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Recognising the Anthropocene at a Regional-Catchment Scale

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Recent reviews concerning the recognition of the Anthropocene in geomorphology have focussed on small to medium-sized catchments and have aggregated these studies to derive regional syntheses. However, the erosional and sedimentary responses to human activities vary both in nature and scale within regional-scale or medium to large catchments. Geomorphological responses also vary in their connectivity and this is, and will be, reflected in the residence time of Anthropogenic units and earth surface properties. This paper will explore the variation of anthropogenic responses in a medium-sized sedimentary basin (the Somerset Levels basin) which drains into the estuary of the River Severn in the UK. It will be shown that different human activities at different dates, and driven by very different socio-economic factors, interact and change geomorphic connectivity producing a palimpsest of anthropogenic geomorphic responses with highly variable surface expression and geochemical signatures.