

PRINCIPAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES ON MOORLAND IN EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK: ASSESSMENT AND CONDITION SURVEY



Principal Archaeological Landscapes on moorland in Exmoor National Park: Assessment and condition survey

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Summary

This report presents the results of fieldwork monitoring and assessing the condition of Exmoor's moorland Principal Archaeological Landscapes (PALs). It discusses the background to the designation of the PALs as well as providing a justification for their boundaries and outlining issues which are likely to affect their condition. It acknowledges that current and future work is likely to add significantly to the understanding of Exmoor's archaeology and that as a result the PALs should have some flexibility in their boundaries. The report provides case studies for each of the five criteria identified by Fyfe and Adams (2008) in their report, formalising the 37 moorland PALs now recognised on Exmoor. In addition this report provides a gazetteer of each PAL, outlining its principal significance, reason for designation and highlighting issues affecting its condition. A photographic record and location map is provided for each PAL. It concludes that assessing the condition of the PALs is complex and while the issues of vegetation and scrub encroachment, land management and human/livestock erosion or damage have emerged as the most prevalent, the relative severity of issues affecting condition of the PALs varies. The report recommends the involvement of Exmoor National Park Authority, Historic England and Natural England officers in evolving management plans for the PALs where this is appropriate, as well as suggesting that condition monitoring of the PALs should be undertaken at least every five years.

Introduction

The value in considering archaeological landscapes as entities which extend beyond the sum of their individual elements, such as scheduled monuments has been recognised at a national level for a number of years (English Heritage 2006, 15). Although not originally designated for this reason, National Parks and other protected landscapes are often significant for their exceptional preservation of archaeological remains, as well as the high quality landscape setting in which these are sited (Darvill and Fulton 1998, 209). Uplands, which constitute a significant percentage of land within National Parks, are especially noted for their well preserved archaeological resource, contributing the largest area of historic landscape in Britain (Darvill 1986, 4). Although some receive statutory protection in the form of scheduling, or through other non-archaeological designations such as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), there has been no mechanism for recognising the value of these rural landscapes on archaeological grounds. It is important to note that upland landscapes as they appear today are in part a direct result of human action and occupation in the past (Robinson 2004, 150); the archaeological remains within these landscapes tell the story of their formation.

Through the evolution of conservation ideas, conflicts have occurred in rural land management practices between the interests of a number of aspects such as forestry, farming, leisure activities and conservation (Robinson 2004, 149). Increased visitor pressure

on the countryside has increased the difficulties in managing these areas for a range of activities and land uses (Robinson 2004, 161). Even within National Parks, dramatic landscape changes have taken place since their designation as a result of shifting national priorities, for example a loss of around 15% of moorland on Exmoor between 1957-66 (Robinson 2004, 156). As a response to these often conflicting interests, in 2005 Dartmoor National Park designated 14 areas of moorland as PALs (Premier Archaeological Landscapes) as part of their Moorland Vision (Dartmoor National Park Authority 2005). The intention was that these areas should be managed predominantly for archaeological values, rather than nature conservation or other grounds; management of the entire PAL should be adopted over individual site management strategies, for example through vegetation encroachment (English Heritage 2006, 15). Although a classification was developed, no mechanism for monitoring or evaluating the condition of these areas was established.

Within Exmoor National Park, a number of Principal Archaeological Landscapes (PALs), originally known as Areas of Exceptional Archaeological and Historic Importance (AEAHIs) were initially suggested by Wilson-North and Riley (2004) as part of the Moorlands at a Crossroad report commissioned by the Exmoor Society (Landuse Consultants 2004). Initially 48 AEAHIs were identified in this report, reflecting the most significant aspects of Exmoor's moorland archaeology and were consolidated into 37 areas by Fyfe and Adams (2008). This work was carried out as part of the development phase of the Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership funded through Heritage Lottery Fund. It was evident that as well as establishing the parameters for classifying landscapes as exceptionally archaeologically significant, a mechanism for evaluating and monitoring the condition of these areas was also needed to ensure that management of these landscapes for archaeological value was being carried out. Such a process is innovative if not unprecedented within protected landscapes in the UK. This report aims to provide the mechanism through which condition of the PALs can be monitored and assessed. The fieldwork on which it is based was carried out between 2012 and 2014.

Reasons for designating Principal Archaeological Landscapes (PALs)

Although the need to manage and protect archaeological remains within their landscape has been recognised for decades, it has appeared difficult to achieve in practice (Darvill 1986, 41). Principal Archaeological Landscapes and other names under which they have been known both on Exmoor and elsewhere have a significant role in achieving this protection of historic landscapes. Designating these areas as exceptional examples of their type enables individuals and agencies involved in their day to day and long term management to place the greatest level of importance on their archaeological character, overriding many other concerns which may previously have taken precedence. Dartmoor National Park Authority defines this as *'in addition to protecting the historic environment it is also recognised that the PALs will need to be managed in a way to ensure they can be appreciated in their entirety. Future land management will need to be appropriate.'* (Dartmoor National Park Authority 2014).

Some of the PALs on Exmoor contain individual monuments which are protected by law under designations such as scheduling and listing. Some landscapes with SSSI designations or that are entered in agri-environment schemes are likely to have some measure of protection for archaeology through controls placed on land use changes or a need for cross compliance. Designating the PALs allows areas to be recognised for their historic nature, regardless of their legal status, particularly as the scheduling of monuments on Exmoor is inconsistent and partial; the result of the cessation of the English Heritage monument protection programme in the early 2000s before all monuments meeting the criteria had been assessed. It is not unusual that prehistoric monuments on one side of a boundary are scheduled while those on the other side (within the holding of a different landowner) are not. As a result, across Exmoor the quality of the archaeology is not reflected in its legally protected status. To assess PALs on such criteria would therefore be misleading and provide an inaccurate view. Putting forward individual sites for scheduling, where they meet the criteria, could be considered to further protect aspects of these landscapes.

The designation of PALs can assist both landowners and agencies with control over agri-environment funding and in the development of rural land policy. Through PALs, funding can be targeted towards suitable land management practices, based on historic character and with consideration to both the historic monuments within, and the wider landscape setting of the PAL. These designations can also be given consideration in planning applications, as their value is not only in the monuments themselves but also the high quality preservation of their wider landscape setting.

Criteria for designating Principal Archaeological Landscapes

Using criteria established by Wilson-North and Riley (2004), Fyfe and Adams (2008) identified the principal significant components of Exmoor's 37 moorland PALs as being:

1. Relict prehistoric landscapes
2. Medieval farming systems
3. Parliamentary enclosure/reclamation
4. Military training
5. Palaeo-environmental

These criteria were arrived at through a detailed analysis and understanding of Exmoor's moorland archaeology, and the most significant aspects of this at a landscape scale. Each PAL was classified according to these criteria, with some being multi-period landscapes containing multiple components but the majority containing significant archaeological remains in only one category. A short description for each PAL was completed, including a statement of its significance and reason for designation including potential to contribute to South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) research aims. For full details refer to Fyfe and Adams 2008. Each of the PALs is listed in the following table and its components identified.

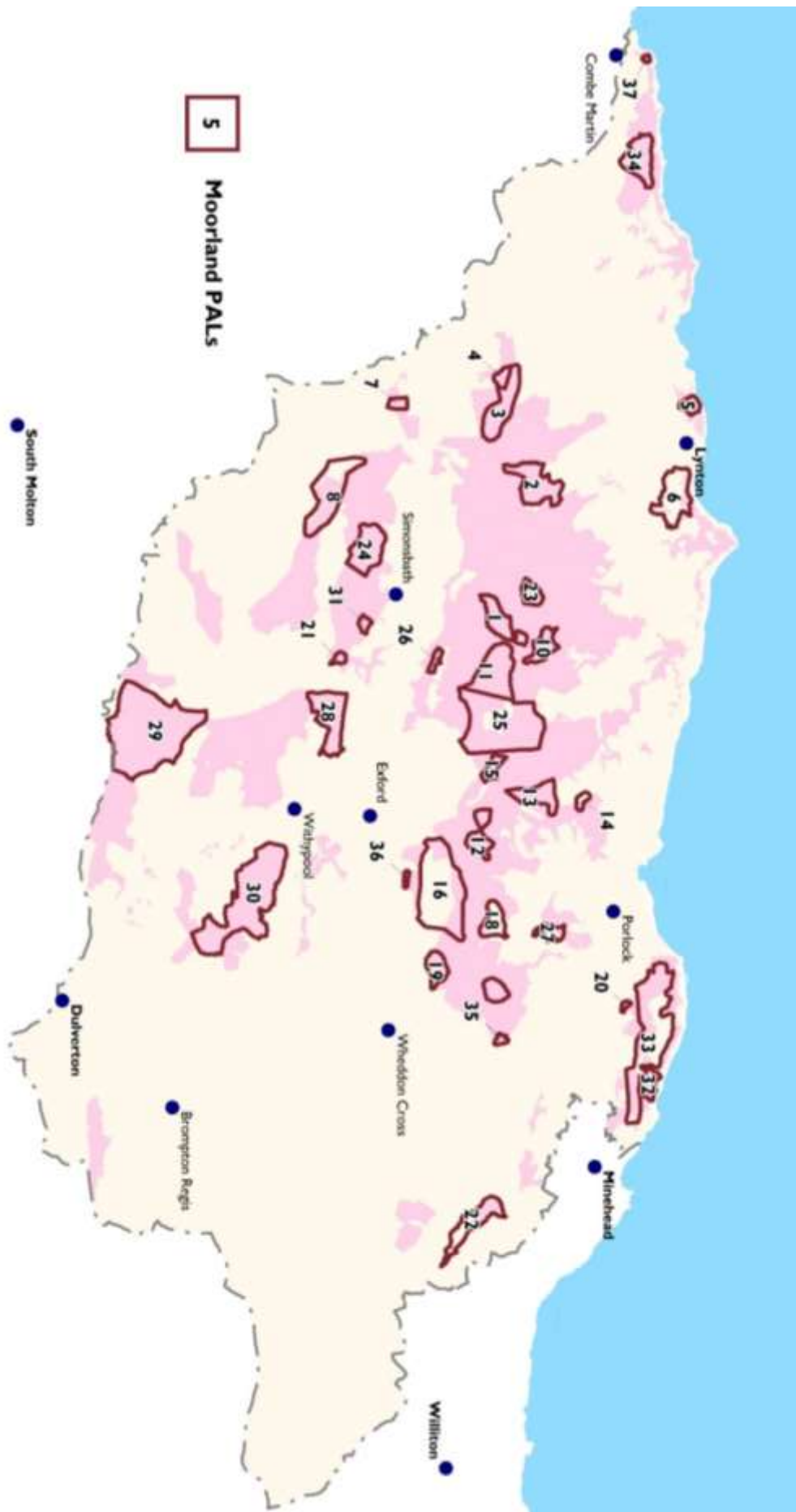


Figure 1: Map showing distribution of PALS within Exmoor National Park © Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100024878

Principal components of Exmoor moorland PALs

(after Fyfe and Adams 2008)

PAL No	Name	Relict prehistoric landscapes	Medieval farming systems	Parliamentary enclosure/ reclamation	Military training	Palaeo-environmental
1	Lanacombe	•				
2	Furzehill	•				
3	Chapman Barrows and Woodbarrow complex	•				
4	Radworthy		•			
5	Valley of Rocks	•				
6	Countisbury and Lyn Gorge	•				
7	Shoulsbury	•				
8	Setta Barrow, Five Barrows and Two Barrows	•				•
9	Badgworthy		•			
10	Badgworthy Hill	•				
11	Trout Hill and Pinford	•				•
12	Great Hill and Honeycombe Hill	•				•
13	Porlock Allotment	•				
14	Hawkcombe Head	•				
15	Alderman's Barrow and Madacombe	•				•
16	Codsend and Dunkery	•		•		•
17	Robin and Joaney How	•				
18	Sweetworthy	•	•			
19	Mansley Combe	•	•			
20	Bury Castle	•				
21	Cow Castle	•				
22	Bat's Castle and Withycombe	•				
23	Brendon Common				•	
24	Burcombe			•		
25	Larkbarrow and Tom's Hill	•		•		•
26	Warren Farm			•		
27	Ley Hill	•	•			
28	Pickedstones		•			
29	Molland Moor		•			•
30	Winsford Hill		•			
31	Wheal Eliza			•		
32	North Hill/Burgundy Combe		•			
33	Selworthy Military Complex				•	
34	Holdstone Down	•		•		
35	Brockwell Pits	•				
36	Kitnor Heath	•				
37	Little Hangman	•				

Figure 2: Table identifying the principal components of Exmoor PALs (after Fyfe and Adams 2008)

Justification of Boundaries

The boundaries of the PALs were decided after thorough consideration of the extant field archaeology and archaeological potential of these areas by Wilson-North and Riley (2004). The boundaries were reassessed by Fyfe and Adams (2008) in reducing the number of PALs from 48 smaller PALs to 37 with slightly larger areas.

Boundaries have been designated through a process of considering all the recorded archaeological features within the area of each suggested PAL to ensure that all sites, monuments and landscapes critical to its reason for designation (as shown in the table above) are included. Topographic features have often been used to define the obvious boundaries of PALs, such as sea cliffs, rivers, combes and gorges. Current land boundaries also define the limits of PALs where no natural topographic feature exists, and where a change in land use and management practices between boundaries gives a clear end to the high quality preservation of archaeological remains.

The area of each PAL defined through this process should not be considered as immovable should further high quality archaeological features and landscape emerge adjacent to the PAL. For example, unrecorded prehistoric archaeology is emerging on Exmoor at a steady rate, in part due to fieldwork carried out for projects such as the Exmoor Mires Project (Bray 2015). This new knowledge and understanding of Exmoor's landscape should be eligible for consideration as part of an existing PAL, or if required by the high quality nature of new discoveries as a new PAL. It is therefore important to establish a mechanism for expanding or adding to the PALs should this be required.

Within this report some of the exact names of the PALs have changed from their original names. This does not reflect an alteration of their adopted areas but has been done where the original name was misleading, inaccurate or insufficiently descriptive. Where this has taken place the previous name is shown in brackets below the title in the gazetteer.

Exmoor Principal Archaeological Landscapes: Selected examples

I. Relict prehistoric landscapes: Chapman Barrows and Woodbarrow complex (PAL No 3)

The Chapman Barrows and Woodbarrow complex PAL includes two linear barrow cemeteries, presumed to date to the early Bronze Age, located along a moorland ridge on the western side of Exmoor National Park. Looking out from the PAL are outstanding panoramic views southwards to Dartmoor, south-westwards to Bodmin, westwards to Lundy Island, Hartland Point and Barnstaple Bay, northwards to the coast of south Wales and eastwards across Exmoor as far as Dunkery Beacon. The barrow groups themselves are prominent features in the landscape, visible on their moorland ridge from many miles around. A three metre tall Longstone is located at the head of one of the combes leading off the ridge and is unusual in size for Exmoor, the majority of standing stones reach only as far as waist height at most. Within close proximity is a probable late Neolithic mortuary enclosure making this one of the most significant and best preserved prehistoric landscapes on Exmoor.



Figure 3: PAL viewed from one of the barrows looking north west to Combe Martin and Holdstone Down



Figure 4: PAL viewed from a barrow looking east across the moorland towards Woodbarrow complex and into Exmoor

2. Medieval farming systems: Radworthy (PAL No 4)

Radworthy is a relict farmstead with surrounding field system located on south facing slopes below the moorland ridge on which the Chapman Barrows are situated. The northern end of the PAL affords views out over the Culm Valley towards Dartmoor and westwards to Lundy Island, Hartland Point and Barnstaple Bay. The southern end is within a deep combe running down to Holywell Reservoir and the distinctive outcrop of Swincombe Rocks.

The farm appears medieval in character but is thought to have been abandoned in the 19th century and is therefore exceptionally well preserved. All the field boundaries are prominent earthen banks with a cornditch separating the fields from open moorland to the north, characteristic of enclosure of the moorland on Exmoor. Some of the fields retain evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing. The completeness and state of preservation of this farmstead makes it a highly significant example of the history and archaeology of hill farming and land management on Exmoor.



Figure 5: PAL viewed from the top of the enclosed Radworthy fields, looking towards Swincombe Rocks



Figure 6: Grown out beech hedging at the entrance to Radworthy farmstead

3. Parliamentary enclosure/reclamation: Holdstone Down (PAL No 34)

Holdstone Down PAL is an area of coastal heath near the north west edge of Exmoor National Park. Its distinctive dome shaped hill, with a dramatic drop to the sea, is clearly visible from around and outside the National Park. This PAL contains a range of archaeological features; prehistoric settlement remains in the form of house platforms, field banks and clearance cairns, evidence for Parliamentary Inclosure, identifiable through a series of boundary stones, a 19th century holiday village development and World War Two military training activity. Holdstone Down is significant for a number of reasons. Not only is the high concentration of prehistoric settlement features in this area unusual for Exmoor but it also has important historical significance for its role in ending the system of Parliamentary Inclosure. This phase is marked by prominent boundary stones along its slopes of coastal heath, some of which still show their inscribed numbers. Traces of building platforms remain visible in the area; evidence for the ultimately unsuccessful late nineteenth and early twentieth century attempts to develop part of Holdstone Down into a holiday village.



Figure 7: Looking out from the PAL along the dramatic Exmoor coast line



Figure 8: One of the numbered boundary stones marking the enclosure of Holdstone Down

4. Military training: Selworthy Military Complex (PAL No 33)

(previously known as Selworthy WWII ranges)

The Selworthy military complex is located on a coastal ridge running westwards from Minehead towards Porlock Marsh, known as North Hill. The Vale of Porlock lies to its south and the northern edge is defined by steep cliffs down to the sea. The majority of the PAL comprises open heath, with some enclosed farmland on its lower slopes. The area has a history of military training use, with photographs showing soldiers camped on its slopes from the early twentieth century; however it was not until the Second World War that North Hill became a major tank training ground in advance of the Normandy landings, farms were repossessed and the area closed to the public. Some use of the Radar station may have continued into the 1950's Cold War but much of the area was returned to public use, leaving the tank training ranges predominantly intact. The military roads installed to allow access from Minehead are still in use today by visitors to the viewpoint at the far end of Bossington Hill. Bases for Nissen Huts and concrete ramps for tank unloading and maintenance remain in Moor Wood at the eastern entrance to the complex. The Selworthy military training landscape is a nationally rare survival; having no continued military use into the present day it presents an exceptionally well preserved WW2 historic landscape with opportunities for further research through archival material, as well as archaeological work.



Figure 9: Remains of target railway on Bossington Hill



Figure 10: North Hill radar station after conservation works



Figure 11: 1946-48 Air photograph showing the extent of the three tank training ranges within the PAL (RAF image)

5. Palaeo-environmental: Alderman's Barrow and Madacombe (PAL No 15)

Alderman's Barrow and Madacombe PAL is an area of moorland on the eastern boundary of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor. Within the PAL lie a Neolithic-Bronze Age stone row and a group of Bronze Age burial mounds including Alderman's Barrow. This barrow was used as a marker of the medieval Royal Forest boundary. Madacombe contains an extensive valley mire, assessed as having excellent palaeo-environmental potential. The significance of this PAL is enhanced by the close proximity of well preserved early prehistoric monuments to a substantial valley mire, with the potential for obtaining contemporary environmental evidence.



Figure 12: Alderman's Barrow is located in a prominent roadside position and is still marked with a World War Two antiquity star, one of only two remaining on Exmoor

Issues affecting condition of the PALs

One purpose of this report is to assess for each PAL the factors likely to affect its overall condition. This involves a focus on the archaeological landscape as a whole, rather than on the condition of any one individual monument. In particular where monuments have statutory protection in the form of scheduling or listing, it is recognised that their condition is monitored through other means.

Issues for each PAL were assessed independently; however a number reoccurred across many of the PALs. Those assessed as affecting or having a high potential to affect the condition of a PAL were:

1. Vegetation: significant vegetation encroachment or scrubbing up of sites affecting the visibility of the PAL
2. Vehicle damage: vehicle access such as tracks across the PAL as well as potentially unauthorised vehicle access
3. Landscape intrusion: any factors likely to detract from the landscape setting of the PAL, for example new construction within the area of the PAL or visible from within the PAL where it is designated for the significance of its wider landscape setting.
4. Land management: changes in land management, for example removal of historic landscape features such as field boundaries, livestock levels, removal of trees from hedge banks, extensive ploughing, intensification of agriculture or dramatic changes in access routes
5. Human/livestock damage or erosion: such as pedestrian traffic, unauthorised removal or relocation of stones and shifting of footpaths
6. Natural processes or erosion: such as water damage through run off and flooding
7. Animal Burrowing: where this affects extensive areas of a PAL
8. Intervisibility: changes to the surrounding landscape through land management or construction which will prevent views between areas of the landscape considered significant to the character of the PAL, for example intervisible hillforts
9. Loss of built structures: where built structures form key components of the PAL but are at risk of loss

Gazetteer of Principal Archaeological Landscapes on moorland in Exmoor National Park

I. Lanacombe

Grid Reference centred SS 7800 4275

Location

A pronounced west-east spur defined on its northern side by Hoccombe Water and to the south by Lanacombe.

Description of Archaeology

Lanacombe contains an exceptional group of prehistoric stone settings distributed in a linear fashion along its south facing slopes. Among them are fragmentary traces of prehistoric field system. Along the spine of the spur are several burial cairns. Recent work by both Dr Mark Gillings (University of Leicester) as well as the Exmoor Mires Project, has demonstrated further complexity in the prehistoric landscape in the form of subsurface features, particularly embryonic field systems and 'structures' associated with two of the stone settings. During the nineteenth century attempts to reclaim Lanacombe are evidenced by a regular pattern of shallow drainage ditches at the western end of the PAL. A distinctive rectangular sheepfold known as Buscombe Beeches was probably built in the mid nineteenth century and owes its origins and design to Scottish shepherds who were on Exmoor at that time.

Principal significance

The grouping of stone settings is relatively unusual on Exmoor but the detailed insights into this landscape resulting from the focus of recent work (e.g. Gillings et al 2010) make it exceptional.

Main issues affecting condition

- I. Human/livestock erosion: buried archaeology is vulnerable to erosion from both people and animals and the diminutive size of the stone settings within this PAL make them vulnerable; however the current management regime does not pose any threats to the archaeology.



Figure 13: Map showing the extent of PAL I © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 14: Looking east along Lanacombe to the sheepfold and beyond



Figure 15: Distinctive grown out beech hedges viewed from Lanacombe moorland

2. Furzehill

Grid Reference centred SS 7334 4404

Location

The area encompasses Furzehill and Thorn Hill, part of a series of open heaths running broadly south-north. It is defined on its western side by Ruckham Combe and on its north side by the edge of enclosed land. The southern edge partly follows the Royal Forest boundary and is on the northern side of The Chains.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains an unusual concentration of early prehistoric archaeological sites including a number of hut platforms, fragments of prehistoric field systems and clearance cairns across the whole area, stone settings, stone rows and cairns, and a high potential peat system across the top of Furzehill Common. It also includes a number of boundary stones marking the northern edge of the Royal Forest.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant because of the complexity of the early prehistoric archaeology. The high concentration of settlement within an area of this size is unusual and in addition there are a number of burial cairns and two stone rows within this landscape. An area of high palaeo-ecological potential exists within the peat body on Furzehill Common. Combined these form an exceptional archaeological landscape. English Heritage survey by Hazel Riley (2007) demonstrates that much of the prehistoric landscape is largely complete and relatively undamaged. It is an area that can make a significant contribution to understanding the prehistory of Exmoor. While the exceptional prehistoric archaeology is the reason for designating this area as a PAL, it also includes a number of Royal Forest boundary stones.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: most of the monuments are very subtle; vegetation encroachment such as bracken and scrub would obscure the prehistoric archaeological features of this landscape.
2. Vehicle damage: a track way runs west-east across the PAL from Ruckham Combe to Warcombe Water, crossing two house platforms. Although this is not currently well used, any increase in activity on this area would exacerbate damage to these features.

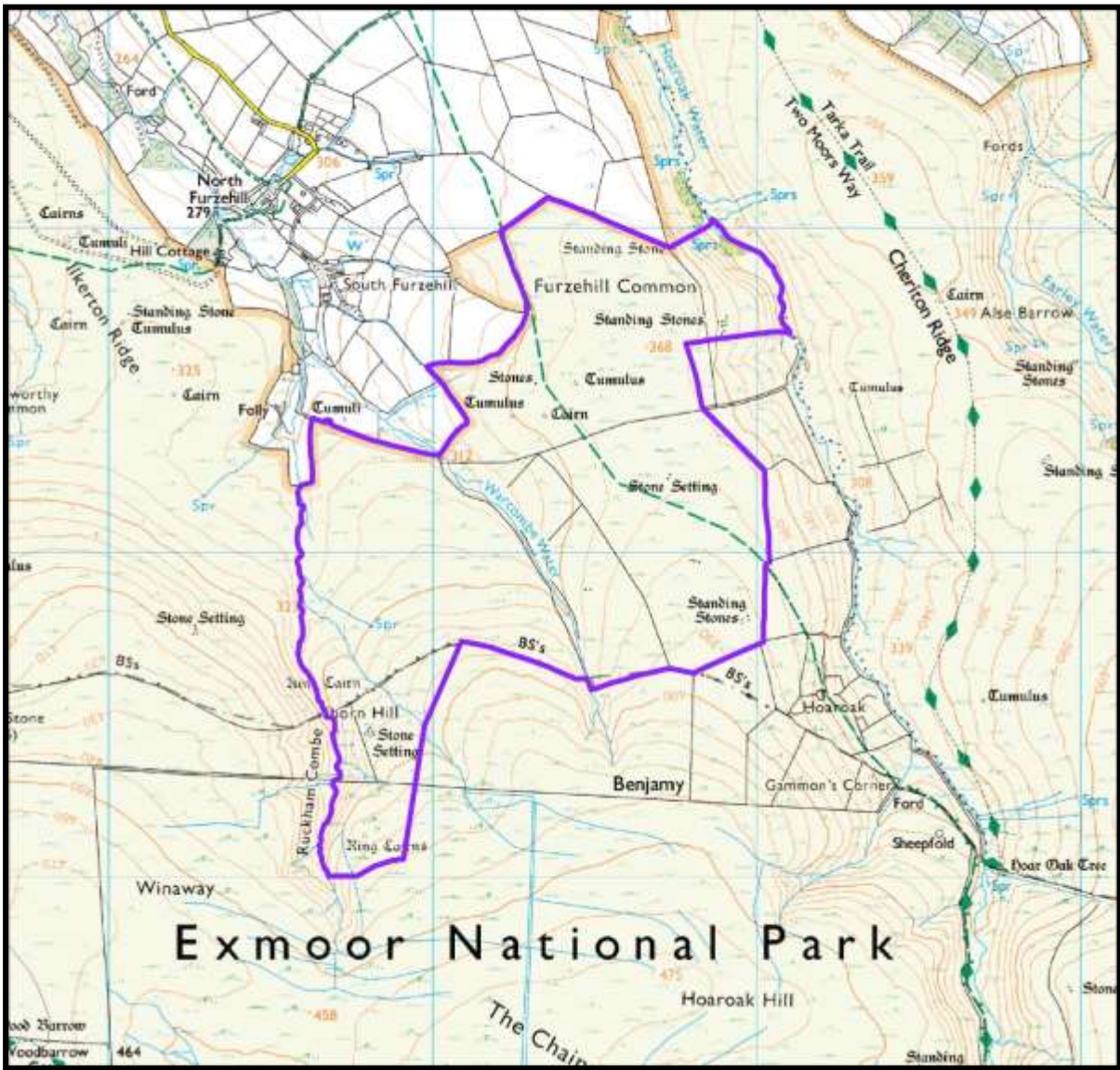


Figure 16: Map showing the extent of PAL 2 Furzehill © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 17: Furzehill PAL with boundary stone of the Royal Forest boundary in foreground, looking north down Warcombe Water



Figure 18: View out from Furzehill PAL, towards Hoarok

3. Chapman Barrows and Wood Barrow

Grid Reference centred SS 7048 4290

Location

This is an elevated moorland ridge running from Two Gates to the west, as far as Wood Barrow in the east. The area has outstanding panoramic views southwards to Dartmoor, south-westwards to Bodmin, westwards to Lundy Island, Hartland Point and Barnstaple Bay, northwards to the coast of south Wales and eastwards across Exmoor as far as Dunkery Beacon. Two deep combes run into the ridge, one from the north at Woodbarrow Hangings and the other from the south near Swincombe Rocks.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains two linear barrow cemeteries presumably of early Bronze Age date. The first cemetery is the Chapman Barrows and the second comprises Longstone Barrow stretching eastwards to Wood Barrow. These barrow groups form striking and prominent features in the landscape; several have been subject to antiquarian excavation (which is unusual on Exmoor), providing some limited insights into the nature of their below ground archaeology.

As well as the barrows, the area contains one stone setting and the iconic Long Stone, the largest prehistoric standing stone on Exmoor. There is also a probable late Neolithic mortuary enclosure lying between the highest of the Chapman Barrows and the Long Stone.

Principal significance

This is one of the most significant prehistoric landscapes on Exmoor. This is due to the excellent preservation of the barrow cemeteries and their completeness, the insights provided by antiquarian excavations, the presence of lithic monuments and the mortuary enclosure.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Landscape instruction: the lack of intrusive elements in the landscape ensures that the completeness of the barrow cemeteries can be appreciated. The other elements of the area (such as the Long Stone and mortuary enclosure) are also integral to the complex and can be perceived together. Similarly, the extensive views outwards from this vantage point are a key element in the historic landscape. Modern intrusions or development of the surrounding landscape (especially to the west and south) could be highly detrimental.
2. Vegetation: scrubbing up of the area could lead to the visible cohesion of the barrow cemeteries being obscured.
3. Vehicle damage: a well used track passes the Long Stone and has the potential to cause damage to elements of the historic landscape.

- Land management: some of the Chapman Barrows are crossed by a later field boundary. Appropriate management of this feature is important to ensuring the continued positive condition of the PAL.

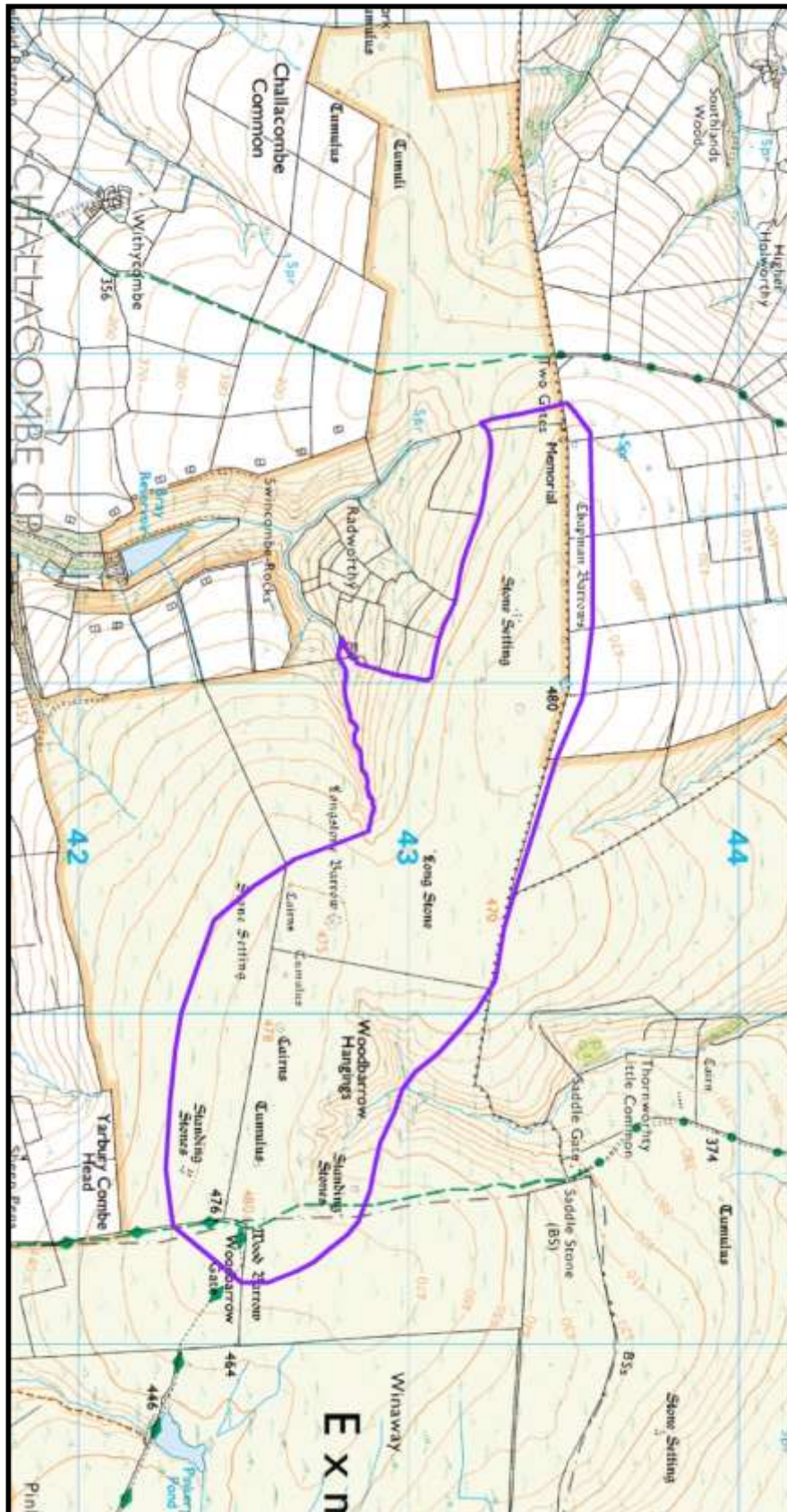


Figure 19: Map showing the extent of PAL 3 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 20: View to the south of the PAL from one of the Chapman Barrows group



Figure 21: One of the Chapman Barrow group features an Ordnance Survey triangulation station, emphasising its prominent position as a vantage point



Figure 22: Dramatic view towards the North Devon coast from the Chapman Barrow ridge



Figure 23: Looking along the Parracombe/Challacombe parish boundary towards the Wood Barrow complex

4. Radworthy

Grid Reference centred SS 6960 4294

Location

The area comprises open south facing slopes below the elevated moorland ridge on which the Chapman Barrows lie. From the northern part of the PAL are expansive views southwards over the Culm Measures of Devon towards Dartmoor and westwards to Lundy Island, Hartland Point and Barnstaple Bay. The southern part of the PAL is more enclosed, lying within a deep combe running down to Holywell Reservoir and the distinctive outcrop of Swincombe Rocks.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains a complete relict farmstead with its entire field system. In character the farm is medieval, but it was probably abandoned in the 19th century and therefore appears exceptionally well preserved. The farm is laid out over south facing slopes, with the farmstead at its eastern edge. An infield lies in the central part of the area, whilst to the west is a former outfield which has subsequently been subdivided into fields. All the field boundaries are prominent earthen banks with a cornditch separating the fields from open moorland to the north.

Principal significance

The completeness and excellent preservation of the ruined farmstead and its relict fields are highly unusual on Exmoor.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: scrub encroachment, especially bracken and gorse, would have a detrimental effect on the relict field system, though recent effective management of the vegetation has controlled the gorse and bracken on the site.
2. Land management: grown out beech hedging surrounds the farmstead and contributes to its relict character. However, were these trees to fall, they would cause significant damage to the ruined farmstead and field boundary. Their sensitive management is therefore necessary.

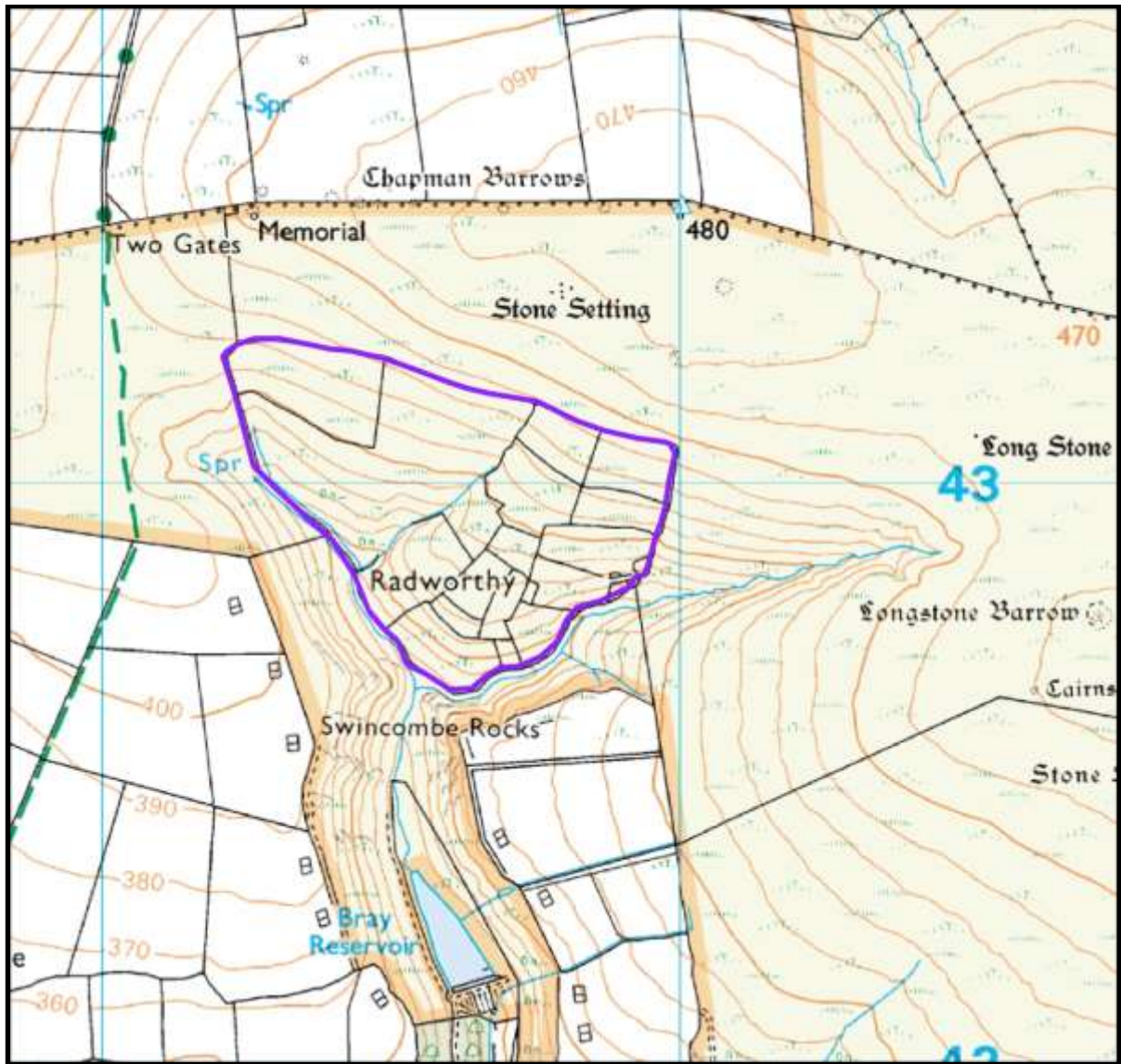


Figure 24: Map showing the extent of PAL 4 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 25: Looking south down a tributary of the river Bray towards Swincombe Rocks, Radworthy farmstead is on the centre right, surrounded by beech trees



Figure 26: The field banks accompanying Radworthy farmstead are still clearly visible in the landscape to the right of this image, reaching up into the moorland from the combe below

5. Valley of Rocks

Grid Reference centred SS 7059 4950

Location

Valley of Rocks is a dramatic dry valley west of Lynton, separated from the sea cliffs by a narrow ridge on its northern side; on either side of Castle Rock it opens to the sea above Wringcliff Bay. It is characterised by abundant surface stone and prominent rocky outcrops such as the Cheesewring and Castle Rock. It is predominantly coastal heath, with low levels of grazing, mainly by wild goats and Exmoor ponies. To the east of the PAL, amid the heathland vegetation is the Lynton and Lynmouth cricket ground.

Description of Archaeology

Valley of Rocks contains extensive prehistoric field systems and settlements, including the remains of cairns, hut platforms and coaxial fields on the steep valley slopes. Aerial photographs show that these extend to the top of the valley sides. It is likely that the field system extended along the valley in both directions. The widespread availability of surface stone within the valley has resulted in field boundaries and settlements that have endured.

Principal significance

The archaeology is clearly visible in both aerial photographs and on the ground; the extent and degree of preservation is exceptional for a prehistoric field system and settlement on Exmoor, largely as a result of the materials used in its construction. The setting of this prehistoric landscape within the unique geology of Valley of Rocks makes the archaeology of this area especially important. There is a long history of interest in this landscape, recorded through the works of painters, poets and writers, adding further weight to its classification as a PAL. As such it holds a significant role for communicating aspects of the prehistory of Exmoor, in particular within one of the most visited parts of the National Park.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: bracken covers most of the site and is a major factor affecting the condition and visibility of the archaeology.
2. Human/livestock erosion: high visitor numbers make this area more vulnerable to erosion, littering etc.
3. Landscape intrusion: the field system is cut through by the modern tarmac road and roundabout. These have a negative impact on the coherence of this landscape, although recent work has reduced the impact of the tarmac car park in the valley bottom.



Figure 28: Prehistoric field systems and house platforms in the valley bottom stretch up the sides of Valley of Rocks but are largely invisible under the bracken (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 29: The main access to Valley of Rocks is by road from Lynton.

6. *Countisbury and Lyn Gorge*

Grid Reference centred SS 7381 4885

Location

The area lies to the east of Lynmouth and surrounds the confluence of Farley Water and the East Lyn River. It is a deep gorge with wooded slopes and clearings. Impressive sea cliffs form the northern boundary.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains late prehistoric and medieval settlement, including Wind Hill which is the largest Iron Age promontory fort in England. The other major prehistoric sites are two hillslope enclosures (Myrtleberry North and Myrtleberry South). These are assumed to be Iron Age; however, excavation at Higher Holworthy (Parracombe) has suggested that at least some of these may date to the Bronze Age (Terry Green, pers. comm.) Myrtleberry North is one of a handful of hillslope enclosures which include outworks. Extensive medieval strip lynchets are preserved within the promontory fort at Wind Hill. Additionally a spectacular deserted medieval settlement on the end of the spur at Horner's Neck (Trilly Ridge) may potentially have early medieval origins. There are also the remains of post-medieval trial pits and adits for iron exploration within the PAL.

Principal significance

There is an unusual concentration of later prehistoric monuments preserved in a largely undamaged form, mainly as a result of their location in woodland. The dramatic coastal position and intervisibility of the prehistoric sites make the archaeology of this area outstanding. The location of the medieval complex at Horner's Neck is exceptional and the site itself is unique on Exmoor.

Main issues affecting condition

1. **Vegetation:** the enclosures in woodland are susceptible to bracken encroachment which is damaging to the archaeological remains as well as preventing visibility, although this is currently well managed.
2. **Intervisibility:** the intervisibility of sites is a key feature of this PAL and will be negatively affected by any interruption of views.



Figure 30: Map showing the extent of PAL 6 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 31: Looking across to Countisbury Hill and the Lyn Gorge



Figure 32: The Myrtleberries can be accessed on foot via a steep path

7. Shoulsbury

Grid Reference centred SS 7050 3927

Location

The area is part of a very exposed ridge projecting from the southern escarpment of Exmoor. It is therefore a prominent part of Exmoor when viewed from the south and west as well as forming a dramatic viewpoint from which to look out over North and Mid Devon. The area is moorland but is bordered on the south by farmland which reaches nearly as far as the top of the ridge.

Description of Archaeology

Shoulsbury is best known for the hillfort which lies on the edge of the ridge and which gives the area its name. The hillfort is nearly square and has been considered Roman because of its shape, though it remains undated. Its very exposed location means that it was probably not used for settlement, so its actual purpose remains unknown. Within the hillfort is a Bronze Age barrow. On the slopes to the north-west of the hillfort is a prehistoric stone setting.

Principal significance

The hillfort is one of the most dramatically sited Iron Age sites in Britain. As such, the views outwards from the hillfort form one of the most important features of this historic landscape.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Human damage or erosion: in the past there has been intermittent visitor pressure on the site, with illegal fires and barbeques being lit on the hillfort. Visitors to the site are drawn by its dramatic location and far reaching views. This threat has abated in recent years.
2. Landscape intrusion: any developments which detract from the long views outwards from the hillfort would significantly impact on this historic landscape.

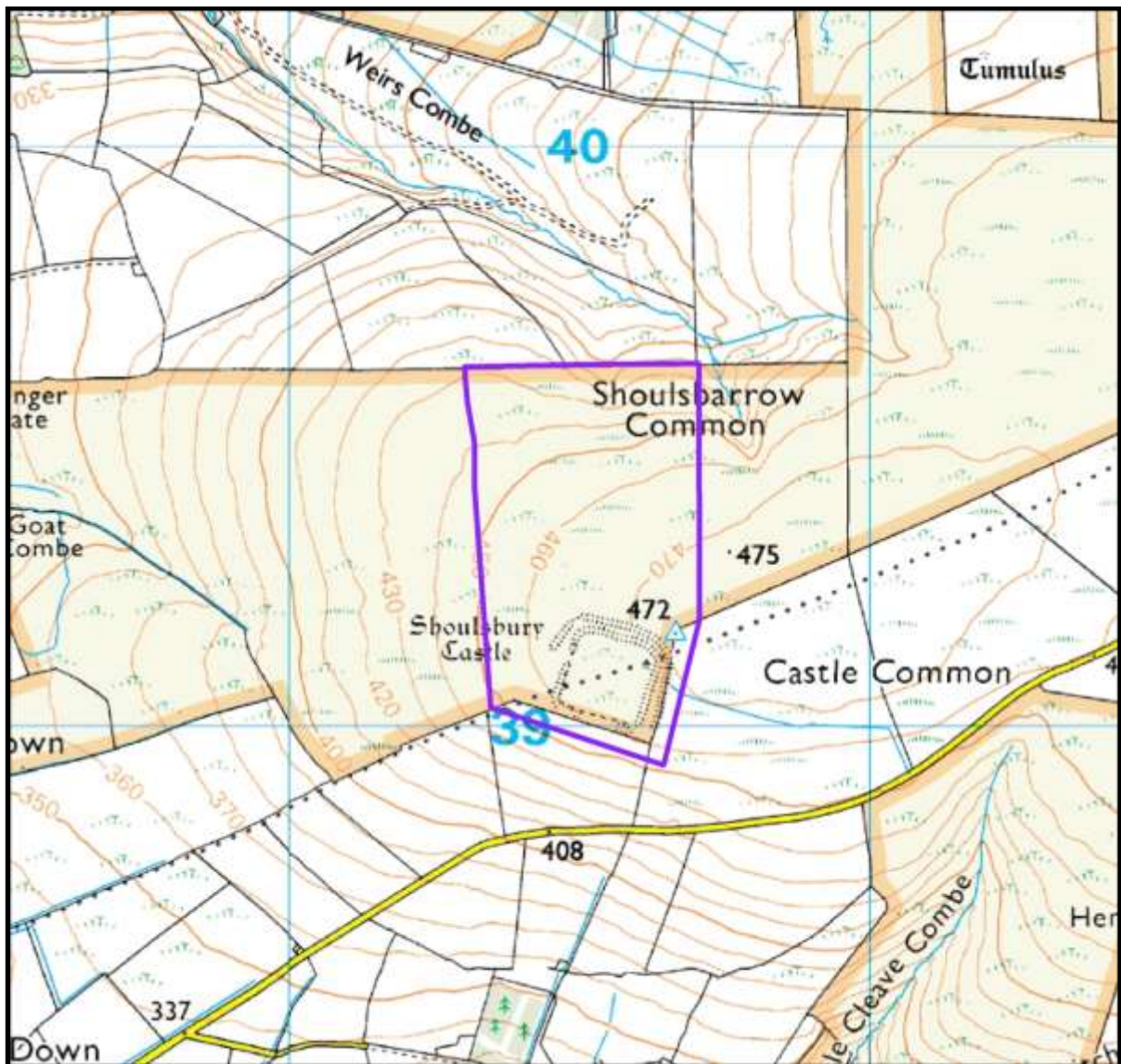


Figure 33: Map showing the extent of PAL 7 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 34: View through the rampart of Shoulsbury Castle into the moorland of Exmoor (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 35: The PAL affords far reaching views both out of and back in towards Exmoor National Park (Photo: ENPA)

8. Setta Barrow, Five Barrows and Two Barrows complex

Grid Reference centred SS 7378 3711

Location

This area is a high ridge of land located on the south west side of Exmoor National Park with wide ranging views both out into the landscapes beyond the National Park boundary, and back into the Park. It lies on the Devon - Somerset county boundary. On a clear day 360 degree panoramic views are possible across to Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor, Sidmouth gap and Dunkery Beacon, the highest point within Exmoor National Park. Approximately half of the PAL is located within enclosed land and half unenclosed moorland.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL includes at least 26 barrows. Not all of the barrows have names but some have collective group names e.g. Setta Barrow (9 barrows), Five Barrows (actually 9) and Two Barrows (actually 7). There are unnamed barrows between these groups e.g. at Kinsford Gate. The barrows are highly visible, well preserved and show a variety of constructional forms. The PAL includes the White Ladder stone row (at 420 m the longest row on Exmoor) that has a direct topographic association with the linear spread of barrows. The PAL boundary has been drawn to include the established palaeo-ecological sites at Comerslade and North Twitchen Springs, both of which are temporally associated with the significant monuments within the area.

Principal significance

The area is significant because of the large number of barrows represented, the preservation of the barrows and the variety of forms used in their construction. The additional presence of the White Ladder stone row and the palaeo-ecological sites at Comerslade and North Twitchen Springs make this a significant area for assessing prehistoric funerary practices.

Main issues affecting condition

- I. Landscape intrusion: the condition of this PAL would be affected by changes in the landscape which surrounds it, for example an obstruction of the panoramic views or development which adversely affects the view out from the PAL and impinges on its unspoilt character.

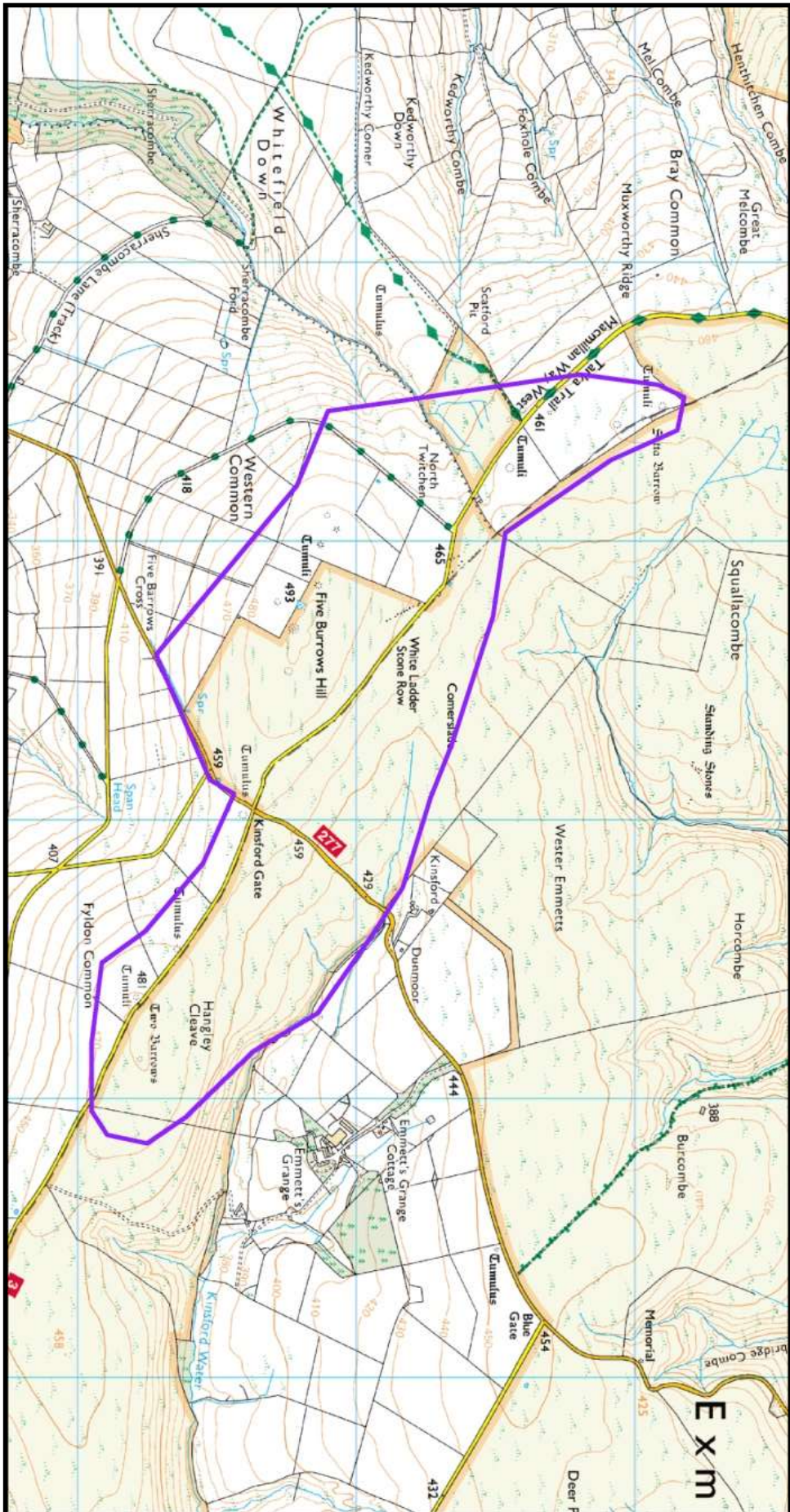


Figure 36: Map showing the extent of PAL 8 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 37: Looking along the linear Five Barrows group to the north



Figure 38: Looking south along the ridge towards the barrow with an Ordnance Survey triangulation station in the Five Barrows group



Figure 39: View out from the PAL into Exmoor

9. Badgworthy

Grid Reference centred SS 7897 4431

Location

The PAL is situated within the valley of Badgworthy Water in an area of remote moorland at the southern edge of Brendon parish. It stretches onto Badgworthy Hill at its southern end and Badgworthy Lees at its northern end.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL contains the finest deserted medieval village on Exmoor, comprising remains of around 14 medieval buildings. On the spurs and hillside around the settlement are the extensive and complete remains of an infield and outfield system. The settlement was used by R.D. Blackmore, the author of Lorna Doone, as the inspiration for his Doone Village.

Principal significance

The PAL contains one of the best pieces of undisturbed medieval landscape in south west England. Its completeness and quality of preservation are its reason for designation as a PAL. Its association with the iconic Exmoor novel Lorna Doone further increases its significance.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: the area of the settlement is covered by bracken which is highly likely to be causing damage to the archaeological remains. This is also significantly reducing the visibility of the archaeology.
2. Human/livestock damage or erosion: paths and track ways converge on the settlement. Although not currently causing damage to the settlement, movement or increased use poses a potential future risk.

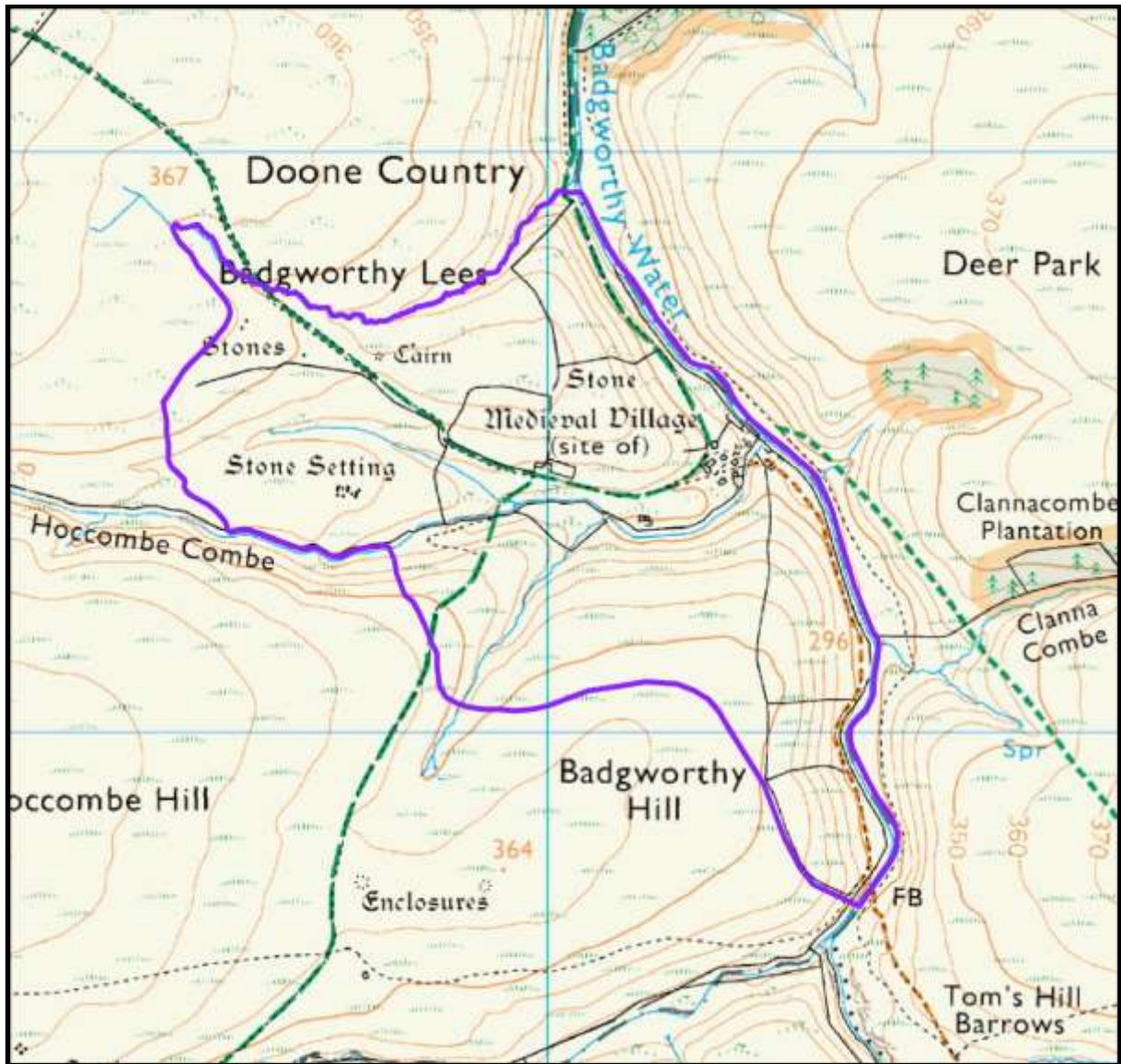


Figure 40: Map showing the extent of PAL 9 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 41: View down Hoccombe Combe into the PAL towards Badgworthy deserted medieval village (Photo: Janette Henderson)



Figure 42: One of the medieval buildings, now eroding into Badgworthy Water. The majority of building platforms on the opposite side of the river are covered with dense bracken

10. Badgworthy Hill

Grid Reference centred SS 7872 4360

Location

The PAL is located on the southern slopes of Badgworthy Hill, running down to Hoccombe Water.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains two prehistoric enclosures and the remains of a single longhouse with associated field system including ridge and furrow.

Principal significance

The two prehistoric enclosures within this PAL are unusual and unlikely to represent settlement because of their ridge top location. The medieval longhouse and associated field system are an unusual survival and the earthworks are complete and well preserved. Recently the longhouse has been identified with Edwin who farmed at Lacoma in 1086 (Domesday Book). Hoskins has erroneously attributed this to Lankcombe but it is now thought to refer to Lanacombe, just south of the PAL. If this is correct the ability to relate the earthworks to a Domesday farmstead is highly significant.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: bracken encroachment is a problem in this PAL. In particular, visibility of the longhouse is badly affected by vegetation cover; bracken is also present on the prehistoric enclosures.
2. Land management: the western prehistoric enclosure was used in the 1990s for supplementary feeding of livestock. This practice has now stopped and the site is in a stable condition.

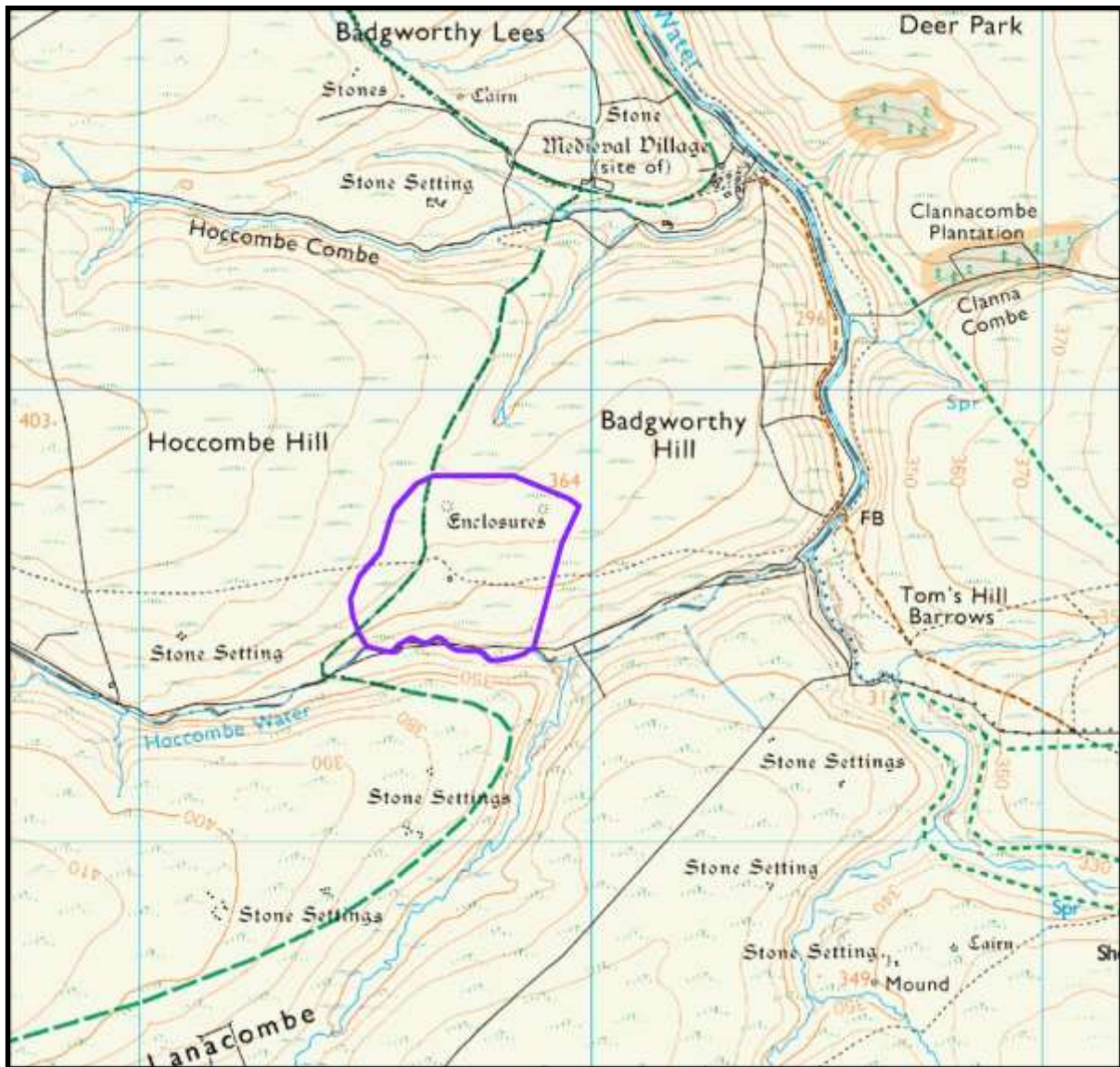


Figure 43: Map showing the extent of PAL 10 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 44: View of Longhouse, with student in centre. The form is largely obscured by vegetation



Figure 45: The larger of two prehistoric enclosures (Photo: ©English Heritage 26881_003)

11. Trout Hill and Pinford

Grid Reference centred SS 7988 4242

Location

The PAL is located in an area of remote moorland. Topographically it is dominated by Long Combe, flowing west towards Badgworthy Water. The PAL includes Great Toms Hill on the north side, Long Combe and East Pinford to the south and the northern part of Trout Hill

Description of Archaeology

Within the PAL lie eight prehistoric stone settings; the area also contains cairns, an enclosure, two hut circles and fragments of field bank all of a prehistoric date. It bears similarities to Lanacombe (PAL 1). To the south of the PAL boundary are two palaeo-ecological sites.

Principal significance

The importance of this PAL lies in its close association of many prehistoric monuments, not only stone settings and cairns but hut circles, field banks and an enclosure. It therefore is highly significant in understanding Exmoor's prehistoric past.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Land management: insensitive vegetation cutting could cause significant damage to the monuments within this PAL, affecting its condition as a whole. This is currently being carried out carefully and sensitively, although any future changes have the potential to affect condition of the PAL.

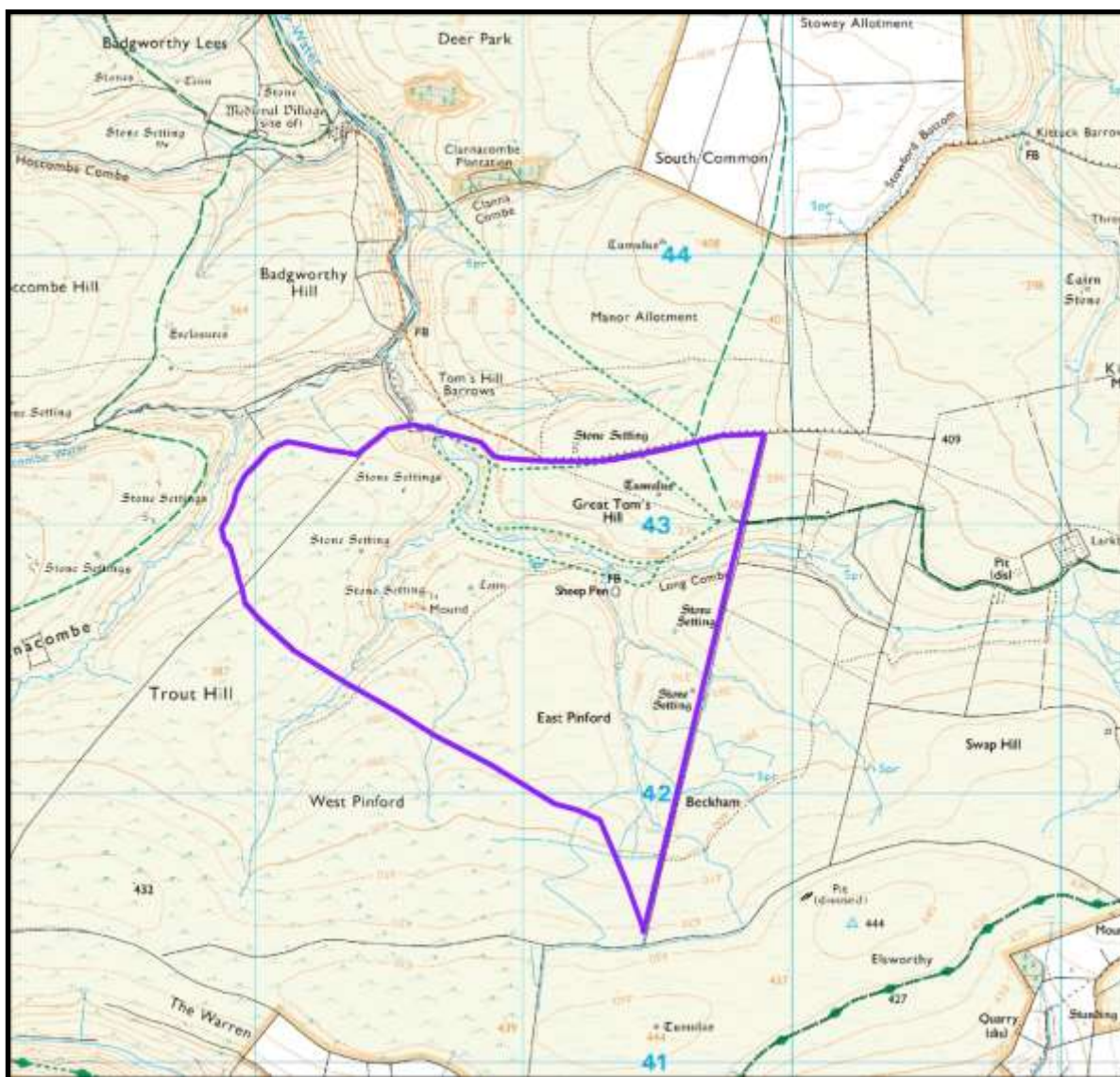


Figure 46: Map showing the extent of PAL 11 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 47: Prehistoric stone setting on Pinford (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 48: View across the PAL with sheep stall in centre of photograph (Photo: ENPA)

12. Great Hill and Honeycombe Hill

Grid Reference centred SS 8596 4216

Location

Great Hill is located on a south facing slope above Chetsford Water. The relict field systems on this area of moorland occupy gentle south facing slopes before they tip into the valley. Honeycombe Hill is located on gentle north west facing slopes above Nutscale Water. At its north east end it includes part of Thurley Combe. The south east side of the PAL is defined by Embercombe Water. Great Hill and Honeycombe Hill are on opposing sides of a valley.

Description of Archaeology

The area of this PAL contains extensive prehistoric features, including some of the most complete prehistoric field systems on Exmoor. This includes visible field banks, hut platforms, barrows and cairns, as well as a stone row located on Honeycombe Hill. The area is assessed as having high palaeo-environmental potential with deep peat formation.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant because of the complexity of the early prehistoric archaeology. The extensive nature of the settlement remains is exceptional on Exmoor. Great Hill combines a complete co-axial field system, hut platforms and barrows while prehistoric remains on Honeycombe Hill include Mesolithic flint knapping activity, standing stone monuments, prehistoric fields and an enclosed settlement. One of the hut platforms on Great Hill is waterlogged, increasing its palaeo-environmental potential. Combined these form an exceptional prehistoric landscape.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: most of the monuments are very subtle; vegetation encroachment especially bracken would obscure many of the archaeological features of this landscape.
2. Human/Livestock damage or erosion: on Great Hill there are a number of well used route ways which are not rights of way. These have the potential to deviate across the landscape, which may cause damage to the PAL. On Honeycombe Hill this is more localised. The enclosure at Thurley Combe is particularly vulnerable to erosion where it is bisected by a modern road. Road maintenance here may affect overall condition of the PAL.

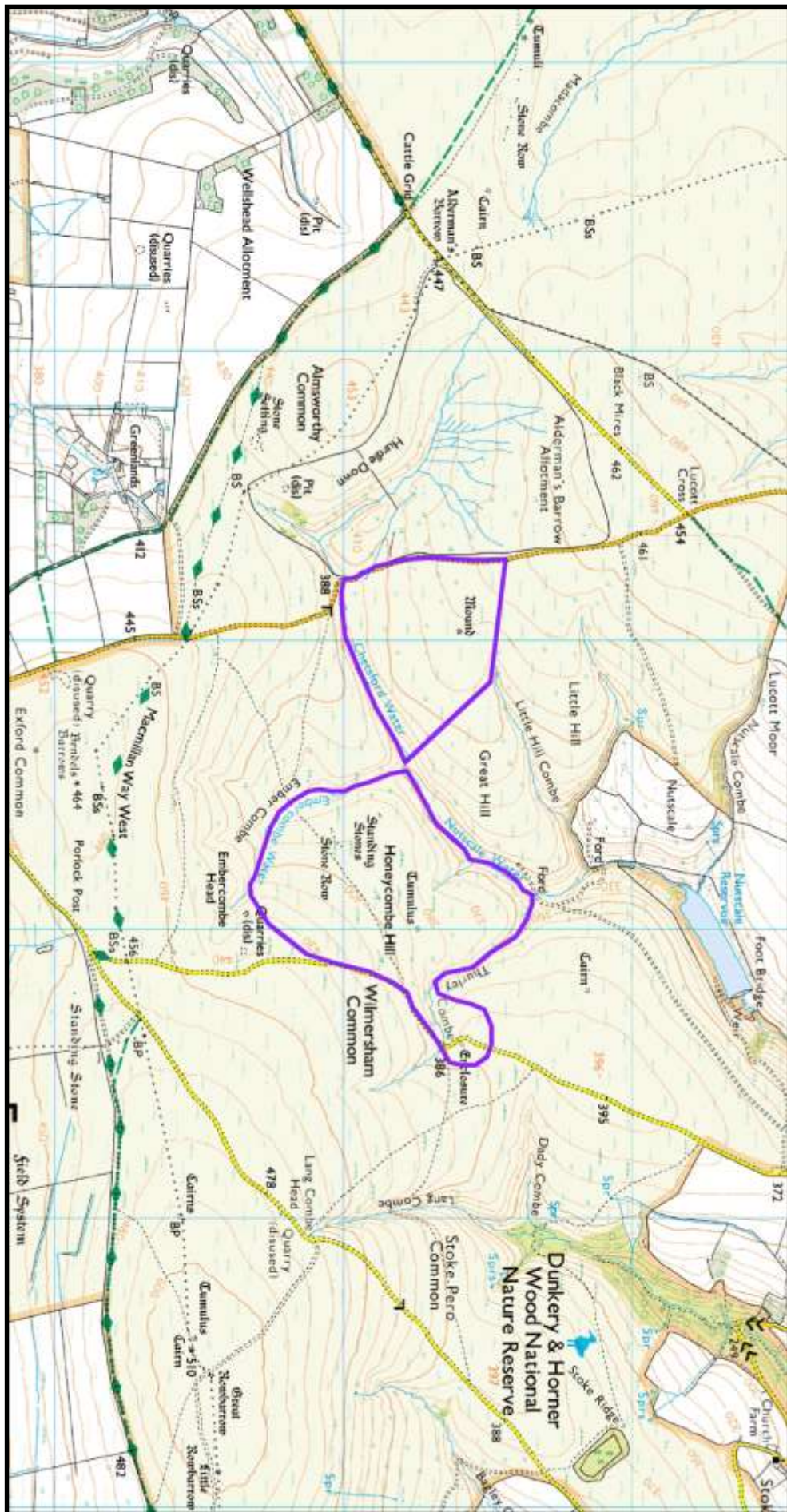


Figure 49: Map showing the extent of PAL 12 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 50: View from the barrow on Honeycombe Hill towards Nutscale



Figure 51: View south past one of the prehistoric field boundaries and cairns on Honeycombe Hill

13. Porlock Allotment

Grid Reference centred SS 8427 4397

Location

This is an area of moorland around the headwaters of Weir Water stretching northwards beyond Colley Water. Its eastern boundary is formed by the Exford to Porlock road, but it includes the Porlock stone row which lies on the eastern side of the road. A series of minor combs run into Weir Water and the spurs between these contain a large number of prehistoric monuments.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL includes a significant concentration of Exmoor's early prehistoric settlement; perhaps amounting to as much as 20%. This takes the form of small groups of two (or sometimes three) hut circles and an enclosed settlement. There are also a number of low boundaries which probably represent associated fields. Additionally, there is a stone circle, stone row and several well preserved burial cairns within the PAL which has benefitted from recent intensive fieldwork through the DIG Porlock project (see Balmond and Wilson-North 2013). The PAL also contains World War Two military remains in the form of slit trenches and a firing range.

Principal significance

The area is significant because of the amount of prehistoric settlement it contains combined with the high quality of its preservation. The stone circle complex adds another aspect to this PAL, as it is one of only two stone circles within the National Park; limited excavation in 2013 has confirmed its archaeological significance and potential. The stone circle is one of only two monuments to have statutory protection in the form of scheduling within this PAL.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Human/livestock damage or erosion: the archaeology is generally in excellent condition. However the stone circle has been badly damaged in the past and more recently has suffered from vandalism when one of its stones was removed.
2. Vegetation: especially on some of the most remote parts of the area, this comprises old deep heather which obscures the archaeological remains; bracken is encroaching onto the spurs however the area is well grazed with sheep and cattle.

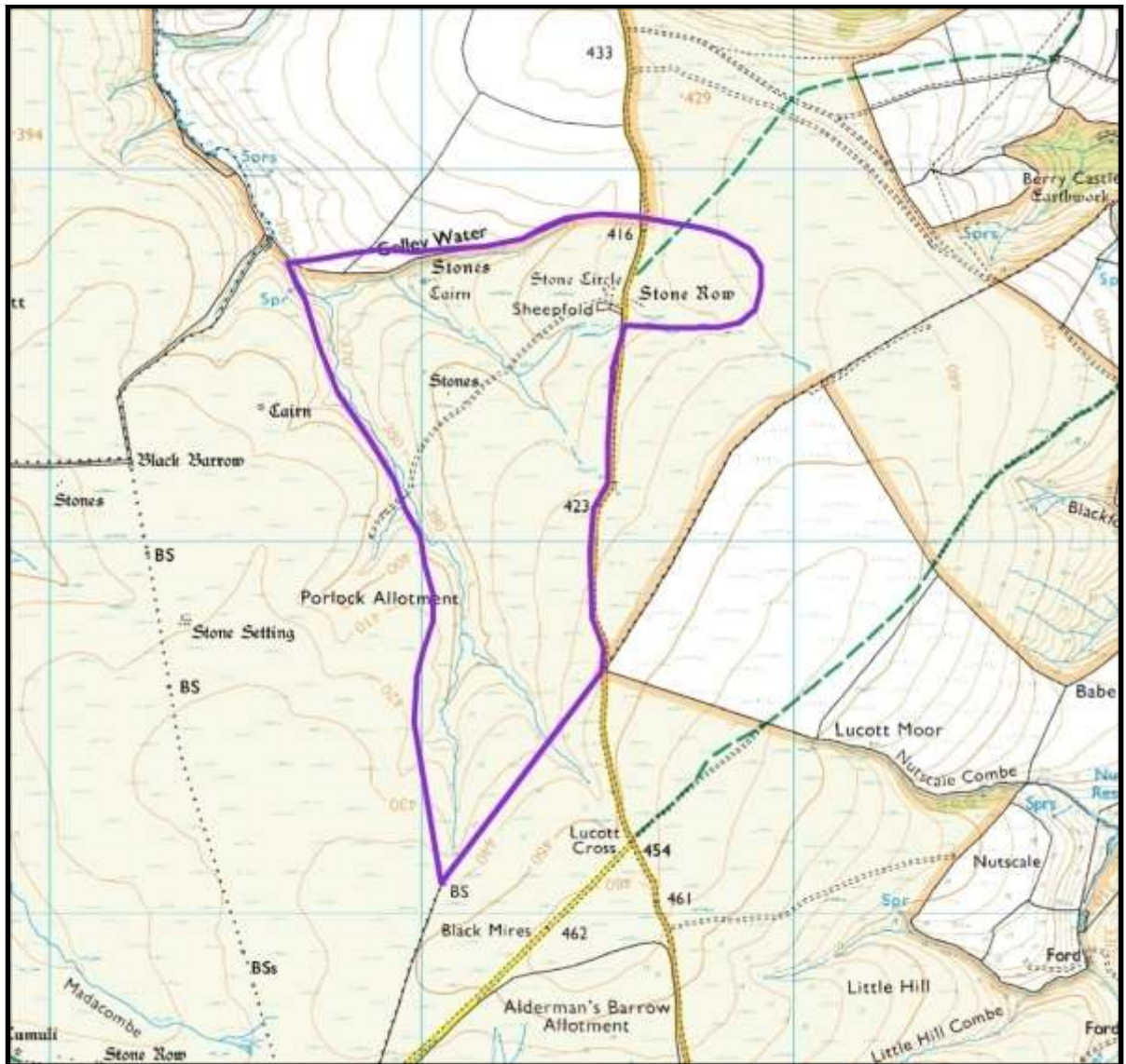


Figure 52: Map showing the extent of PAL 13 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 53: View from Porlock stone circle down Weir Water (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 54: Looking out across Porlock Allotment from the Exford-Porlock road (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 55: View to the south of Porlock Allotment with WW2 'V' feature bank and ditch just visible in centre of image

14. Hawkcombe Head

Grid Reference centred SS 8443 4578

Location

The area comprises two spring heads: Hawkcombe Head and Ven Combe and the watershed between them. This forms a dramatic topographical feature between the two major valley systems: Hawk Combe (on the east) running down to Porlock and, (on the west) the East Lyn valley system which eventually reaches the sea at Lynmouth some 8km away.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains an extensive late Mesolithic hunter gatherer site. Since 1947 thousands of flints have been found there, especially in the vicinity of the spring head at Hawkcombe. In 2001 the University of Bristol and Exmoor National Park Authority began a programme of small scale excavations at both spring heads; this work has established the existence of contemporary buried archaeological features, such as hearths and postholes. In 2013, the DIG Porlock project fieldwalked the area around the Ven Combe spring recovering around 700 pieces of flint which included material from the Early Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

Principal significance

This is the most extensive and well known Mesolithic site in the National Park. Around 15,000 pieces of flint have so far been recovered. The presence of buried features such as hearths and post holes is rare and confirms the exceptional preservation of the archaeology.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Human damage or erosion: the area around Hawkcombe Head is crossed by a road, tracks and footpaths. These have the potential to cause significant damage to the site, especially as the archaeological deposits are very shallow (between 20 and 30 cm deep).
2. Land management: the area around Ven Combe is occasionally ploughed and reseeded. This activity has the potential to damage the site.

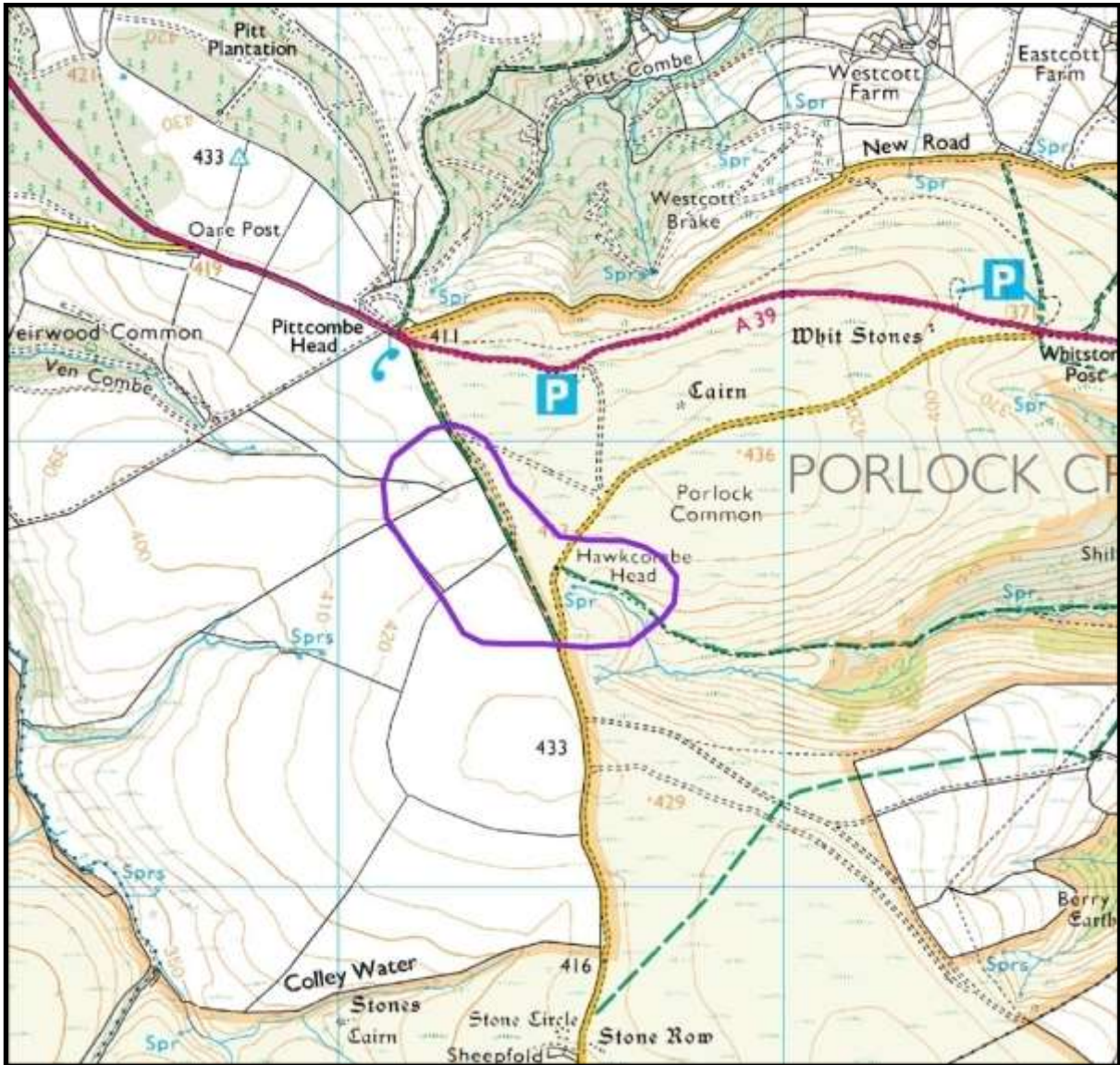


Figure 56: Map showing the extent of PAL 14 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 57: Looking east down Hawkcombe from the hunter gatherer site, towards Porlock



Figure 58: Mesolithic spring head site at Ven Combe, located on the other side of the Hawkcombe Head ridge. View to the west, down Ven Combe

15. Alderman's Barrow and Madacombe

Grid Reference centred SS 8328 4265

Location

The PAL is located on the eastern boundary of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor. It is approximately 420m above sea level at Alderman's Barrow. Madacombe runs north west through the PAL to Kittuck Meads and Three Combes Foot.

Description of archaeology

The PAL comprises a group of Bronze Age burial mounds including Alderman's Barrow, and a Neolithic stone row. Within Madacombe is an area of extensive valley mire with excellent palaeo-environmental potential.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant due to the association of well preserved early prehistoric monuments with a substantial valley mire, offering potential for contemporary environmental evidence.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: encroaching vegetation will make the prehistoric archaeological remains impossible to see.
2. Human damage or erosion: Alderman's Barrow is vulnerable due to its roadside location.

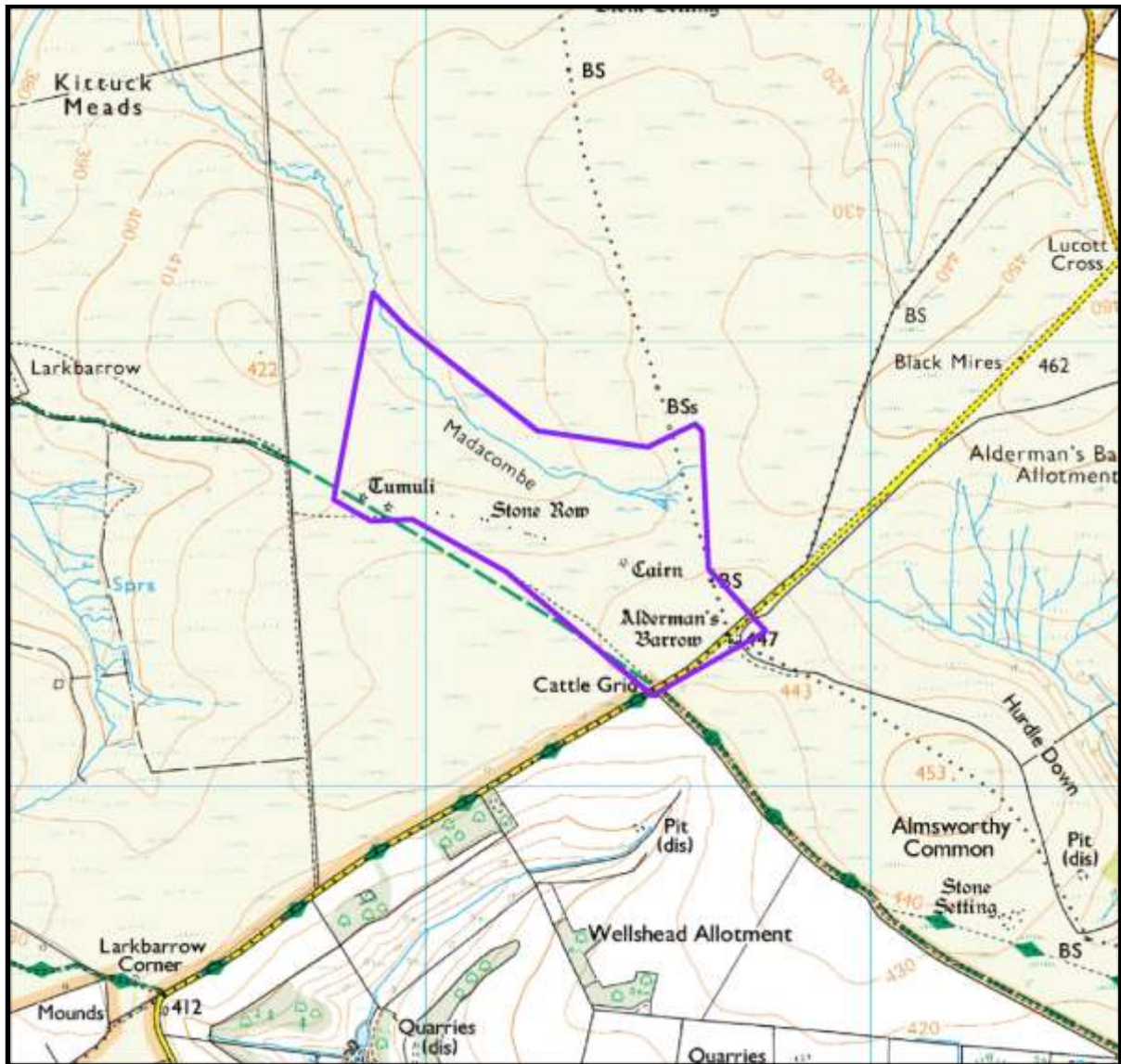


Figure 59: Map showing the extent of PAL 15 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 60: Alderman's Barrow, showing its prominent roadside location and WW2 antiquity star



Figure 61: View of Madacombe, which holds within it an area of extensive valley mire

16. Codsend and Dunkery

Grid Reference:SS 8750 4083

Location

Codsend Moor is located on the southern slopes of Dunkery Hill below Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor, which is contained within the PAL. It is defined on the north by the ridge on which Dunkery Beacon sits and to the south by the river Quarme.

Description of Archaeology

Codsend Moor is a semi relict 19th century enclosure landscape which contains within it an area of exceptionally preserved prehistoric and medieval settlement and field systems. Prehistoric enclosures are evident in this area. It is extensive in its scale and has palaeo-environmental potential in the form of hillside mires in close association with the archaeological remains. The prehistoric field systems appear to be multiphase, making them unique on Exmoor and is especially impressive viewed from Winsford Hill.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant because of the complexity of the early prehistoric archaeology. The extensive scale of the settlement remains is exceptional on Exmoor. The combination of multiphase prehistoric fields, medieval fields, attempted 18th century enclosure and the 19th century enclosure fields, combined with the excellent preservation of these sites make Codsend moors highly significant. The relative proximity of palaeo-environmental sites to the field archaeology further reinforces this. The vast scale and semi relict nature of the landscape within the PAL is also unusual.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: most of the monuments are very subtle; vegetation encroachment would obscure many of the archaeological features of this landscape.
2. Land management: changes in grazing could lead to a loss of the semi relict character of this PAL.
3. Natural Erosion: water runoff through drainage features and field banks makes this landscape vulnerable to erosion.

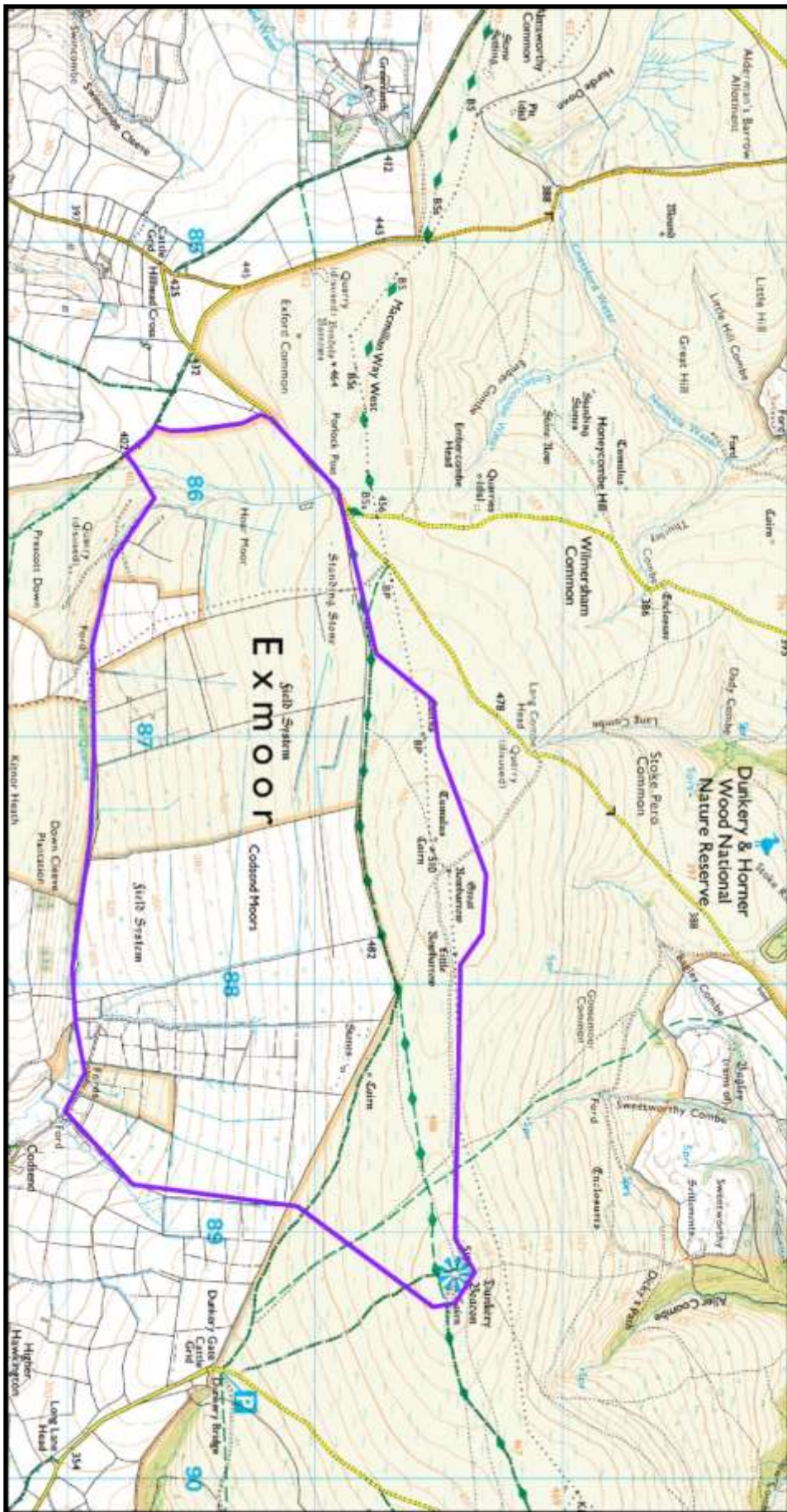


Figure 62: Map showing the extent of PAL 16 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 63: Well preserved field banks cross much of the area of the PAL

Figure 64: Water runoff along a hedge bank is eroding a ditch, cutting through a prehistoric enclosure within the PAL



Figure 65: View out from Codsand, with Dunkery Beacon in the far left

17. Robin and Joaney How barrow complex

Grid Reference centred SS 9102 4274

Location

This area of high moorland is east of Dunkery Beacon (the highest point on Exmoor) and comprises an outlying summit of the Dunkery Hill massif. To the east the hill sweeps away to the Avill valley and Wootton Courtenay. There are extensive panoramic views northwards to Wales and southwards across Exmoor.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL includes a complex of barrows clustered around the summit barrows of Robin and Joaney How (which supposedly take their names from Robin Hood and Little John). Most of the barrows are un-named. The barrows are highly visible, well preserved and predominantly stone built and many of them exploit the geological terracing. Their stone built form gives this group much of its distinctive character (in contrast to other Exmoor barrow cemeteries like the Chapman Barrows which are turf covered and composed of a mixture of earth and stone).

Principal significance

The area is significant because of the large number of barrows represented and the high level of preservation of the barrows.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Human damage or erosion: a number of small stone shelters have been built on the most prominent cairns. Whilst these do not appear to be damaging the internal fabric of the monuments they affect perception of the monuments.
2. Human damage or erosion: a well used path is developing leading from the road towards the barrows and, whilst this is not presently causing erosion, any increase in traffic may lead to erosion of the area around the monuments.

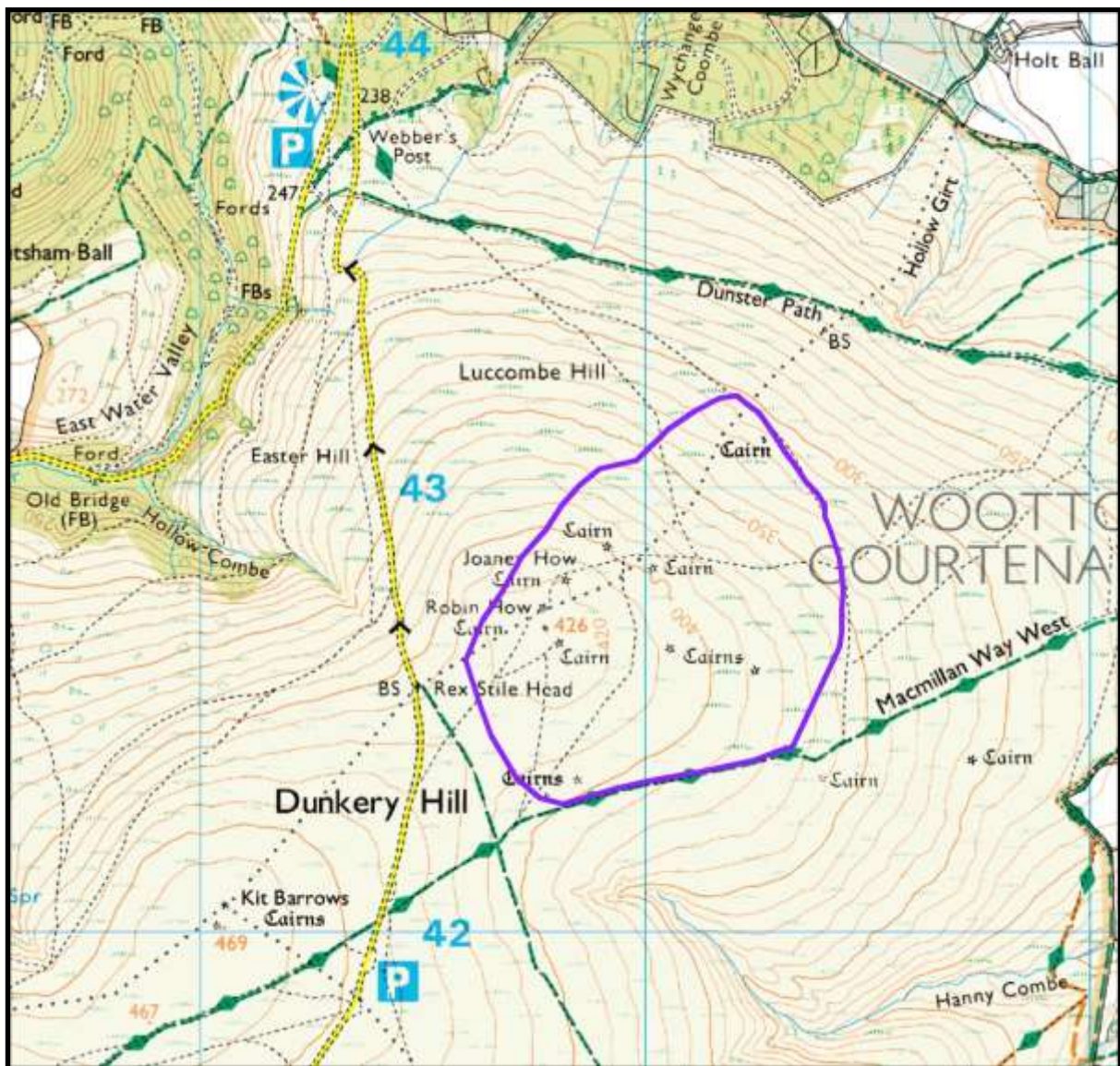


Figure 66: Map showing the extent of PAL 17 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 67: Ridge top location of Robin and Joaney How with Porlock Bay visible on the far left and views out into the Bristol Channel on the right. Dunkery Beacon is out of sight to the left



Figure 68: View over farmland and Porlock Bay east of the PAL

18. Sweetworthy and Bagley

Grid reference centred SS 8855 4264

Location

On north facing slopes below Dunkery Beacon and in the valley of East Water. The PAL lies primarily within enclosed farmland but also extends onto moorland on the lower slopes of Dunkery Hill.

Description of the archaeology

Sweetworthy and Bagley comprise a group of relict settlements ranging in date from the Bronze Age to the nineteenth century. At the western end Bagley is a circular prehistoric enclosure with traces of a house platform within it. Immediately adjacent to it is a complex of ruinous stone buildings representing a post medieval deserted farmstead. There is implied continuity here spanning several millennia. At the eastern end Sweetworthy consists of three prehistoric enclosures, two smaller ones on moorland and a larger one within the enclosed fields; this enclosure appears to be multiphase. To the west of this group of prehistoric enclosures are the earthworks of a deserted medieval settlement.

Principal significance

This PAL is an unusual example of well preserved settlement continuity from prehistory to the medieval and post medieval periods. The concentration of settlement features is also highly unusual, comprising four enclosed settlements, a deserted medieval settlement and a deserted post medieval farmstead.

The boundary forming the southern extent of the enclosed farmland comprises a large stone-faced bank with grown out beech hedge. This is a significant landscape feature in its own right, but also emphasises the importance of the location on the moorland edge with access to summer grazing, and the value of the enclosed farmland in this relatively sheltered valley.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Human/livestock damage or erosion: there is some erosion occurring on moorland tracks at Sweetworthy.
2. Vegetation: there is a risk of scrub encroachment damaging and obscuring the archaeological features within enclosed land.

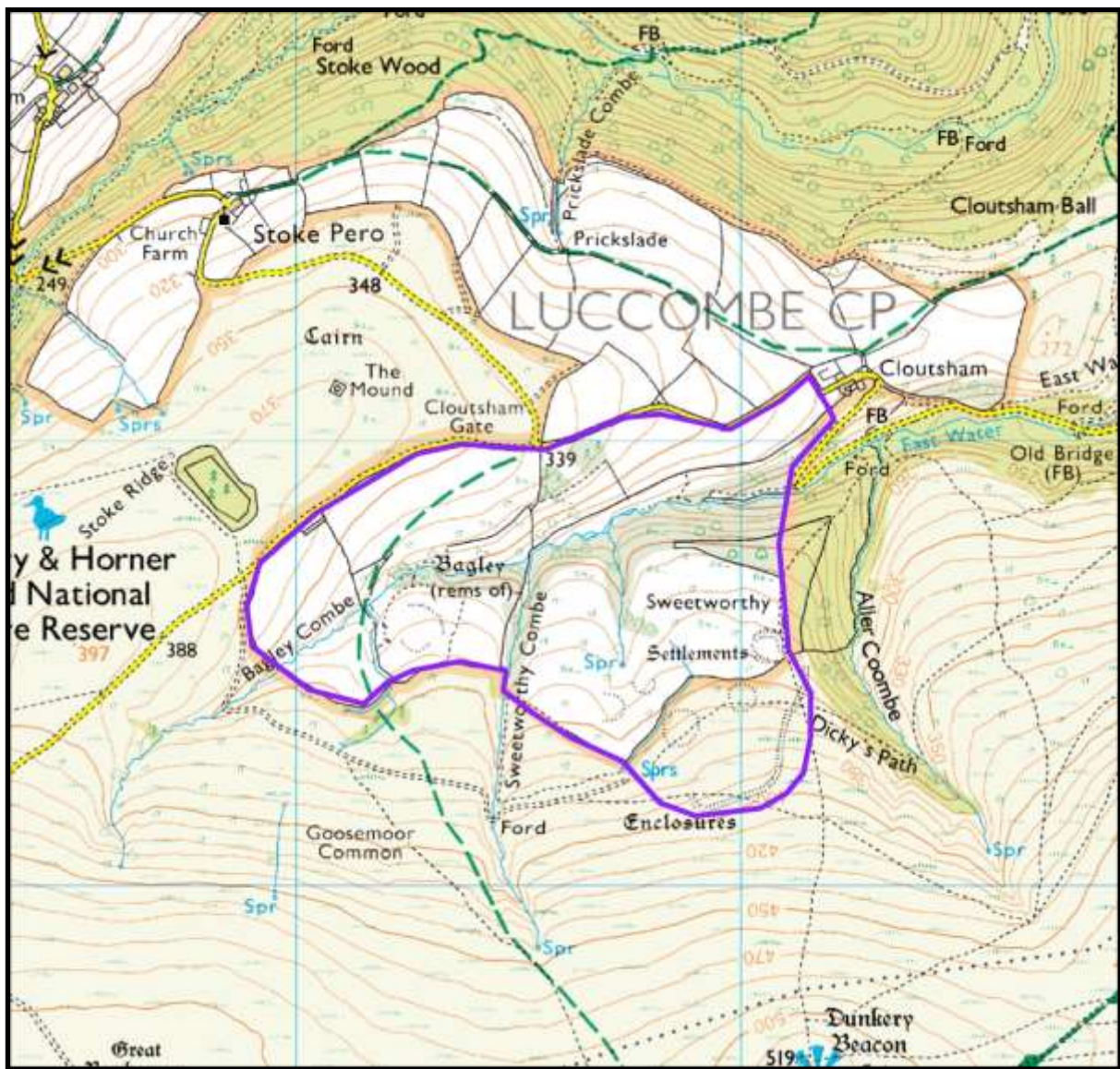


Figure 69: Map showing the extent of PAL 18 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 70: An enclosure at Sweetworthy, on the slopes below Dunkery Beacon, is visible in the enclosed land



Figure 71: The landscape setting of Sweetworthy and Bagley below the moorland ridge of Dunkery Beacon and Rowbarrows

19. Mansley Combe

Grid Reference centred SS 9032 4069

Location

Mansley Combe is located on south facing slopes below Dunkery Beacon, at the head waters of the river Avill and is bordered on the east side by Bin Combe.

Description of Archaeology

Mansley Combe is a lobe shaped enclosure from Dunkery Hill, separated from the moorland by a massive beech hedge topped enclosure bank, which is probably of medieval origin. It is semi relict in nature. The enclosure contains relict medieval field systems in the form of strip lynchets. The associated deserted medieval farmstead lies in the centre of the area. The western part contains co-axial prehistoric field systems, overlain by the later medieval fields. The PAL also includes 19th century tree clumps laid out by the Acland family.

Principal significance

This PAL is one of only a few deserted medieval settlements identified on Exmoor. The combination of well preserved co-axial field systems overlain by relict medieval field systems and an associated settlement makes this area significant.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: bracken encroachment especially over the deserted medieval settlement is affecting the condition.
2. Animal burrowing: badger sett development in and around the medieval settlement including within the building areas affects the archaeological preservation of the PAL.
3. Vehicle damage and animal access: access through the deserted medieval settlement is likely to cause erosion of the buildings.
4. Land management: lack of maintenance of 19th century Acland tree clumps will affect the overall condition of this PAL.

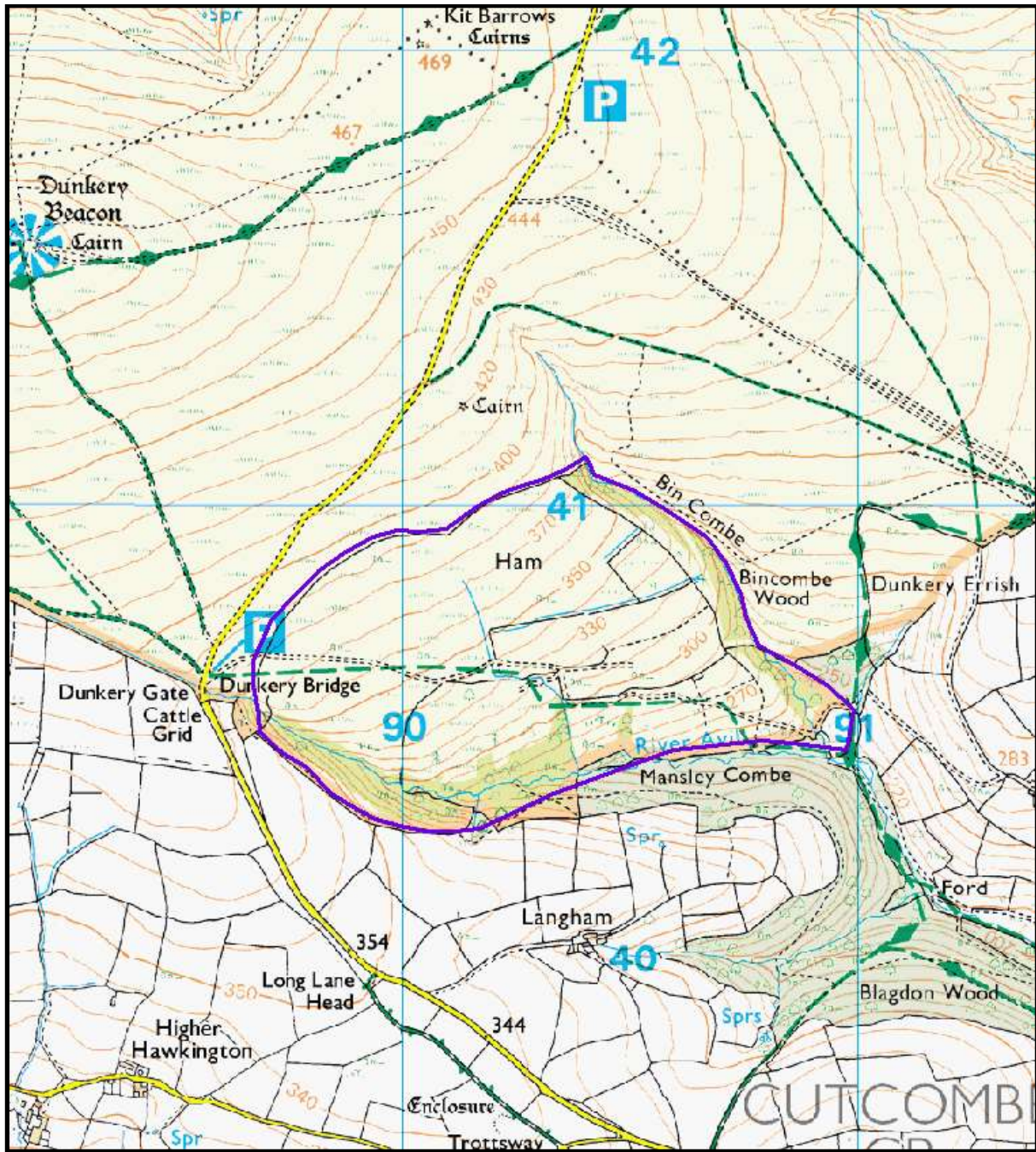


Figure 72: Map showing the extent of PAL 19 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 73: Looking out of the PAL south towards a tree clump, part of the Acland family's embellishment of this landscape



Figure 74: The area of Mansley Combe deserted medieval settlement, showing extent of bracken coverage

20. Bury Castle

Grid Reference centred SS 9160 4728

Location

Bury Castle lies at the end of a spur which curves out from the upland ridge of North Hill, Selworthy Beacon and Bossington Hill. The spur is defined on the west by Holnicote Combe and on the east by Selworthy Combe. It occupies a prominent position overlooking the Vale of Porlock.

Description of Archaeology

Bury Castle comprises a small univallate enclosure occupying a spur end position. The substantial earthworks of the enclosure are augmented by an outwork on the west side. Further away to the north west is a second detached earthwork. The spur was enclosed with a now relict field system comprising field banks and ridge and furrow. The field system has incorporated the detached outwork of Bury Castle and ridge and furrow is visible between the detached outwork and inner enclosure.

Principal significance

Bury Castle is one of several prehistoric enclosures on Exmoor with outworks, however only 2 – Bury Castle and Staddon Hill Camp have multiple outworks. Despite the later field system, the enclosure earthworks are exceptionally well preserved.

Main issues affecting condition

- I. Vegetation: bracken and woodland regeneration on the earthworks will reduce the visibility of the PAL and ultimately the loss of the site.

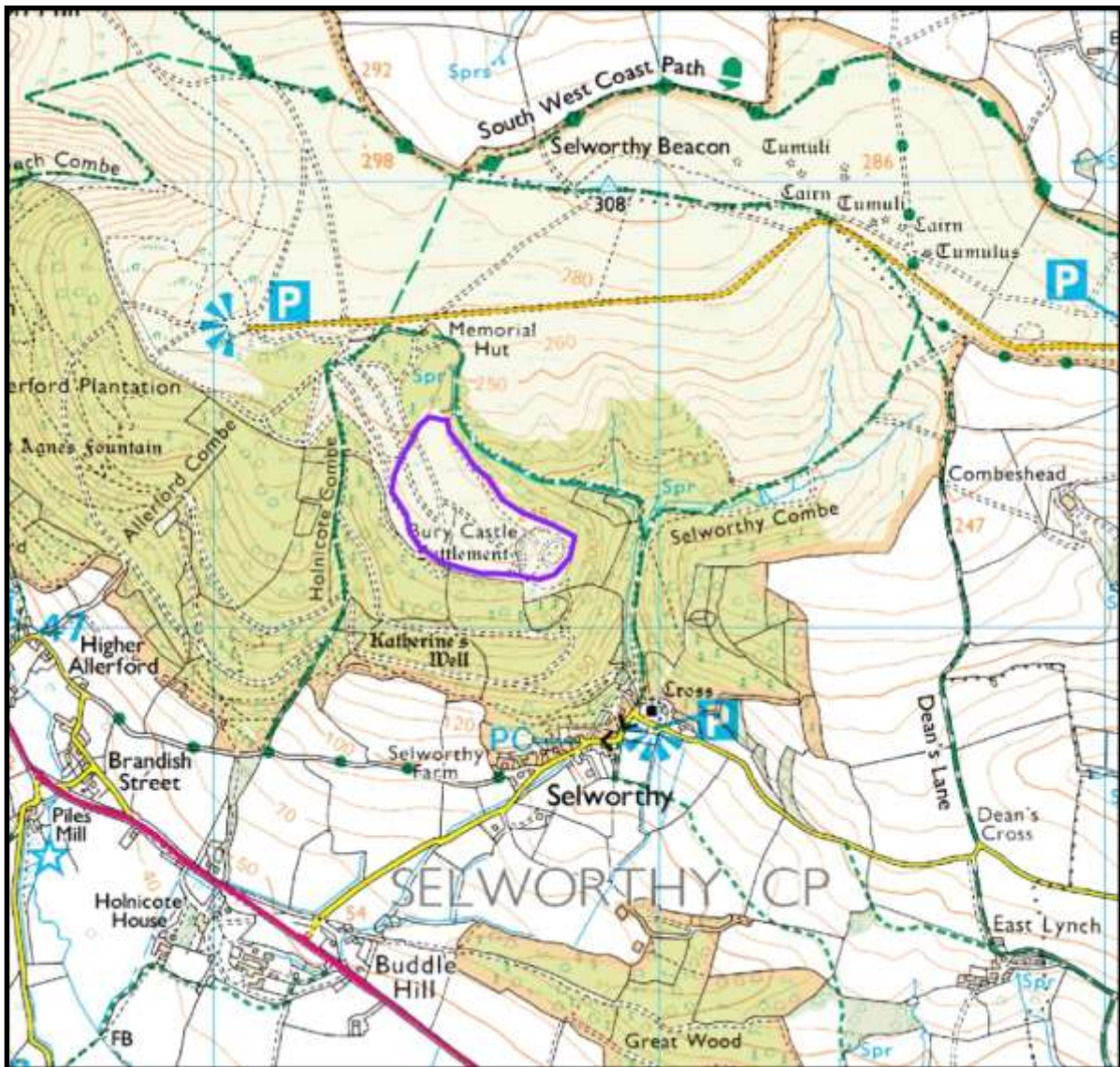


Figure 75: Map showing the extent of PAL 20 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 76: Bury Castle with inner enclosure in foreground, outwork visible on the horizon



Figure 77: Bracken, gorse and woodland regeneration visible on the inner enclosure bank of Bury Castle

21. Cow Castle

Grid Reference centred SS 7942 3720

Location

Situated within the Barle Valley close to its confluence with White Water, the PAL is located along the Two Moors Way.

Description of Archaeology

A univallate hill top enclosure occupying a prominent knoll within the Barle Valley. The enclosure is of presumed Iron Age date. The banks are composed of earth and stone with some revetting in places. There is a single entrance on the southern side. The interior is featureless although a couple of platforms have been tentatively identified. The monument is known locally as the cow and calf, as there is a smaller knoll located immediately south east of Cow Castle. The site is a scheduled monument.

Principal significance

This is one of Exmoor's iconic archaeological sites and occupies a dramatic topographic situation in the landscape. It presents a well preserved Iron Age defensive site with views both up and down the Barle valley. The presence of an iron mining open work nearby at Pickedstones adds to the significance of the site.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Human damage or erosion: the site is well visited and there are areas of localised erosion across the ramparts. In the past there has been some minor damage caused by quad bike activity.
2. Vegetation: there is bracken coverage on some of the site which has the potential to affect visibility of the PAL and to damage archaeological remains.

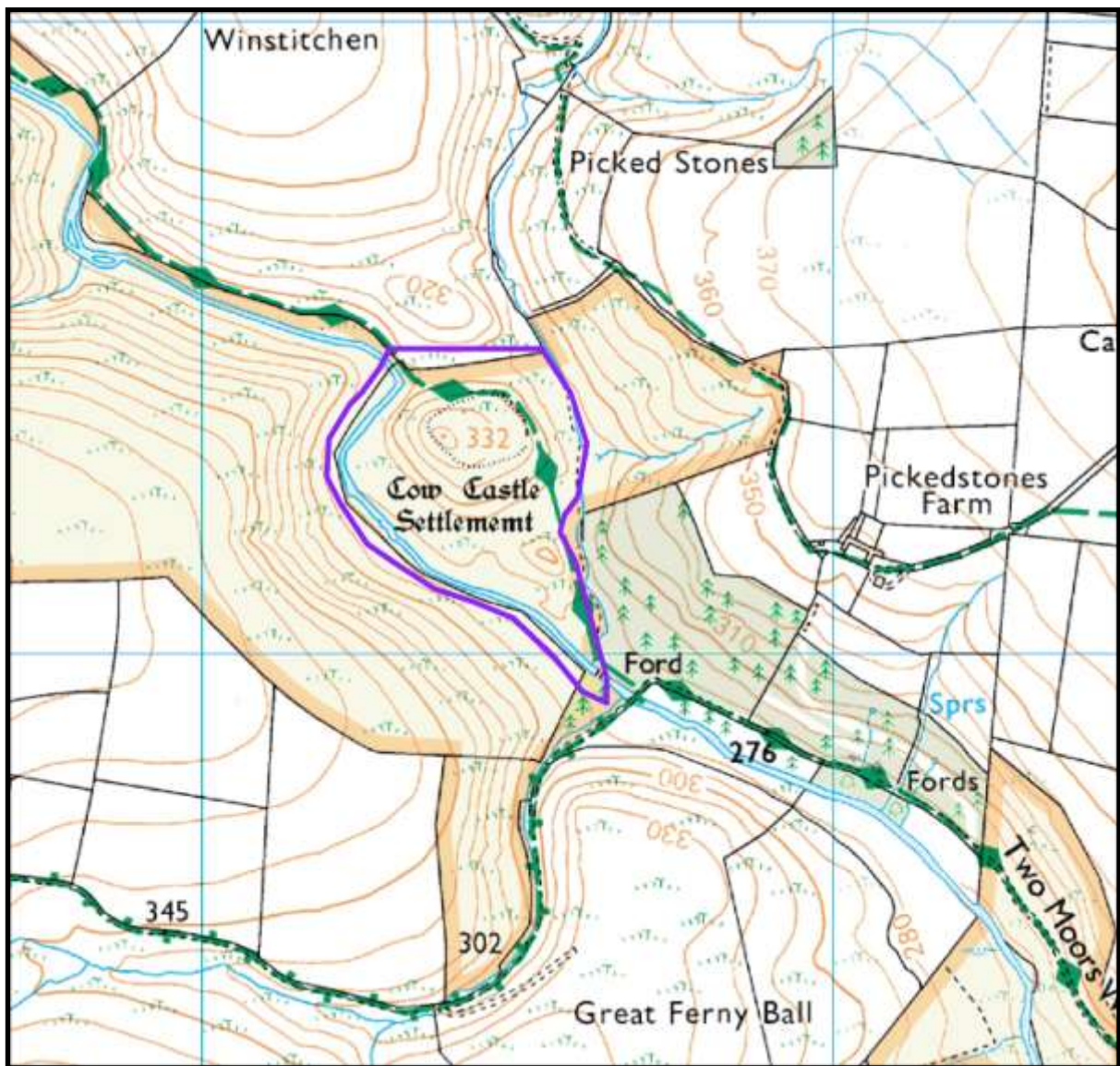


Figure 78: Map showing the extent of PAL 21 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 79: View up the Barle towards Simonsbath from Cow Castle (Photo: Nick Dawson)



Figure 80: Looking down the Barle from Cow Castle, past the Calf (Photo: Nick Dawson)



Figure 81: Cow Castle viewed from the air in its landscape setting (Photo: Rob Wilson-North)

22. Bats Castle and Withycombe

Grid Reference centred SS 9904 4194

Location

Located on the north east edge of the National Park, on a ridge running north west to south east to the south of Dunster. The PAL includes an area from Gallox Bridge to Dumbledeer, overlooking the Bristol Channel.

Description of Archaeology

The north west end of the PAL comprises two hillforts, Gallox Hill and Bat's Castle. The latter has a complex of detached outworks on its northern and eastern sides. From the centre of the PAL at Withycombe Hill Gate as far as Lower Dumbledeer are traces of an extensive field system comprising lynchets and broad banks and some field clearance cairns. In character the field system is reminiscent of 'Celtic fields' and it is therefore likely that the field system is contemporary with the two hillforts.

Principal significance

This PAL is highly significant for its role in understanding the later prehistoric periods on Exmoor, due to the concentration of monuments of this date. The close association between hillforts and field systems, likely to be of similar date, is unique on Exmoor and has the potential to further research and understanding of later prehistoric life in southwest England.

Main issues affecting condition

1. **Vegetation:** there is bracken coverage on some of the site which affects both the visibility and condition of the archaeology. On Withycombe Hill there is vegetation management in place, which is effectively controlling bracken and scrub encroachment, however in other areas there is extensive bracken cover, scrub and silver birch regeneration.
2. **Land management:** forestry plantations have caused damage to this landscape in the past, especially to the south west of Withycombe Hill Gate, where Celtic fields on air photographs have been totally destroyed. Future forestry management operations should take full account of the PAL.
3. **Intervisibility:** forestry cover limits visibility within the PAL. Forestry cover and scrub encroachment are a major barrier to perceiving this historic landscape as a whole.

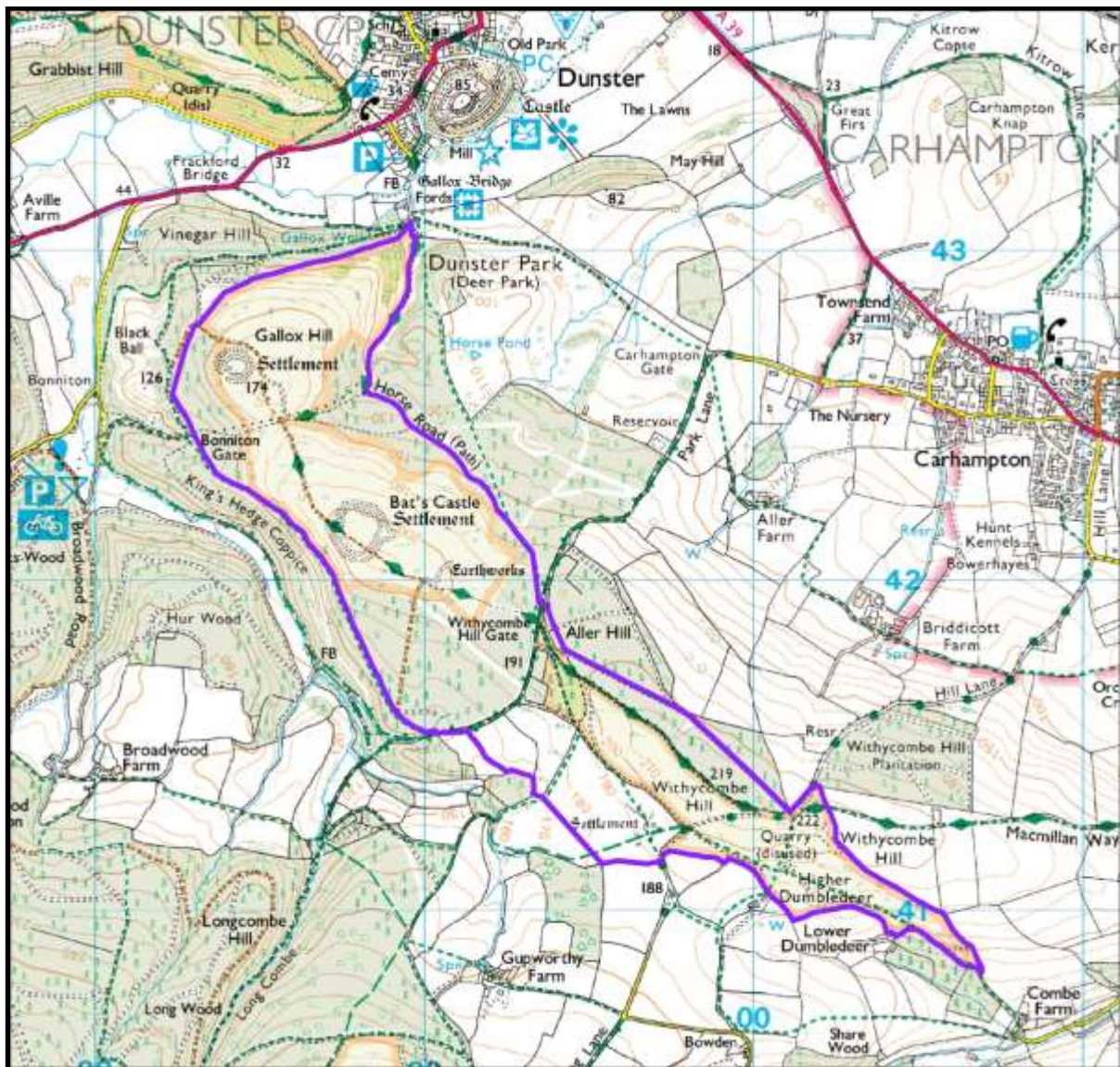


Figure 82: Map showing the extent of PAL 22 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 83: View out from the south of the PAL



Figure 84: Looking into the PAL towards Bat's Castle

23. Brendon Common

(previously known as WWII Brendon Common)

Grid Reference centred SS 7710 4400

Location

The PAL is located north east of Brendon Two Gates on high moorland west of Hoccombe Hill. To the south is Hoccombe Water; on the northern side is Hoccombe Combe.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL comprises an area of moorland that was used for military training during WW2. It lies within the much more extensive Exmoor firing ranges. The area was the focus of chemical weapons training by the Royal Engineers. A memorial stone commemorates Colonel R H Maclaren who commanded the chemical weapon troops of the Royal Engineers and was killed here on May 20th 1941. He was killed while demonstrating the newly developed five inch rocket, a few of which can still be found in this area. Towards the eastern end of the PAL are the fragmentary remains of a substantial concrete structure. It lies at the centre of a network of concrete posts stretching for hundreds of metres, the function of which is unknown but may be associated with chemical weapons development.

Principal significance

This area was crucial in the development of chemical weapons technology at the beginning of World War Two.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Natural processes or erosion: The location of the monument on the exposed high moorland is accelerating the decline of the concrete structures. Loss of these posts and structures would affect the ability to research and interpret this military training landscape.
2. Human damage or erosion: Removal of the five inch rockets which until recently could be found easily in this area has the potential to further restrict the ability to interpret this area.

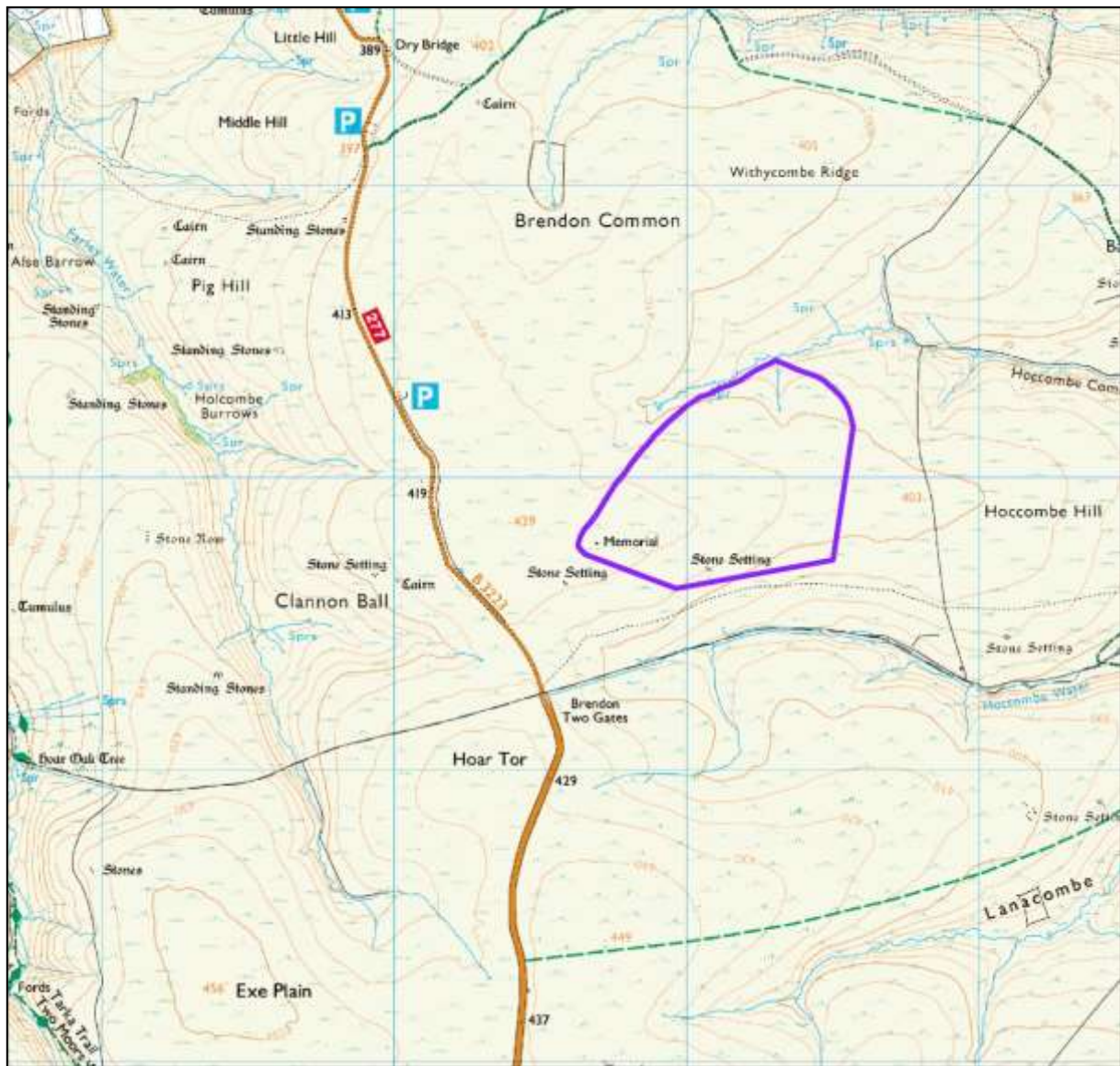


Figure 85: Map showing the extent of PAL 23 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 86: Concrete structure in foreground with a row of concrete posts leading off into the distance behind



Figure 87: The Maclaren Memorial, located at the western end of the PAL



Figure 88: Deteriorating concrete post

24. Burcombe Mining Complex

(previously known as Blue Gate and Roman Lode)

Grid Reference centred SS 7563 3820

Location

Burcombe PAL is located on the south side of the river Barle, to the south west of Simonsbath with Blue Gate at its southern end. It is dominated by Dry Bridge Combe and Burcombe.

Description of Archaeology

There is evidence of mineral exploitation dating from the early Bronze Age to the early 20th century. The most obvious topographic feature is Roman Lode, a 600m long openwork which despite its name is undated but probably reflects mineral extraction over millennia. A triangular area of pits at the east end of this feature was investigated under the Exmoor Iron Project in the early 2000's. Detailed results of this work are currently unpublished. The most extensive mining operations were carried out in the 19th century in the area to the south of Cornham Ford. A second area is focused on Deer Park, to the north east of Blue Gate. This area in particular has exceptionally well preserved field remains supported by detailed cartographic and documentary evidence.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant due to the presence of Roman Lode, the largest openwork on Exmoor. In addition, the remains at Blue Gate are exceptionally well preserved. The PAL exhibits a wide chronological range for mineral exploitation, from the Bronze Age until the early 20th century.

Main issues affecting condition

At present there are no issues observed which are likely to affect the condition of this PAL.



Figure 89: Map showing the extent of PAL 24 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 90: View north from Burcombe PAL with iron workings in the foreground



Figure 91: Evidence for mineral exploitation in the nineteenth century located near Blue Gate, looking west

25. Larkbarrow and Tom's Hill

Grid Reference centred SS 8159 4294

Location

The area is a block of moorland within the former Royal Forest of Exmoor. It is located near to the eastern Royal Forest boundary. Long Combe runs out of the centre of the PAL with Chalk Water running out northwards.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains two 19th century relict farmsteads and their relict field systems, water management systems and peat cutting. These farms were created by the Knight family in the mid 19th century as part of the reclamation of the Royal Forest. A sheepfold on Kittuck Meads also dates to the same period.

There are also prehistoric remains in the form of cairns and standing stones, and evidence of Mesolithic flint knapping activity beneath and adjacent to Larkbarrow Farm.

The farm buildings and surrounding landscape were used for artillery training during World War Two and as such the farm buildings today survive as ruins. There is also a valley mire to the south of the ruins of Larkbarrow Farm which has high palaeo-environmental potential.

Principal significance

Larkbarrow is especially significant because of the preservation and completeness of the layouts of two Knight farms and their associated infrastructure. This includes field gutters, peat cutting, field boundaries (some with remnant grown out hedging), associated ballast quarries for the construction of the boundaries and the ruined farm buildings themselves.

The survival of earlier prehistoric features, particularly the hunter gatherer site by Larkbarrow farmstead, in close topographical association with the valley mire makes this area of Exmoor very unusual.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Land management: potential changes, which might include the removal of the grown out hedges and shelter belt of Larkbarrow farm, would adversely affect the condition of this PAL.
2. Vegetation: the vegetation within many of the former fields is now poor grassland in stark contrast to the surrounding moorland, and this aspect of the PAL is key to its

relict character. Changes in the current vegetation would also have an adverse impact upon the character of the area.

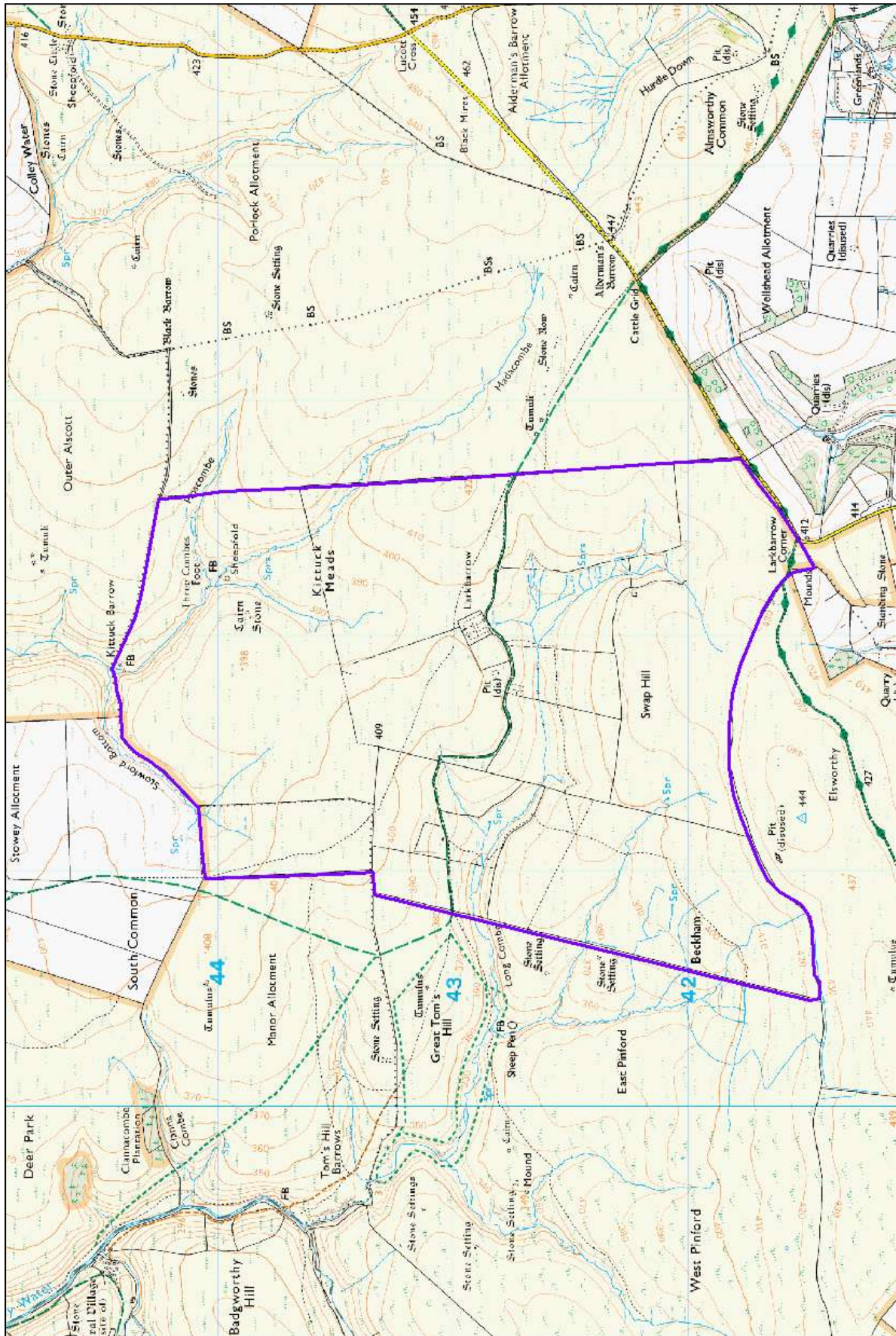


Figure 92: Map showing the extent of PAL 25 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 93: Larkbarrow Farm with its grown out shelter belt of beech trees is clearly visible in the landscape to the right (Photo: Nick Dawson)



Figure 94: Western edge of the PAL looking out to unenclosed moorland with relict field boundary in foreground and field gutters on the left side of the image (Photo: Nick Dawson)

26. Warren Farm

Grid Reference centred SS 7949 4061

Location

The PAL is located on the south facing slopes of Exe Cleeve, east of Simonsbath and within the area of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor. It occupies a dramatic hillside location.

Description of archaeology

The PAL comprises a 17th century rabbit warren and warreners house, overlain by a 19th century farming landscape. This includes water meadows and a model farm. A number of pillow mounds make up the warren which lies on the slopes below the present farm house. Several of the mounds are cut by later features. There is low intensity grazing over the area of the PAL, with some bracken and gorse with natural rock outcrops.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant both because of its unique nature on Exmoor, and because of its contribution in understanding the economy and settlement of the Royal Forest of Exmoor in the 17th century. The Warren Farm rabbit warren provides archaeological evidence probably associated with James Boevey's activities in the Royal Forest. It is an excellent surviving example of a 17th century rabbit warren.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: bracken encroachment will both obscure and damage the archaeological remains.
2. Vehicle damage: intensification of use or migration of farm tracks will cause damage to this PAL.
3. Land management: more intensive use of the slopes in the PAL may cause damage in the form of erosion of the archaeological remains.

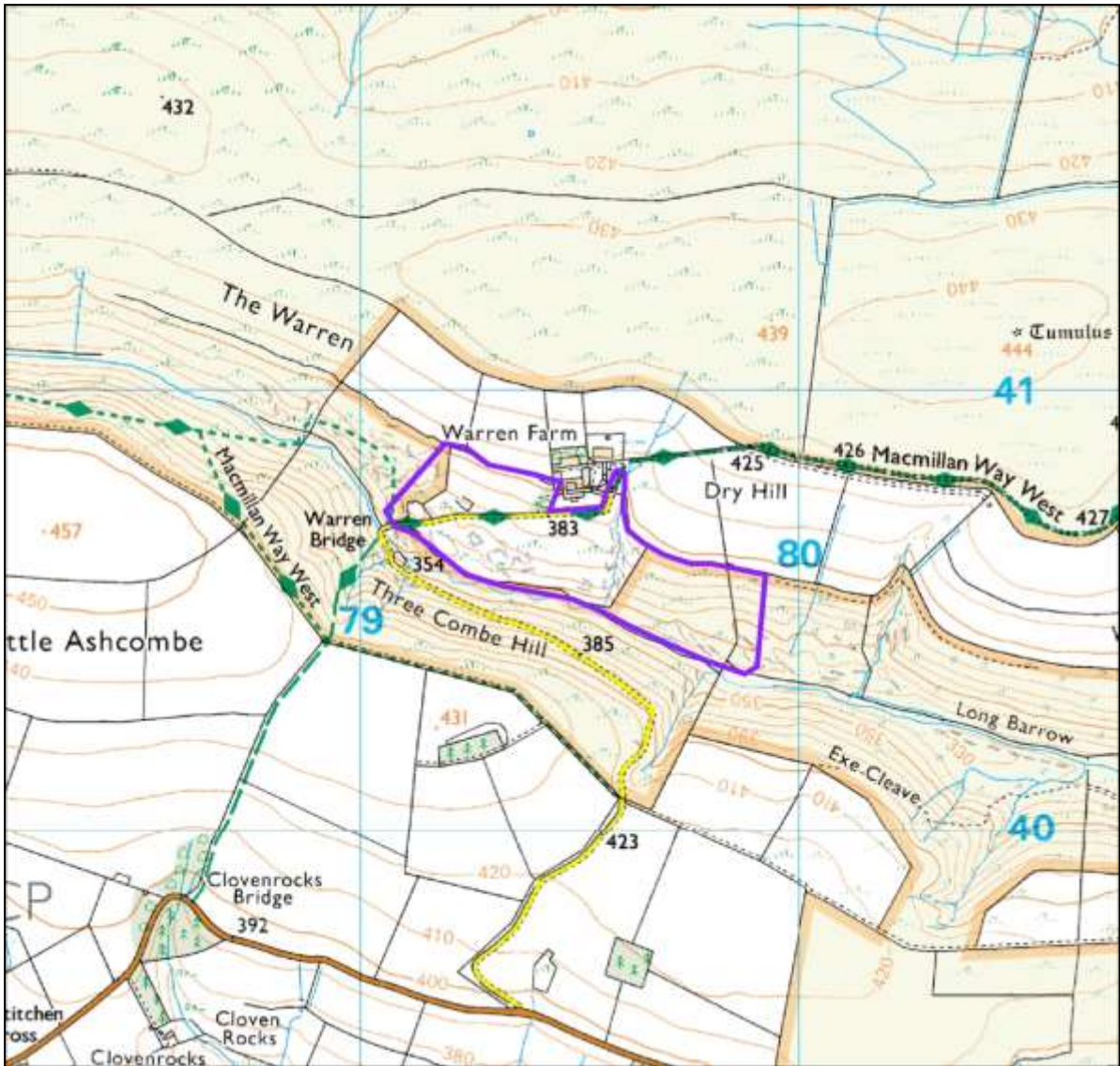


Figure 95: Map showing the extent of PAL 26 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 96: Warren Farm, a Knight farm with pillow mounds visible on the slopes in front of the farm house



Figure 97: Looking east out of the PAL down the river Barle

27. Ley Hill

Grid Reference centred SS 8901 4458

Location

The PAL lies on the western edge of Horner Wood, partly within the woodland and partly within open moorland to the west.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL comprises a deserted medieval settlement of seven buildings lying close to the head of Rey Combe. The site was excavated by the National Trust in the 1990s. Southwards from the settlement is an extensive contemporary field system consisting of two bundles of strip lynchets within the woodland area. On the moorland slopes to the west are traces of an outfield system of low banks forming irregular fields. At the extreme south of the PAL is an Iron Age enclosure occupying a spur end.

Principal significance

Ley Hill is unusual on Exmoor, being one of only a few major sites of its type. Its value is increased by its well preserved state (not only the remains of buildings, but field systems also) and its ability to provide evidence for the nature of medieval farming on Exmoor. It is one of only two sites where an infield outfield system is preserved as earthworks. The significance of the PAL is further increased as the only medieval settlement on Exmoor to have undergone archaeological excavation (currently unpublished).

Main issues affecting condition

- I. Vegetation: bracken cover which is detrimental to the archaeology is also obstructing visibility of the medieval settlement buildings as well as the Iron Age enclosure. Fallen trees left on the building platforms are further affecting the visibility of this PAL.

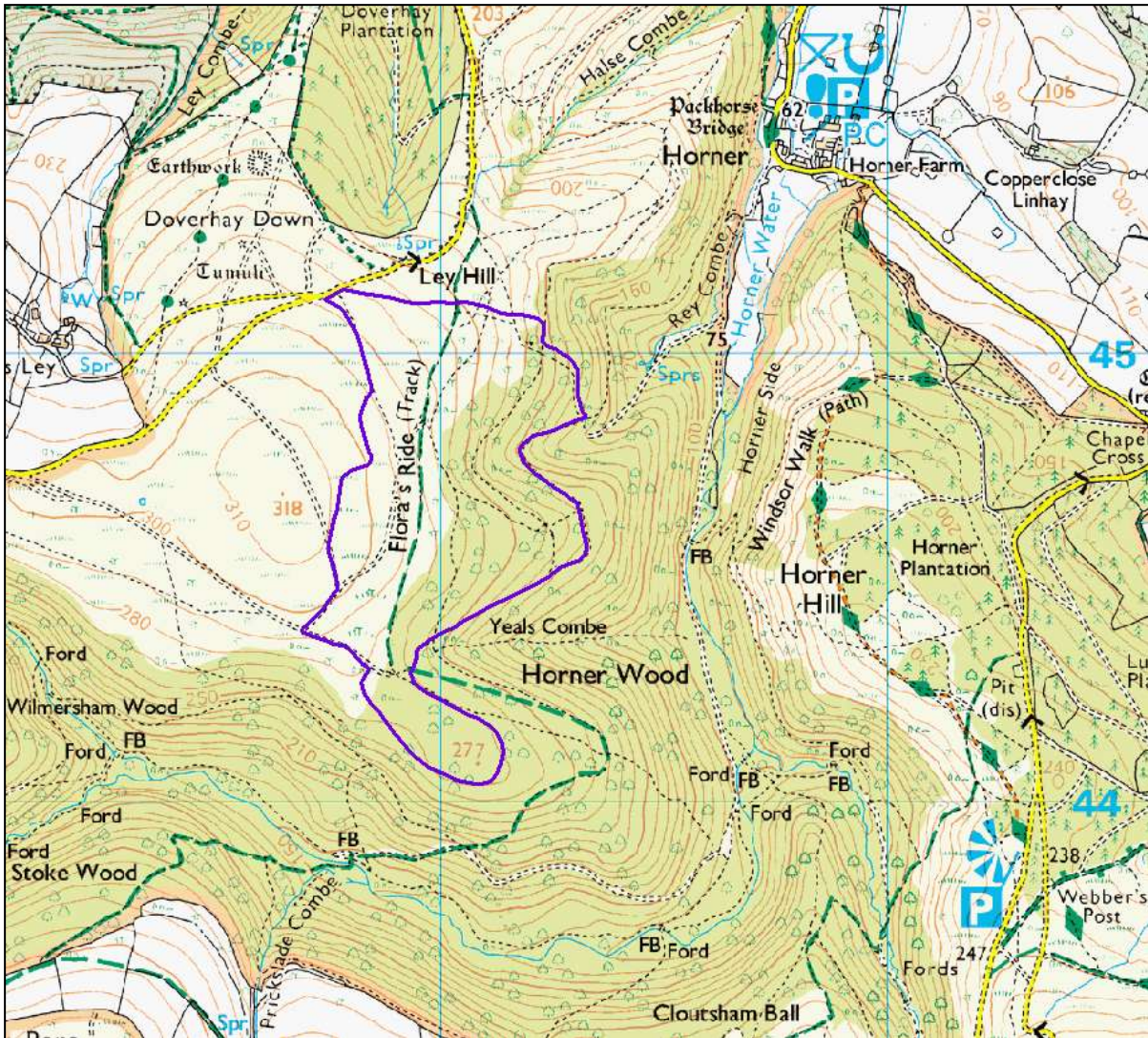


Figure 98: Map showing the extent of PAL 27 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 99: Bracken obscures most of the seven deserted medieval buildings within the PAL



Figure 100: Vegetation cover is restricting visibility within the deserted medieval settlement

28. Bradimoor

(previously known as Pickedstones medieval field system)

Grid Reference centred SS 8172 3683

Location

The area is a block of moorland on the north side of the Barle Valley, bordered by the fields of Landacre Farm on the south. Its western edge is the former boundary of the Royal Forest.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains an extensive relict field system of low field banks and large tracts of ridge and furrow. Although currently undated, the ridge and furrow is thought to be late medieval. Within the field system, and contemporary with it, is a drove road which formerly connected Withypool – which lies to the east – with the Royal Forest. This presumably allowed the free movement of livestock to and from the Forest.

The ridge and furrow overlies two enclosures which lie on the lower slopes of the area, above the River Barle. One of these enclosures is ovoid, contains a house platform and is presumably Bronze Age. The other enclosure is rectilinear and contains three very substantial rectangular building platforms. The site is currently the subject of further study, but may represent an abandoned manorial site.

Principal significance

Large tracts of ridge and furrow are present on many of Exmoor's southern commons, and the Pickedstones (Bradimoor) example is one of the best preserved. Its proximity to the Royal Forest of Exmoor and the presence of a drove road running through the system to the Forest add to its significance. The rectilinear enclosure with its three building platforms adds to the significance of the area (although further work is required to establish its exact purpose). The stratigraphic relationship between the ridge and furrow which overlies both enclosures is also of note, implying their earlier dates.

Main issues affecting condition

1. **Vegetation:** the area is prone to gorse and bracken encroachment and these will adversely affect the archaeology; although current management is checking its progress.
2. **Animal Burrowing:** on the lower slopes there is extensive activity by burrowing animals. Although this is not currently causing direct damage, there is potential that it may do so in future.

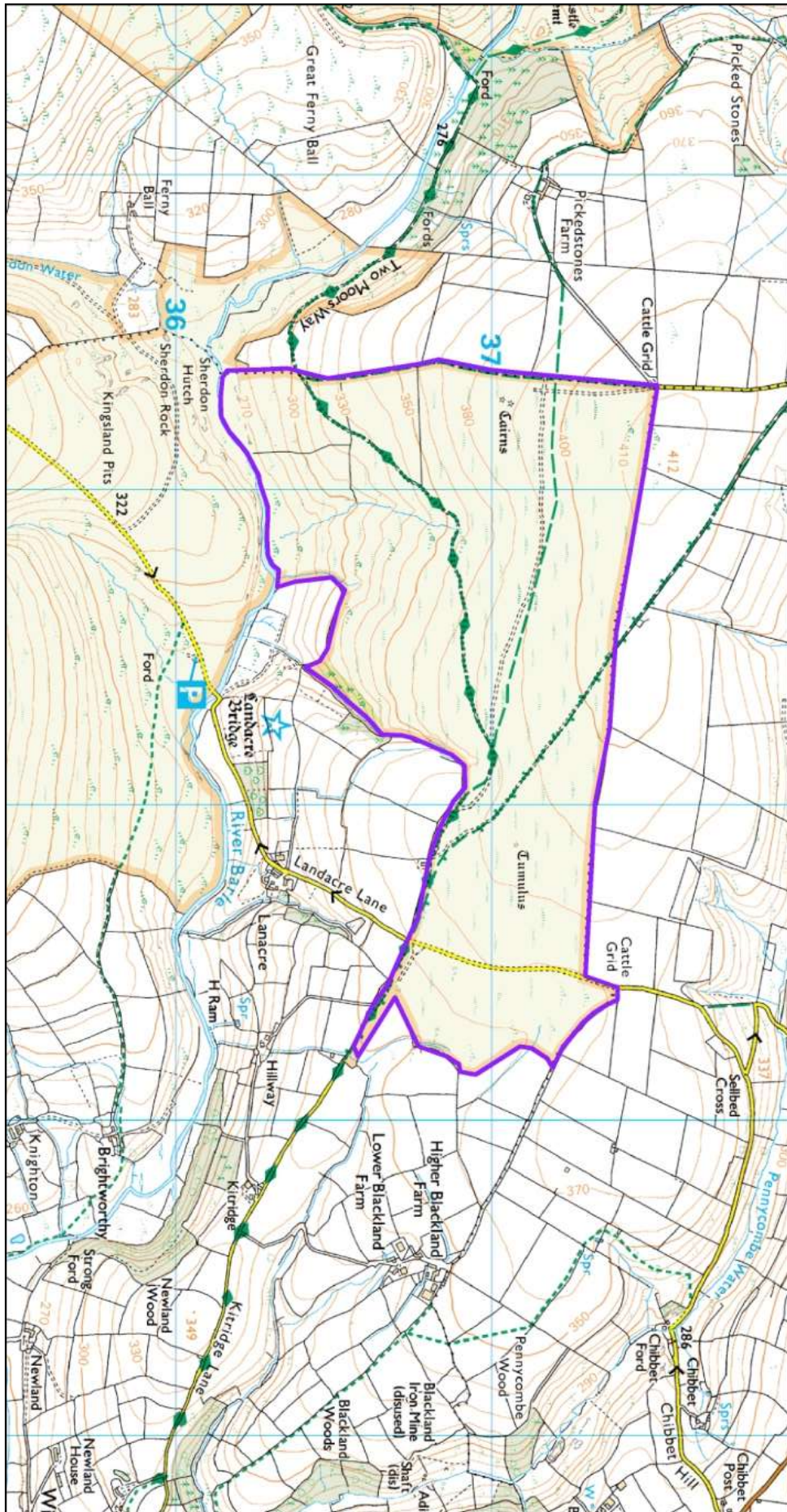


Figure 101: Map showing the extent of PAL 28 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 102: Enclosures overlain by ridge and furrow and later field boundaries at Bradimoor. Ridge and furrow is also visible in the foreground



Figure 103: Looking out from the eastern edge of the PAL towards Landacre Bridge

29. Molland Moor

(previously known as Molland Common)

Grid Reference centred SS 8195 3087

Location

The area is dominated by two ridges, Moorhouse Ridge and Black Ball, running northwest-southeast. These are separated by a broad, shallow combe: Long Breach Bottom, which eventually joins the Dane's Brook. The boundary of Exmoor National Park forms the south side of this location, with the boundary of Cussacombe Common to the west, Litton Water and Dane's Brook to the north and West Anstey Common to the eastern edge.

Description of Archaeology

This area is mostly covered in slight ridge and furrow, and this is also present extensively over Exmoor's southern commons (i.e. Winsford Hill, Withypool Common, Bradimoor and Anstey). The ridge and furrow field systems on Molland Moor appear to be late medieval but have not yet been dated conclusively. The ridge and furrow is narrow (1.2-2m in width) and includes a number of relict field boundaries. The boundaries appear organised and have a planned layout.

A relationship is implied between these field systems and both the extant and relict farmsteads that lie off the moorland at the top of Dane's Brook (the extant farms are Lyshwell, Cloggs and Shircombe) and elsewhere. At least five desertions have been recorded around Molland Moor, perhaps suggesting that the ridge and furrow fields were the result of a greater population here during the later medieval period.

Prehistoric remains are also present on Molland Moor. The ridge and furrow overlies two barrows but elsewhere the medieval cultivation remains respect the prehistoric archaeology (like the stone setting in Long Breach Bottom). The area also contains three high quality palaeoecological sites (Gourte Mires, Long Breach and Anstey's Combe), which have been radiocarbon dated (Fyfe and Adams 2008).

Principal significance

The ridge and furrow on Molland Moor is both extensive and well preserved, and this makes the area a good, but representative one for this form of field system, which survives across the commons of southern Exmoor. The extensive area of ridge and furrow suggests that a significant workforce was needed to manage this land; a greater understanding of the ridge and furrow systems may contribute to a deeper knowledge of the exploitation of the moors throughout history. Its relationship with earlier prehistoric features is also significant. The ridge and furrow systems, which form such an integral part of the southern Exmoor

commons, are a very poorly understood phenomenon. Further research into them would provide valuable insights into how the moors developed and were exploited during the medieval period.

Main issues affecting condition

- I. Vegetation: gorse and bracken encroachment would lead to a loss of visibility of both the ridge and furrow and prehistoric features of this landscape.



Figure 104: Map showing the extent of PAL 29 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 105: View across the PAL



Figure 106: Ridge and Furrow on Molland Moor

30. Winsford Hill

Grid Reference centred SS 8783 3375

Location

Winsford Hill is a south east to north west ridge rising to 428m above sea level, abutting enclosed land on the south east side. On the north west side a series of deep combes run out of Winsford Hill, including the Punchbowl. The B3223 from Dulverton to Exford runs along the spine of the hill bisecting the PAL.

Description of archaeology

The area of Winsford Hill PAL is extensive, reaching approximately 4km in length. It contains significant relict medieval field systems comprising ridge and furrow and field banks within a system of fossilised route ways. There are a number of prehistoric landscape features in the form of Bronze Age round barrows, notably Wambarrows, and the Caractacus stone, an inscribed memorial stone (possibly early Christian).

Principal significance

This PAL is significant due to the extent and preservation of the relict medieval field systems, which are distinctive of the southern commons of Exmoor. It is also notable as a well preserved prehistoric funerary landscape.

Main issues affecting condition

- I. Vegetation: encroaching vegetation in the form of gorse, bracken and woodland will make the archaeological remains impossible to see. Areas of hawthorn are currently extending up out of the combes.

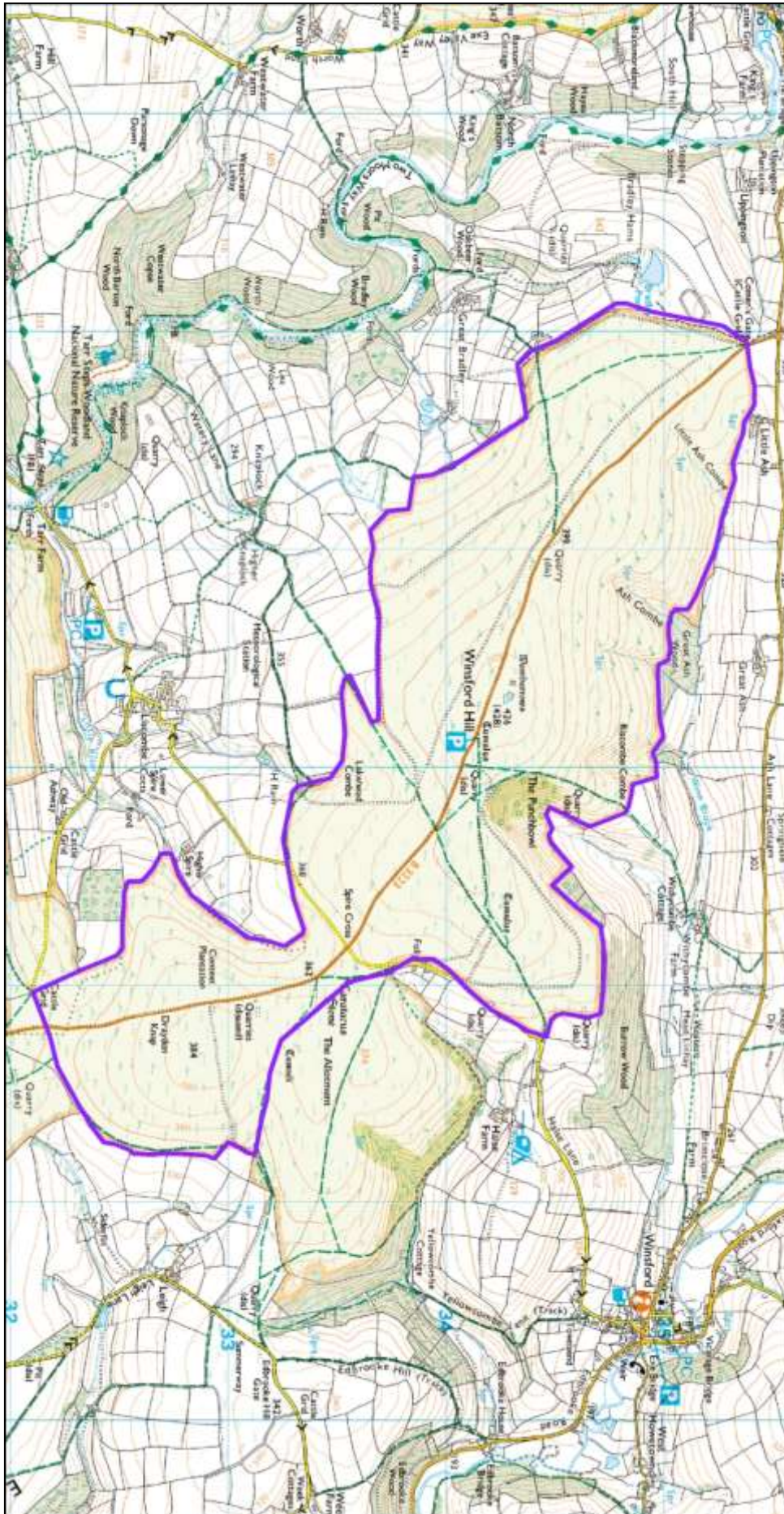


Figure 107: Map showing the extent of PAL 30 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 108: View to the north west of the PAL, looking into Exmoor



Figure 109: One of the Wambarrows group on Winsford Hill



Figure 110: View towards the south of the PAL with the punchbowl falling way from the enclosed land on the left

31. Wheal Eliza

Grid Reference centred SS 7823 3816

Location

Wheal Eliza is situated 1.5 kilometres south east of Simonsbath in the Barle Valley, on the Two Moors Way.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL contains the remains of a copper (and iron) mine dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The complex comprises the ruins of buildings associated with the mine, shafts and spoil heaps, a wheel pit, leat and tail race/tailings pond.

Principal significance

Wheal Eliza is an important part of the mining history of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor. The complex is generally well preserved and complete. It is also associated with traumatic episodes in Exmoor's social history, being the site where the body of Anna Maria Burgess was concealed in 1858.

Main issues affecting condition

- I. Human damage or erosion: the site is on the Two Moors Way. The ruined buildings are particularly susceptible to further erosion.

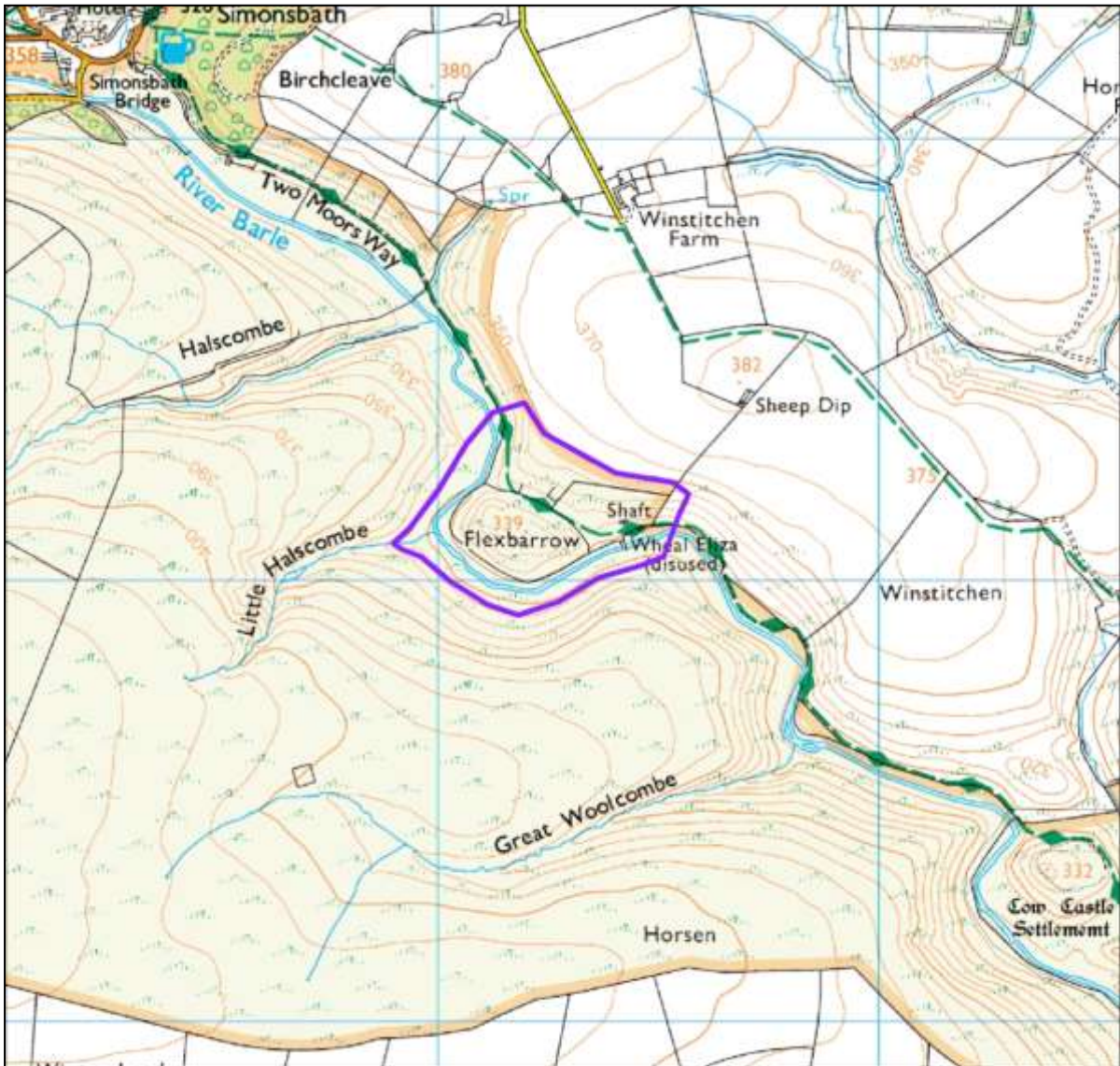


Figure 111: Map showing the extent of PAL 31 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 112: Relict buildings associated with mine working at Wheal Eliza



Figure 113: Looking back into the PAL from the east, mine shafts and workings are visible at the far left of the image (Photo: ENPA)

32. North Hill Burgundy Combe

Grid Reference centred SS 9432 4811

Location

This PAL lies at the far north eastern edge of Exmoor National Park, above Minehead and is located on the north facing slopes of North Hill, an east-west moorland ridge. It includes three steep combes running down to the coast: Grexy Combe, Bramble Combe and Burgundy Chapel Combe.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL contains the remains of two well preserved medieval settlements, one in Bramble Combe and one in Grexy Combe. In the north east corner of the PAL are the remains of Burgundy Chapel which dates from the fifteenth century. Between the two deserted medieval settlements is an extensive relict field system, presumably associated with them.

Principal significance

The significance of this PAL is due to the presence of two well preserved medieval settlements with a coherent field system located between. Burgundy Chapel is a rare survival and its significance is increased by the excavated material gathered there in the 1980s. However, some doubt remains over the relationship between the building and a number of documentary sources mentioning a chapel in this area.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: bracken coverage of the field system, gorse at Grexy Combe and scrub encroachment at Burgundy Chapel will lead to a loss of visibility of the PAL and potential damage to the archaeological remains.

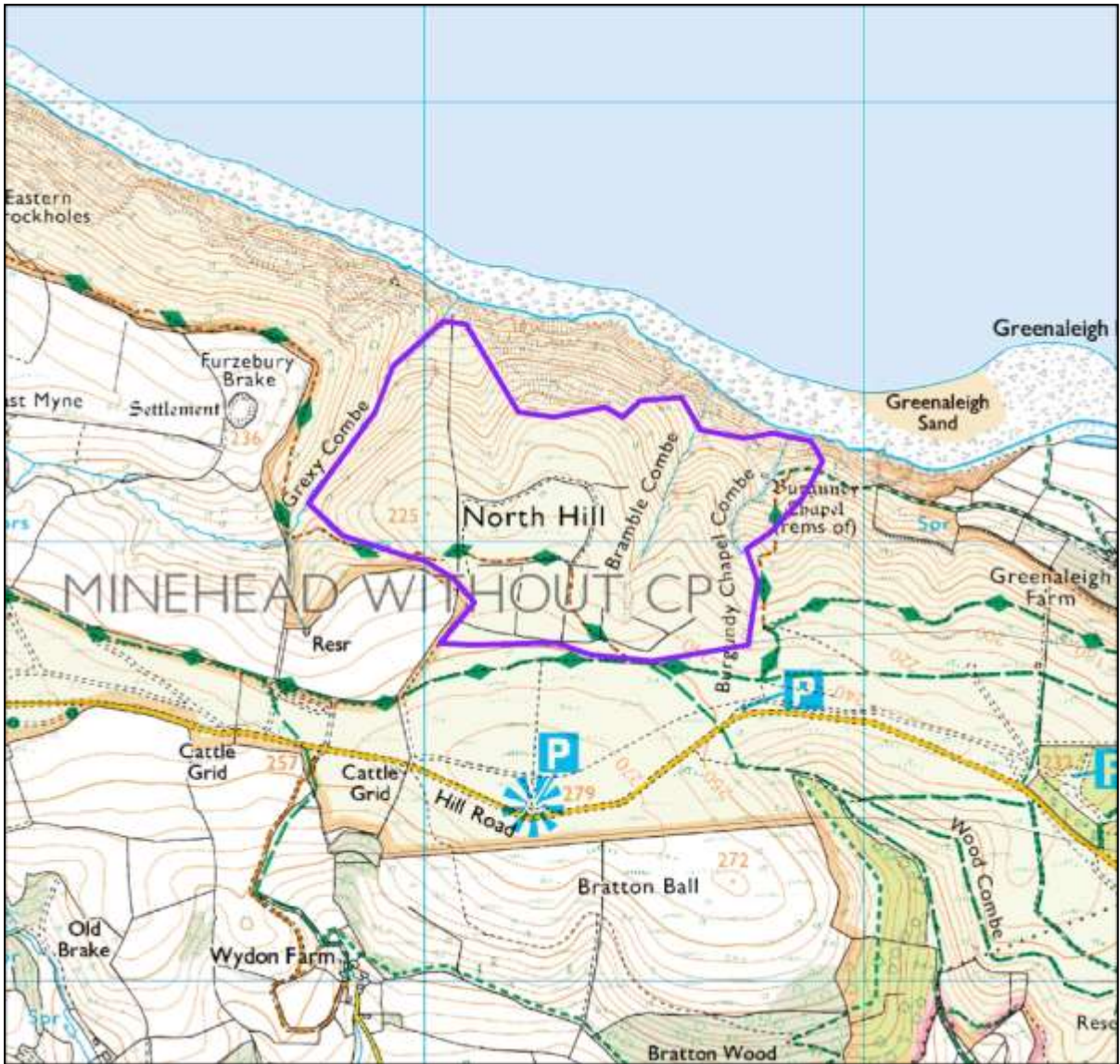


Figure 114: Map showing the extent of PAL 32 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 115: Burgundy Chapel, showing vegetation coverage of the monument



Figure 116: View outwards from Burgundy Chapel at the eastern end of the PAL



Figure 117: View across to the deserted medieval settlement of Grexy Combe (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 118: Looking out of the PAL from the western end at Grexy Combe (Photo: ENPA)

33. Selworthy Military Complex

(previously known as Selworthy WWII ranges)

Grid Reference: centred SS 9287 4812

Location

The Selworthy military complex is located on a coastal ridge running westwards from Minehead towards Porlock Marsh. To its south is the Vale of Porlock and much lower ground, stretching eastwards through Holnicote towards Bratton and Minehead. The northern side is sharply defined by dramatic sea cliffs cut through by deep combes, running to the sea. Much of the ridge top is open heathland, but enclosed farmland also stretches upwards from its lower slopes.

Description of Archaeology

This area was used intermittently for military activity in the nineteenth century and was requisitioned by the army at the beginning of WW2 for military training, particularly tank crews in advance of the Normandy landings in June 1944. At the end of the war it was returned to civilian use. The physical remains of military activity cover an extensive area and include a concrete road, built from Minehead to Bossington Hill (approximately 6 km). This has now been surfaced with tarmac and provides access to a dramatic viewpoint, with views along Exmoor's coastline. Administration and maintenance for the firing ranges was in Moor Wood, at the eastern end of the complex. The Acland plantation of Scots Pine trees provided camouflage from aerial reconnaissance and was filled with at least 12 Nissen huts, vehicle maintenance buildings and other structures. The ranges themselves comprise a large number of observation buildings (some subterranean), three triangular tank training circuits and three target railways. These structures remain visible today in varying levels of completeness within this relict landscape. The military complex also contains a radar station which formed part of the Chain Home Low group. A separate Cold War period Royal Observer Corps structure existed on Bratton Ball but is no longer extant. In addition the PAL includes some prehistoric remains in the form of flint scatters.

Principal significance

This relict military training landscape is a very rare survival nationally. Many training areas have continued to be used by the military, removing traces of their earlier functions, or have been partly lost since 1945. However the Selworthy military complex contains a relatively complete training landscape, with a number of its structures in very good condition. Of additional interest is the survival of two abandoned farmsteads within the area (West and East Myne); these were requisitioned by the military as part of the training ground and have

never been re-occupied. Today they are in ruins, but are a poignant reminder of the impact of military training on some rural populations. The CD/CHL radar station is also a rare and important survival. The 1946-48 air photographs highlight the intensity of the military activities on this area of Exmoor and complement the archaeological remains. The relatively recent date of activities on this site means that there is the potential for a significantly greater understanding of its uses to be gained from research into military and other archives.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: scrubbing of the heathland areas of Selworthy military complex has resulted in many of the features being 'lost' within dense gorse. Not only does this prevent a proper understanding of the remains, but it also creates a false perception that there is very little of archaeological interest there.
2. Human damage or erosion: farming activity may contribute to the loss of parts of this landscape, for example the siting of ring feeders on the target railway at East Myne.
3. Human damage or erosion: within the PAL are the remains of military artefacts, even including a tank turret in the fields of West Myne. These are highly vulnerable, significant components of the PAL.
4. Loss of built structures: there is concern that some of the structures are a risk to the public. These features should be made safe in a way that recognises their historic nature and value. Loss of the remaining structures would affect the ability to understand the complex military use of this landscape.



Figure 119: Map showing the extent of PAL 33 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 120: View towards PAL from across the valley with Minehead in the foreground (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 121: Cruiser tank turret photographed on North Hill (Photo: ENPA)



Figure 122: Nissen Hut bases located in woodland adjacent to the tank maintenance area



Figure 123: Remains of WW2 target railway at North Hill

34. Holdstone Down

Grid Reference centred SS 6202 4764

Location

The area encompasses Holdstone Down, an area of coastal heath towards the north west edge of Exmoor National Park. It is defined by its distinctive dome shaped hill, with dramatic sea cliffs, clearly visible from locations around and outside the National Park.

Description of Archaeology

The area contains archaeological features from a number of time periods. It contains extensive prehistoric remains in the form of four hut platforms overlooking the sea, with associated field banks and clearance cairns, as well as the remains of parliamentary enclosure, identifiable through a series of boundary stones, a 19th century holiday village development and World War Two military training.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant because of the complexity of the early prehistoric archaeology. The concentration of hut platforms and fields within this area is unusual. In addition, Holdstone Down is of historical significance for the role it played in bringing to an end the system of Parliamentary Inclosure. This phase of its history is marked by a number of boundary stones on the slopes of Holdstone Down, some inscribed with numbers. Attempts to develop a holiday village from the 1870's onwards have left the remains of building platforms. Combined these form an exceptional archaeological landscape.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: most of the monuments are very subtle; vegetation encroachment at the western end would obscure many of the archaeological features.
2. Loss of structures: loss of the numbered boundary stones would affect understanding of the Parliamentary Inclosure landscape.
3. Loss of structures: loss of constructed walls would affect the understanding of Parliamentary Inclosure on Holdstone Down.
4. Human damage or erosion: cairns in this landscape are vulnerable due to their proximity to a road and car park and stones are often moved.
5. Human damage or erosion: an Ordnance Survey Triangulation Station is located at Holdstone Down. Increased erosion is likely around this area.

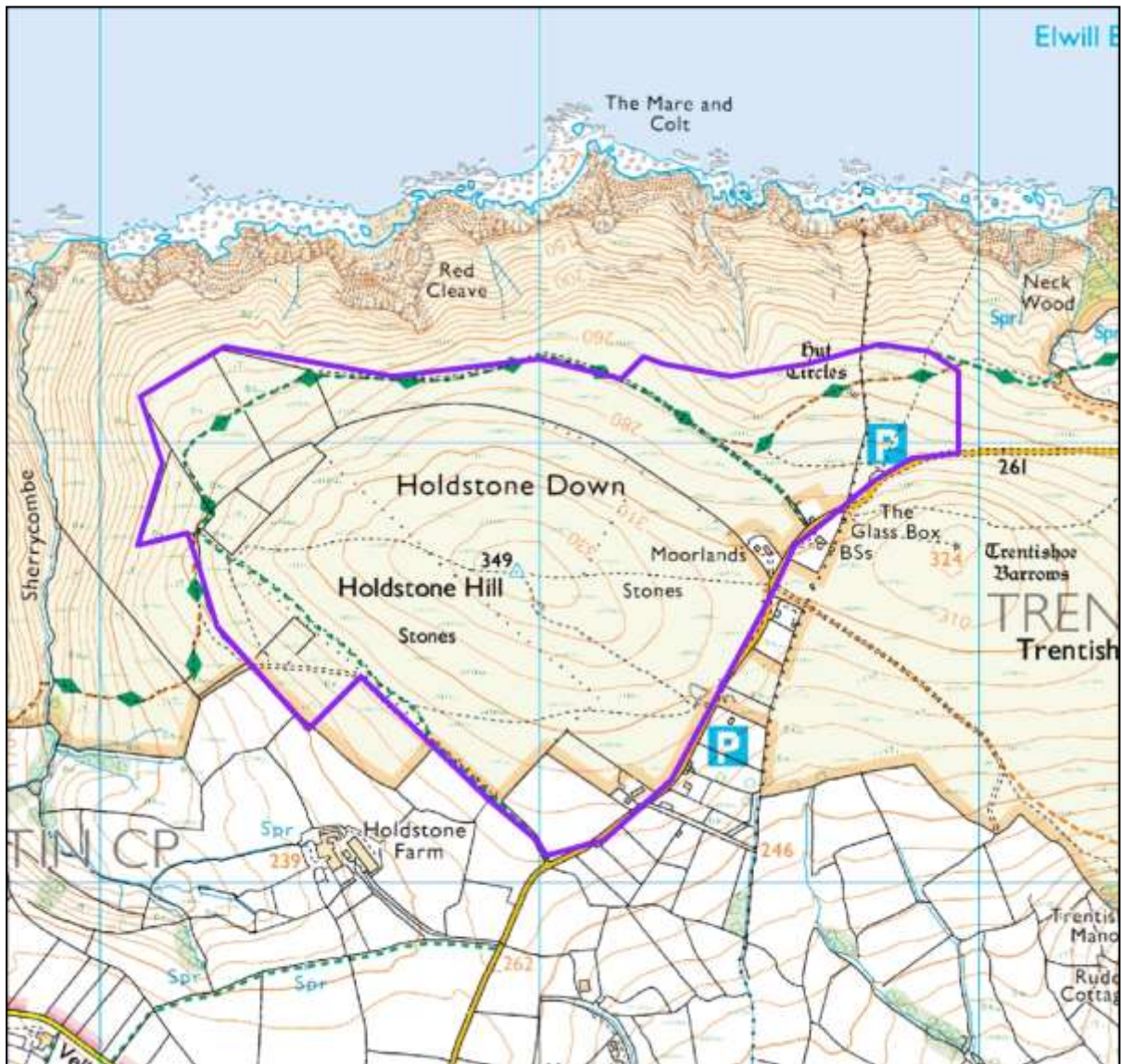


Figure 124: Map showing the extent of PAL 34 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 125: Looking along the dramatic Exmoor coast line east from Holdstone Down



Figure 126: One of the numbered boundary stones remaining from the attempted enclosure of Holdstone Down just visible amongst the heather.

35. Brockwell Pits

Grid Reference centred SS 9274 4292

Location

Brockwell Pits is situated on the east end of Dunkery, west of the village of Wootton Courteney. The PAL lies within an area of woodland and scrub on the edge of the Dunkery moorland.

Description of Archaeology

Brockwell Pits is an area of open cast iron mining, dating from the early 19th century. It comprises an irregular area of surface pits, some in excess of 4m deep. Some of the area was field system in the early 19th century, shown by an estate map, but had been abandoned by 1840 as shown on the Tithe map when the mines are depicted cutting through the field system.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant as a result of its tightly dated span of activity, which is highly unusual for an area of mining on Exmoor. The area of open cast mining can be identified to represent a phase of activity in the early 19th century. This PAL contributes to understanding the development of mining on Exmoor in the 19th century, and the way in which this has shaped the moorland landscape today.

Main issues affecting condition

1. **Vegetation:** most of the mining is in an unmanaged area of woodland and is in stable condition; however some areas are densely covered with bracken affecting the visibility of the PAL on the ground.
2. **Animal Burrowing:** this is an issue affecting some areas of the PAL and has the potential to cause damage to the archaeological remains.
3. **Land management:** the relict field system in part of the PAL has a stratigraphic relationship with the mining features, with some of the pits evidently cut into it. This aspect of the PAL (the field system area) should be managed in sympathy with the PAL as a whole.

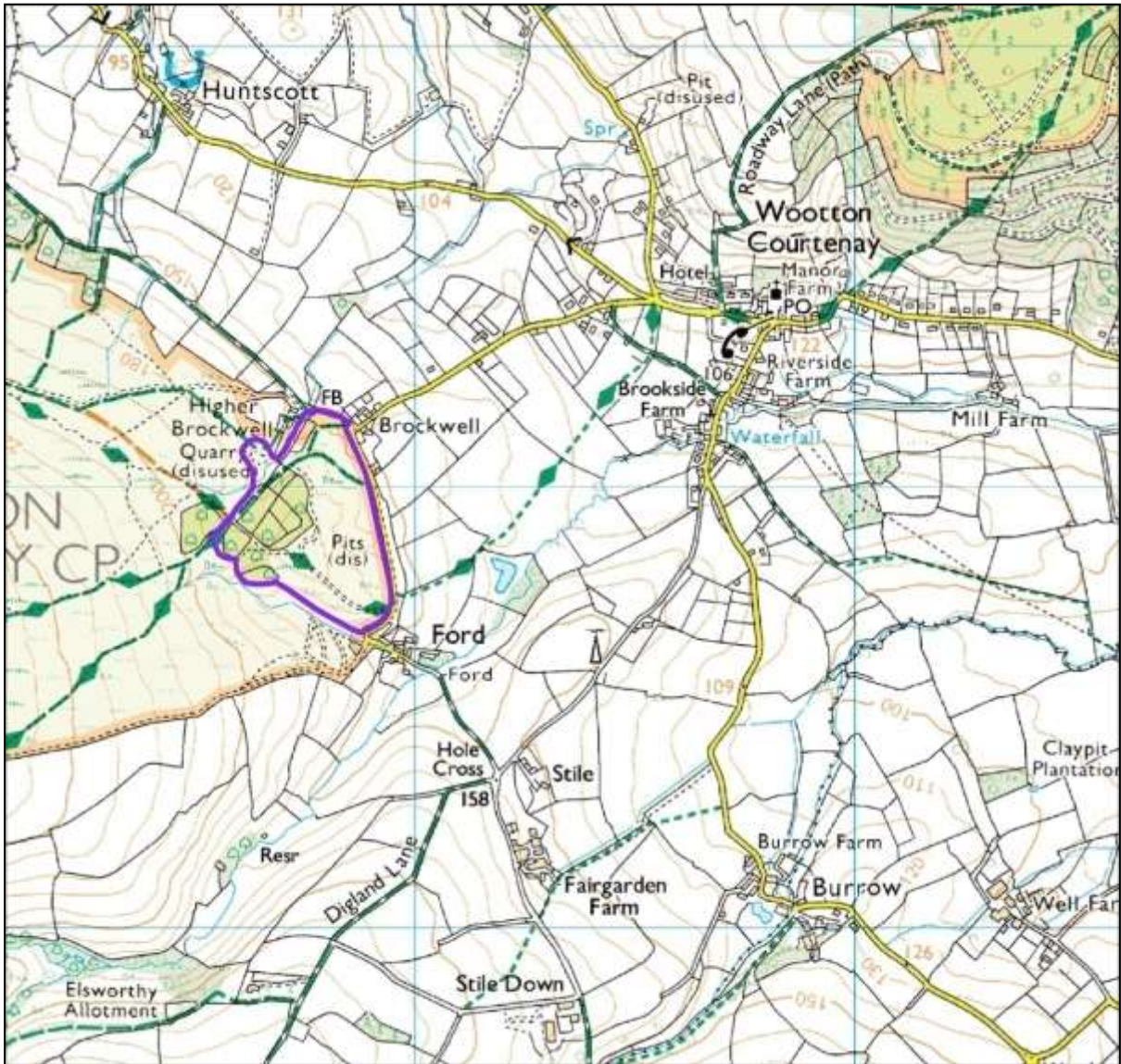


Figure 127: Map showing the extent of PAL 35 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 128: Footpath leading into Brockwell Pits showing mining features visible in the woodland



Figure 129: Looking towards the area of relict field system, bracken cover is clearly visible over much of the PAL

36. Kitnor Heath

Grid Reference centred SS 8715 3961

Location

Kitnor Heath is a prominent west-east ridge on the south side of the Quarme valley. It is an area of heathland, predominantly rough grass covered with patches of bracken and gorse. The west end of the PAL contains minority areas of heather.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL comprises a substantial discontinuous linear open work, most likely the result of iron extraction, up to 4m deep in places with areas of standing water and rushes at the bottom. At the east end in particular are areas of spoil that consist of large heaps of material, covered with vegetation, to approximately 1.5m high. There are also areas of broken ground which may represent small scale mineral prospecting and exploitation. The open work is thought to date to the 19th century, although it is possible mineral extraction was taking place at Kitnor Heath prior to this.

Principal significance

This PAL is significant due to the contribution it makes in understanding the development of mining on Exmoor in the 19th century, and the way in which this has shaped the moorland landscape today. The size of the mining features at Kitnor Heath is exceptional and the site is in a good state of preservation.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Vegetation: encroachment of bracken and gorse is affecting the visibility of the PAL on the ground.
2. Vehicle damage: a public bridleway crosses the eastern end of the eastern area of mining activity however there are a number of other tracks crossing Kitnor Heath, the extent of some giving an appearance of past vehicle damage. Any intensive reuse of the tracks will lead to further significant erosion to the PAL.

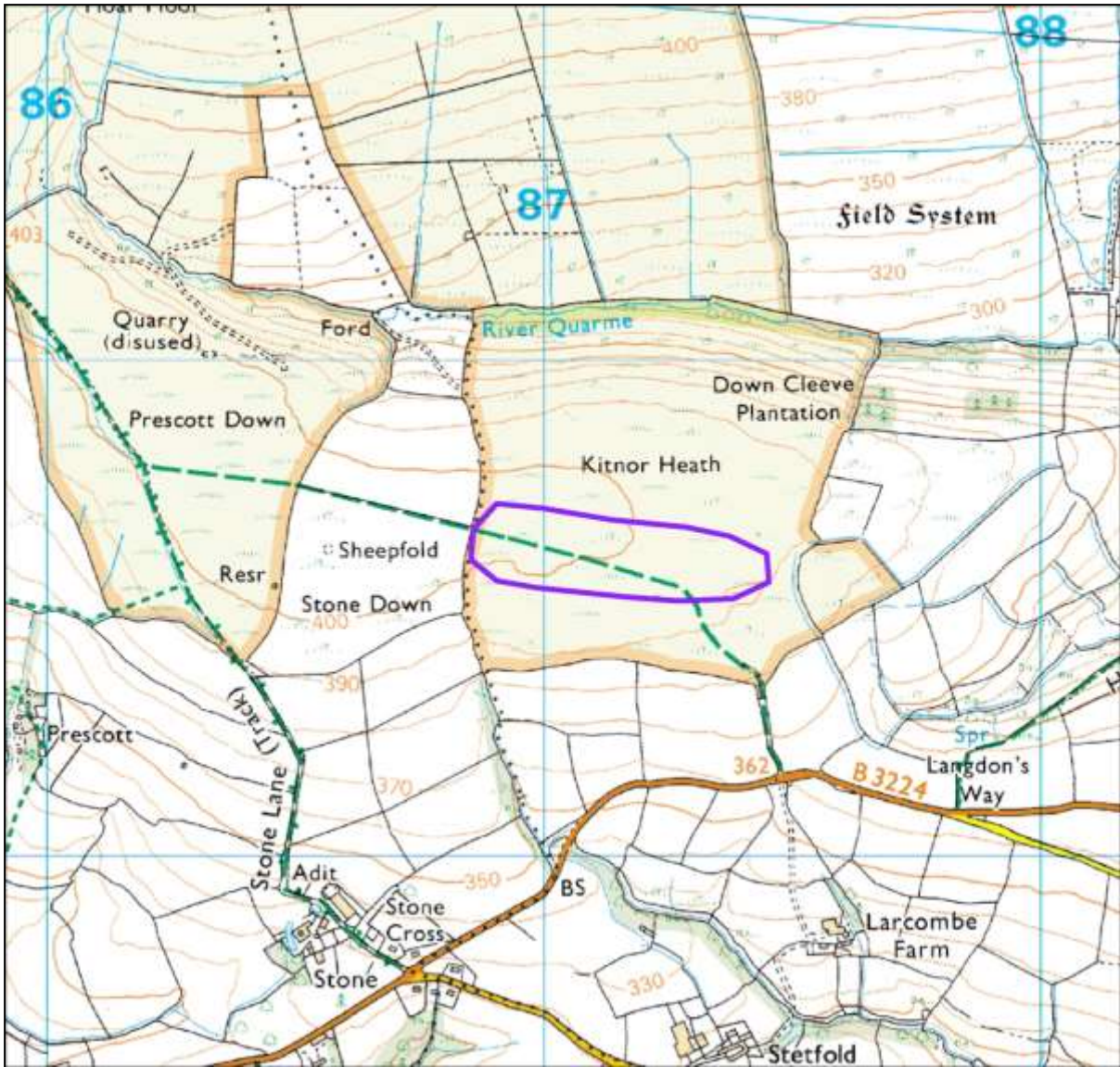


Figure 130: Map showing the extent of PAL 36 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 131: Looking down the western open work at Kitnor Heath from the east



Figure 132: View out from the PAL showing the heathland vegetation and areas of ground disturbance which may predate the open work

37. Little Hangman

Grid Reference centred SS 5845 4798

Location

The PAL lies on a cliff top at the far western end of Exmoor National Park, a kilometre to the north east of Combe Martin.

Description of Archaeology

The PAL comprises a conical hill, around which are the earthworks of a prehistoric enclosure. These are confused by prominent geological terracing and detailed fieldwork is needed to understand the archaeology of the site, which was first recorded by the National Mapping Project in 2008. It has been suggested that the site is Neolithic and analogous with the tor enclosures on Dartmoor and in Cornwall.

Principal significance

The significance of the PAL partly depends on its classification as a hill top enclosure (further research is needed to fully confirm this). Hilltop enclosures in such prominent locations are unusual on Exmoor and are clearly not intended for settlement. As such it may shed light on the nature of early prehistoric activity on Exmoor. A very similar site lies on the summit of Hollerday Hill, west of Lynton.

Main issues affecting condition

1. Human damage or erosion: this is occurring across the best preserved section of the enclosure on the south east side by visitors accessing the viewpoint on the summit.
2. Vegetation: bracken and gorse are an issue in this PAL, leading to a loss of visibility of the monument as well as potentially causing damage to the site. The National Trust has undertaken gorse management on the south western side.

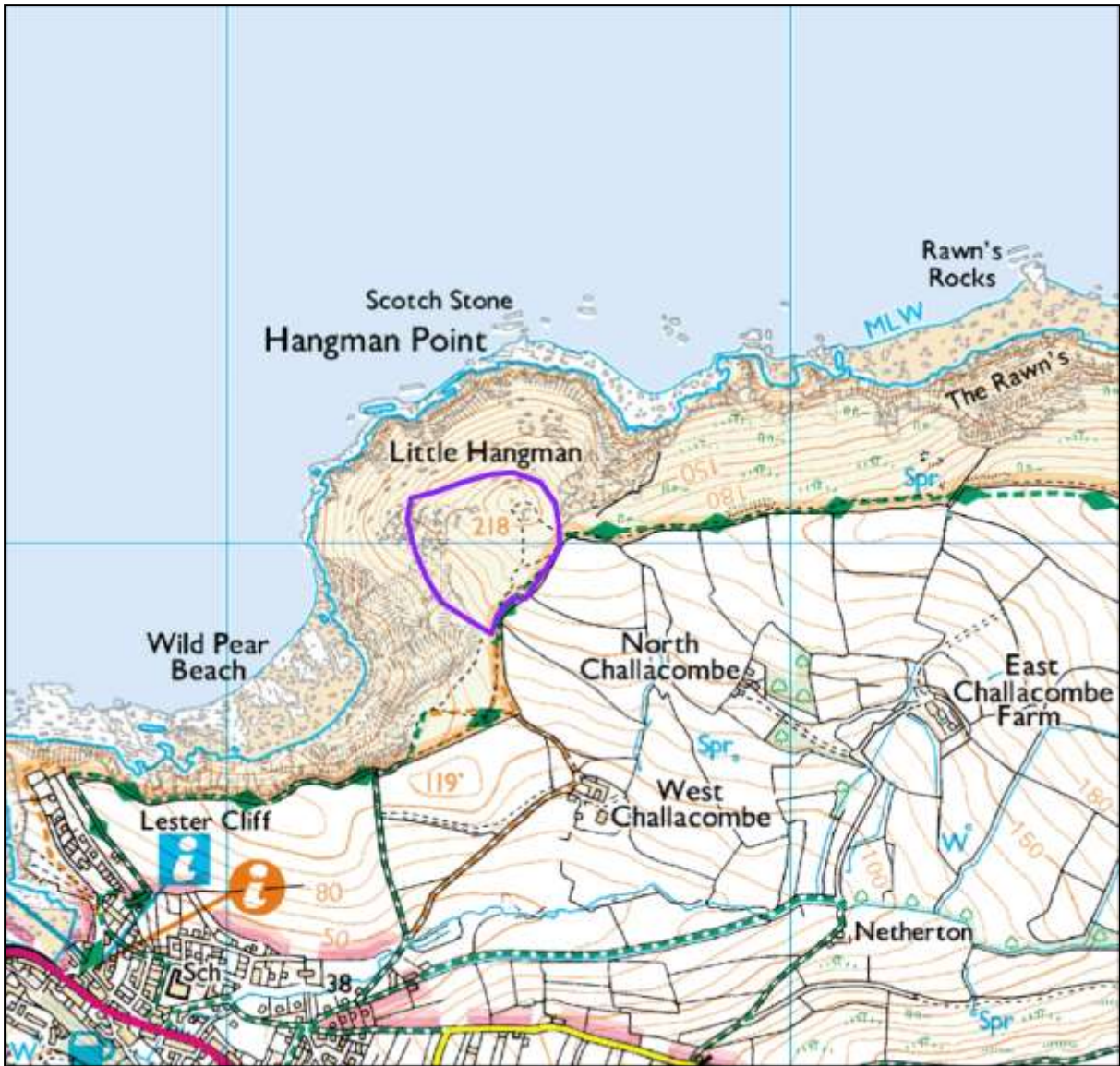


Figure 133: Map showing the extent of PAL 37 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024878



Figure 134: Little Hangman PAL with its dramatic cliff top setting, looking east along to Exmoor



Figure 135: View to the south west of Little Hangman, into enclosed land at the western edge of Exmoor National Park

Summary of Condition

A number of issues or factors affecting the condition of PALs have been discussed in this report and an assessment of each PAL has elucidated the main factors which are currently affecting overall condition.

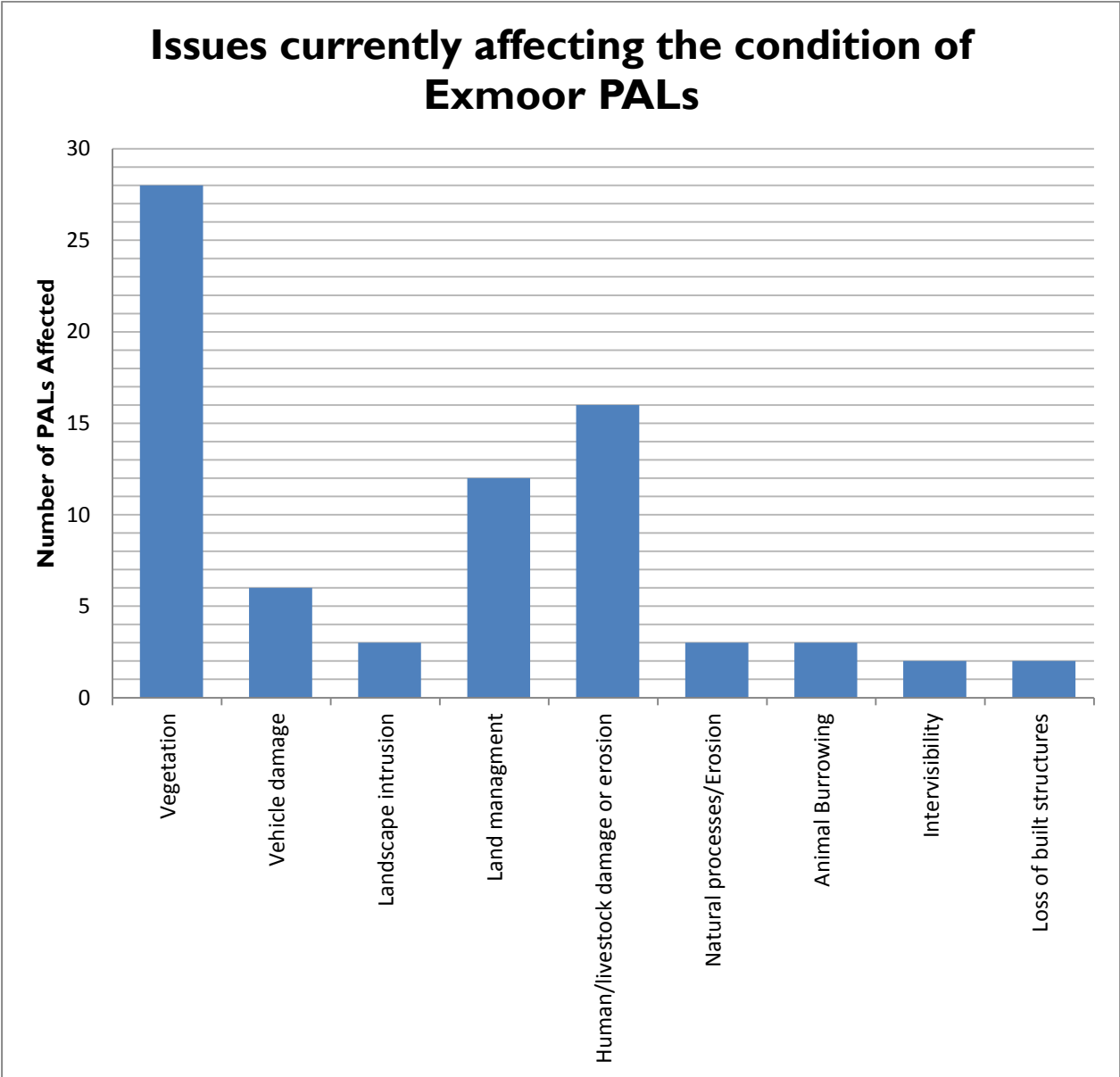


Figure 136: Chart showing the number of issues currently affecting PALs by category

Overall, the majority of PALs were considered to be well managed and maintained, with some issues identified more as potential threats than currently occurring problems. This is particularly the case with landscape intrusion, where the landscape setting is of high significance for the PAL. The biggest issue currently affecting Exmoor PALs is vegetation, a factor in 28 out of 37 PALs. This has the problem of not only obscuring the archaeology within the PAL but also potentially causing damage to any remains below ground. Vegetation issues predominantly refer to scrub encroachment, particularly in the form of bracken or gorse; in a few areas woodland regeneration or changes to the current vegetation is likely to

affect the condition of the PAL. It is noted that in many cases the current regime of scrub control is effective in reducing or eliminating this impact, however these regimes must be maintained for this to continue to be the case. For this reason vegetation issues have been recorded for PALs which appear most vulnerable to a change to their current regime. Vegetation control is highly significant for the PALs since the visibility and preservation of their archaeological remains is their key reason for designation. As the most significant issue or potential issue to affect the PALs, there is value in considering the reasons for vegetation encroachment in these areas as this may inform future land management decisions.

Human or livestock damage or erosion is the next biggest concern within the PALs, affecting 16 of the 37 areas. This reflects areas where damage is significantly affecting more than one monument within the PAL, or where the PAL is represented by only one monument and significant damage or erosion is occurring to it. This may include erosion occurring on footpaths through the PAL or well used livestock route ways. In a number of cases, unofficial paths through monuments have been created, with the potential to damage the archaeological remains. Human damage is also being caused more intentionally in some areas, through the removal or relocation of parts of monuments, for example stone cairns. If continued, this has the potential to affect the coherence of the archaeological remains within a PAL.

The third most significant factor affecting the condition of the PALs is land management practices; however in most of these cases this is not necessarily current, but highlights that the PAL is especially vulnerable to changes in the land management regime. Land management changes may include altered grazing regimes, removal of field boundaries, cultivation, maintenance of hedge banks or vegetation management. Such changes are likely to be detrimental if they alter the character of the PAL. Other issues affecting the condition of PALs were less prevalent but no less significant. Vehicle damage can be seen in six of the PALs, while landscape intrusion, natural processes or erosion and animal burrowing affect only three PALs. Intervisibility is perceived as an issue in only two.

The restoration of peat mires through the ongoing Exmoor Mires Project had been considered as a possible issue affecting the PALs, however this has been mitigated through measures taken by the project to consider the historic environment impacts of rewetting work and so was not assessed as an independent factor in this report. Variations in the designations of monuments within a PAL has also been considered as an issue which may potentially affect overall condition. In some PALs, the majority of significant archaeological remains receive protection in the form of statutory designations such as scheduling; however this is not the case in all of the PALs. A number, containing tens of features of significant archaeological importance are largely undesignated, with only a small number of the monuments receiving this protection. This is not a reflection of the quality of the monuments but a result of the cessation of the Monument Protection Programme on Exmoor. It is considered that consistent scheduling of monuments within the PALs would reduce some of the potential causes of deterioration in their condition.

Of the 37 PALs, only one (24. Burcombe) was assessed as having no issues currently affecting its condition. While some of the PALs have been identified as having multiple issues,

this does not necessarily mean that the condition of these PALs is worse than those with only one main factor affecting their condition. This report has not attempted to assess the severity of these issues, or provide management plans, but rather to provide a benchmark against which to assess the condition of the PALs and as a comparison of issues in future reports. It would be beneficial for each PAL to be assessed individually by Exmoor National Park Authority, Historic England, Natural England officers and others with regards to managing the ongoing condition of the PALs, using the issues identified in this report to focus such management.

Issues affecting the condition of Exmoor PALs

		Vegetation	Vehicle damage	Landscape intrusion	Land management	Human /livestock damage or erosion	Natural processes or erosion	Animal Burrowing	Intervisibility	Loss of builtstructures
1	Lanacombe					•				
2	Furzehill	•	•							
3	Chapman Barrows and Woodbarrow complex	•	•	•	•					
4	Radworthy	•			•					
5	Valley of Rocks	•			•	•				
6	Countisbury and Lyn Gorge	•							•	
7	Shoulsbury			•		•				
8	Setta Barrow, Five Barrows and Two Barrows			•						
9	Badgworthy	•				•				
10	Badgworthy Hill	•			•					
11	Trout Hill and Pinford				•					
12	Great Hill and Honeycombe Hill	•				•				
13	Porlock Allotment	•				•				
14	Hawkcombe Head		•		•	•				
15	Alderman's Barrow and Madacombe	•				•				
16	Codsend and Dunkery	•			•		•			
17	Robin and Joaney How					•				
18	Sweetworthy	•				•				
19	Mansley Combe	•	•					•		
20	Bury Castle	•								
21	Cow Castle	•				•				
22	Bat's Castle and Withycombe	•			•				•	
23	Brendon Common					•	•			
24	Burcombe									
25	Larkbarrow and Tom's Hill	•			•					
26	Warren Farm	•	•		•					
27	Ley Hill	•								
28	Pickedstones	•						•		
29	Molland Moor	•			•					
30	Winsford Hill	•								
31	Wheal Eliza					•	•			
32	North Hill/ Burgundy Combe	•								
33	Selworthy Military Complex	•				•				•
34	Holdstone Down	•				•				•
35	Brockwell Pits	•			•			•		
36	Kitnor Heath	•	•							
37	Little Hangman	•				•				

Figure I37: Table detailing issues currently affecting individual PALs

Recommendations

As a result of assessing the condition of the PALs, the following are recommended:

- It is evident that the condition of the PALs needs repeated monitoring to ensure that it stays current and relevant. It is suggested that a condition survey should be carried out every five years. This can build upon the baseline data in this report and therefore may not need to be as comprehensive. It should assess the PALs against the issues described in this report as well as determining whether additional factors have arisen in the intervening time.
- Some of the PALs will need management plans to assist with maintaining them in good condition. Rather than suggest prescriptive management plans as part of this report, it is recommended that PALs condition is followed up by Exmoor National Park Authority, Historic England and Natural England officers and management plans decided upon where this is appropriate. This process could better assess the relative severity of any issues such as vegetation management and address them in a suitable way.
- A programme of scheduling monuments on Exmoor could be reconsidered with an attempt to address significant inconsistencies in the application of statutory designations.
- The PALs should not be considered immovable boundaries if new archaeological discoveries add value to an area already established as a PAL. The high level of archaeological fieldwork currently taking place on Exmoor is likely to add significantly to knowledge and understanding of its archaeology; the boundaries of PALs should be adapted to accommodate this. This could be considered as part of a review of condition in the future.
- As vegetation is the predominant issue affecting condition of PALs, a detailed assessment of those affected to understand the underlying causes for this would be highly beneficial to the future effective management of PALs.

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