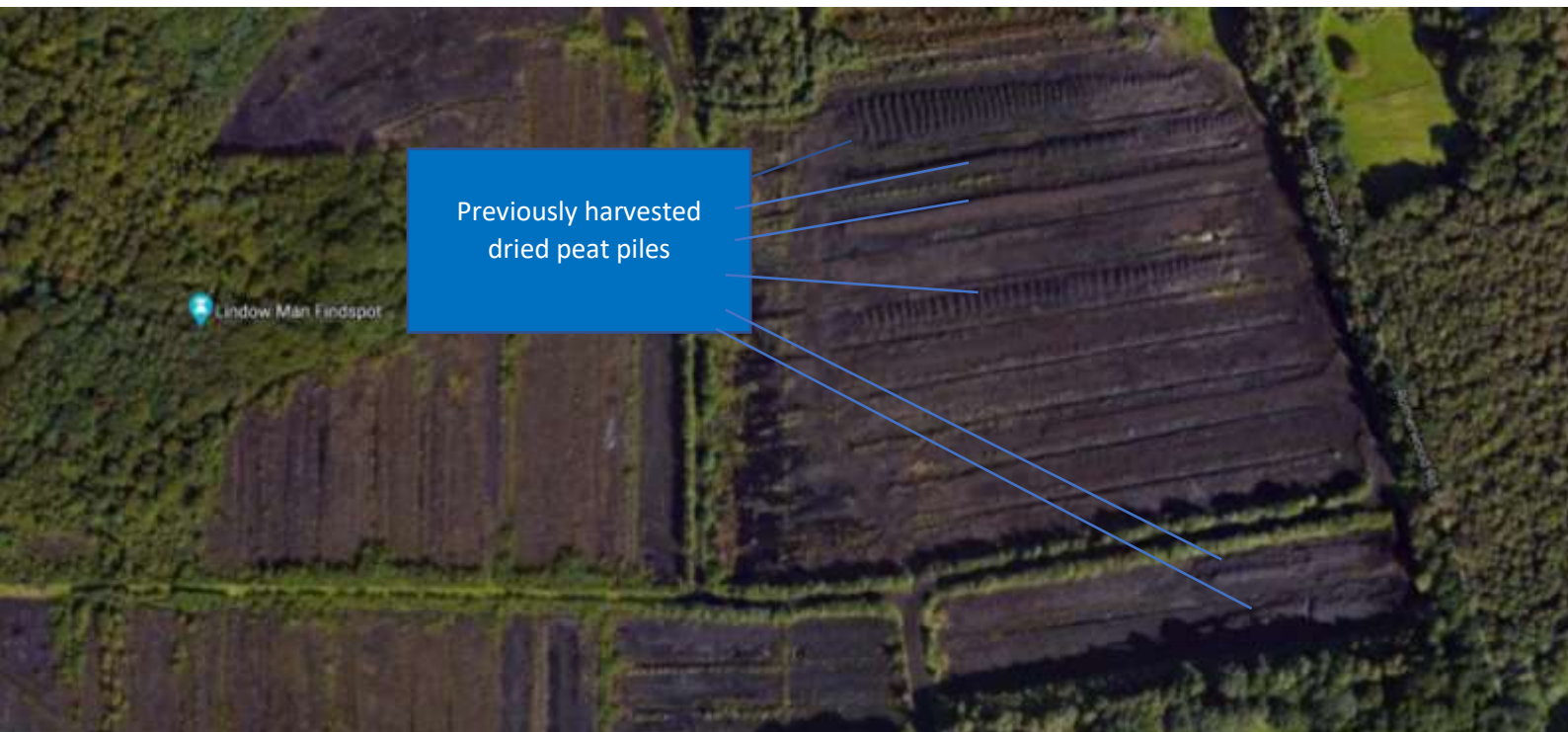
The peat bog was formed in a collection of hollows left by melting ice at the end of the last ice age. The first written record of Lindow Moss was in 1421 when the lord of Mobberley and Wilmslow allowed people to dig peat from the moss land for use as fuel. It originally covered over 600 hectares (1,500 acres), but has since shrunk to a tenth of its original size. The bog can be a dangerous place; an 18th-century writer recorded people drowning there.

For centuries, peat from the bog was used as fuel and was last extracted commercially in the early noughties for mixing within compost products.

The Project

In the early spring of 2020 AJK (Plant Hire) Ltd were invited to undertake phase one of the proposed redevelopment of Lindow Moss securing the future of Lindow Moss as a nature reserve and ending the possibility of many more years of peat extraction.

The first phase involved clearing numerous previously harvested and dried peat piles, which could not be used in the restoration works, to make way for a topographical survey of the site to provide important information on the levels of intact peat enabling the preparation of detailed restoration schemes for each segmented wetland compartment.



Phase 1- site clearance

Under the management and guidance of the site owners Croghan Peat Ltd, utilising AJK (Plant Hire) Ltd.'s experience and expertise dealing with wet lands and sensitive sites and the ability to supply the latest in Low ground pressure plant machinery a plan was formulated in how best to remove the harvested peat to a store area in the site compound for removal in the future.

Using a Hitachi ZX130 and ZX180 both on 900mm wide track pads and one of our Hydrema 922 articulated dump trucks on 6x 800mm wide forestry tyres we set to work clearing the access ways to the mounds before the excavator and a pair of Morooka 360-degree swivel tracked dumpers could set to work.



Due to the sensitive nature of the site and the existing drainage/ ditch lay out already providing habitat for animal and plant life, these areas were strictly forbidden forcing us to use the piles of peat as access and egress roads.

Before



During



After



What's Next?

The next phase of the works is to let the site settle for a period of months before the undertaking of a topographical survey is completed across the whole site to best determine the current ground levels and water course positions to finalise the design of new ditches, peat bunds and a clay barrier to keep the area wet enough to allow the re-growth of the plant life and mosses that once populated the area bringing with a wide variety of insects and ensuring the Water voles habitat remains safe from rising (and falling) water levels.

