This one-day conference concludes the spring conferences exploring New Directions in the Landscapes of Prehistory. Our third session is about topographic diversity, similarity and inter-connectivity of the wetlands and drylands (and their margins) in prehistory: are differences in the archaeological record, and in our approaches to exploring these varied landscapes, more than just those defined by topography? From Scotland to the South Downs, Europe to the USA, we range over a variety of different and differing approaches, methods, and interpretational frameworks all addressing similar questions. Presentations will demonstrate the major impact of both traditional survey methods and recent applications such as EMI; examine methods and frameworks for synthesising numerous diverse datasets over large areas; consider the relationship between topography and occupation and soils and ideology, with the underlying aim of gaining insight into the social, economic and political landscapes that overly the physical. The emphasis will be on new discoveries, new ideas and approaches to interpreting how past communities inhabited or used their chosen wetland or dryland landscape.

09.30 Registration (with tea & coffee from 10am)
10.30 Welcome, Julie Gardiner
10.45 Largescale geoarchaeological studies of the Stonehenge-Avebury landscapes using frequency domain electromagnetics, Philippe de Smedt, University of Ghent
11.10 Reconnecting the lost islands of Somerset’s peatland landscape, Richard Brunning, South West Heritage Trust
11.35 The environmental archaeology of Late Bronze Age lifeways at the Must Farm pile dwelling, Rachel Ballantyne, University of Cambridge
12.00 What lies beneath? Thinking towards a ‘hidden landscape archaeology’ of peatlands, Ben Gearey, University College Cork
12.25 Discussion
12.45 Lunch (available locally)
14.00 Monumental landscapes in the Ohio Valley, USA: recent extensive surveys within and between the earthworks, Tim Darvill, Bournemouth University; Fritz Lüth, German Archaeological Institute, Berlin & Bret Ruby, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe
14.25 Connecting uplands and wetlands? How Celtic fields in the Low Countries came to be, Stijn Arnoldussen, Groningen University
14.50 Why Seven Sisters were not alike; and watering the dryland – the Belle Tout Shaft, Mike Allen, Bournemouth University & Allen Environmental Archaeology
15.15 Geoarchaeological approaches to investigating wetland landscapes: case studies from the Flag Fen Basin, Cambridgeshire and Lake Viverone, Italy, Charly French, University of Cambridge
15.40 The Mesolithic of the wetland / dryland edge in the Somerset Levels and Kennet Valley, Martin Bell, University of Reading
16.05 Discussion
16.30 Closing comments (end at 16.45)