



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT STOKE FLAT,
EASTERN MOORS, DERBYSHIRE**

SURVEY REPORT

Report Number 2012/10.1 May 2012



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

ArcHeritage were commissioned by the National Trust/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership to undertake an archaeological survey at Stoke Flat. The survey was required to record any archaeological features exposed at the 8.6ha site following a controlled burn of *Molinia* grass. The site is part of the Eastern Moors of Derbyshire, and this survey forms a supplement to the Eastern Moors archaeological survey undertaken in 2010-2011. Only one feature was recorded within the Stoke Flat survey, comprising a small quarry hollow on the edge of a slope. This was considered to be of local archaeological significance and was in an average condition.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Stoke Flat
ArcHeritage Project No.	4031141
Report status	Full report for submission
Type of Project	Survey
Client	Eastern Moors Partnership
NGR	SK 2573 7716
OASIS Identifier	archerit1-125567
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Report Number and Date	2012/10.1 14 th May 2012 (Revised after comments from East Moors Partnership)

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological survey at Stoke Flat, in the Eastern Moors of Derbyshire. The survey was required to record any archaeological features exposed by a controlled burn of *Molinia* grass, which formerly obscured the area. The results will be used to inform future management and conservation of the archaeological and historic resource at the site. The survey was undertaken to English Heritage Level II standards, following a brief provided by NT/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership. The results will be appended to the previous Eastern Moors Historic Landscape Survey, undertaken in 2010-2011 (ArcHeritage 2011). This report is supplemented by a GIS shapefile and Access database. ArcHeritage were commissioned by the National Trust/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership to undertake the survey.

2 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The survey covered an area of 6.8 hectares of land at Stoke Flat in the Eastern Moors of Derbyshire, centred on NGR SK 2573 7716 (Figure 1). The survey area comprised relatively level boggy ground adjacent to enclosed fields at Stoke Flat Farm, which formed the western edge of the survey area. The eastern and northern edges were defined by sloping ground leading down to a small stream/drainage channel. The underlying geology comprises Millstone Grit of the Carboniferous period.

The land was subject to controlled burning of *Molinia* grass in March 2012. This removed most of the longer vegetation, but left many of the tussocks intact. Visibility of above-ground features was therefore improved, though the ground surface was not exposed. Some re-growth of the *Molinia* grasses was evident at the time of survey.

3 METHODOLOGY

The Stoke Flat survey forms a supplement to the Eastern Moors Historic Landscape Survey (ArcHeritage 2011). The area was initially surveyed in December 2010, but visibility of above-ground features was poor due to the *Molinia* grass coverage. The aim of the Stoke Flat survey was to record any features revealed following controlled burning of the *Molinia* grass.

The survey was undertaken on the 4th May 2012 using a Leica Zeno 10 GPS hand unit with external antenna, to a scale of 1:2500 with a horizontal accuracy of <1m. Features were assigned an identification number (ID), continued from the Eastern Moor Survey, and notes were made on their attributes and condition. Digital photographs were taken of features, using a 1m scale. A database was compiled listing any features identified, using the same fields as the Eastern Moors Historic Landscape Survey database.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Stoke Flat survey area is close to two groups of prehistoric fields, which survive as earthworks. Limited palaeoenvironmental sampling of mire deposits at the Stoke Flat East site suggest that the fields here were laid out in the second millennium BC and continued in use throughout the first millennium, from the Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age, though this is based on a limited number of radiocarbon dates (Long *et al.* 1998, 516).

The location of the prehistoric field systems is related to topography. In general, the fields tend to be located on relatively level shelf land between the sharp edges and the scarp slopes below (Barnatt 2000, 10), although occasionally fields or cairns have been located on more sloping ground. The lighter sandy soils on the gritstone were suitable for prehistoric farming practices, and streams generally run relatively close to the field areas, as at Stoke Flat and Big Moor. This would suggest that the Stoke Flat survey area would be a suitable candidate for prehistoric cultivation.

Human activity at Stoke Flat East appears to have ceased towards the end of the Iron Age period, following which there was a decline in the tree cover and the spread of an open heather moorland environment (Long *et al.* 1998, 516). This area may have been used for grazing of animals in the medieval and post-medieval periods. A post-medieval sheepfold is located less than 1km to the south of the survey area. In the post-medieval period, improvements were made to the drainage of the Stoke Flat area, and a group of rectangular fields were established to the west. Most of these fields appear to have been established in the early 19th-century as part of Curbar Enclosure Award, though the southern field may already have been in existence at that date. The fields were shown on the 1848 tithe map for Froggatt township. In recent years, the survey area has been used as grazing land for cattle and sheep.

Quarrying was undertaken within the vicinity in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Some of the quarries, particularly the large ones on the gritstone edges, were for building stone, troughs and millstones. There are also many small quarry hollows associated with removal of stone for constructing or repairing walls and tracks. These features are difficult to date on morphological grounds.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Assessment criteria

Assessment of significance of the archaeological resource is calculated on the basis of the period, rarity, condition, extent of survival and group value of features. The significance of types of features can vary within and across regions depending on their nature and rarity. For the Eastern Moors Estate, assessment of significance has been undertaken with reference to the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework, as well as national guidelines.

Significance has been divided into three categories: national, regional/local and unknown. Features deemed to be of national significance are considered to be well-preserved examples of features that are rare on a national level, and which have the potential to provide significant information on poorly represented or understood aspects of past human activity. Features of regional significance are defined as well-preserved examples of sites that are relatively rare in the region, or have the potential to provide information on topics that are poorly understood on a regional basis. Local significance is associated with features which may survive in relatively large numbers on a local and regional basis, but which still offer a potential to provide significant information on past human activity in the area.

The condition of features was considered during the survey, and assigned 'good', 'average' or 'poor' condition. Across much of the site, the condition of features was listed as 'average', with 'good' being used to describe well-defined features with no damage or erosion, and

‘poor’ referring to sites with low visibility levels, significant damage or in a bad condition generally.

5.2 Survey results

Two features previously identified in the Eastern Moors survey are located within the survey area (Figure 2). These comprise a post-medieval drainage ditch (Eastern Moors Survey ID 847, NTSMR 200811) running along the eastern edge of the enclosed fields, and a modern 5m wide concrete bridge (EM 848, NTSMR 200812) crossing the ditch for vehicular access. Both features are considered to be of local significance and were in an average condition at the time of survey in 2010 and in May 2012.

Only one new feature was identified during the survey (EM 7267). This comprised a small sub-oval hollow identified as a quarry, which was cut into the edge of the slope above the stream at the eastern side of the survey area. The feature is likely to be of post-medieval date, and is not shown on any historic maps. It is considered to be of local significance, and was in an average condition. There were no visible threats to the feature, and it is not considered to have special conservation requirements beyond the general management principles identified in the Eastern Moors Historic Landscape Survey (ArcHeritage 2011, 42-43).



Plate 1: Quarry hollow 7267, viewed facing south (scale at 50cm intervals)

A number of individual recumbent stones were noted along the centre of the survey area. These appeared to be naturally outcropping boulders, and no clear evidence of quarrying or modification was visible. No features indicative of prehistoric settlement or agriculture were observed within the survey area.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The Stoke Flat survey revealed only one archaeological feature that had not been recorded during the Eastern Moors Historic Landscape Survey. This comprised a small hollow thought to be associated with quarrying, of local archaeological significance. No features associated with prehistoric to medieval settlement or agriculture were identified. The controlled burning of the *Molinia* grass reduced the amount of vegetation and resulted in a greater potential visibility of above-ground archaeological features, though most of the tussocks survived the burning process and obscured the ground surface itself.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposals for management of the *Molinia* grass using herbicides and mechanical flailing have been put forward. The proposal for managing the *Molinia* grass will not damage the heritage asset relating to quarrying given its character and significance. No further archaeological work is recommended in advance of the application of herbicide and mechanical flailing.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

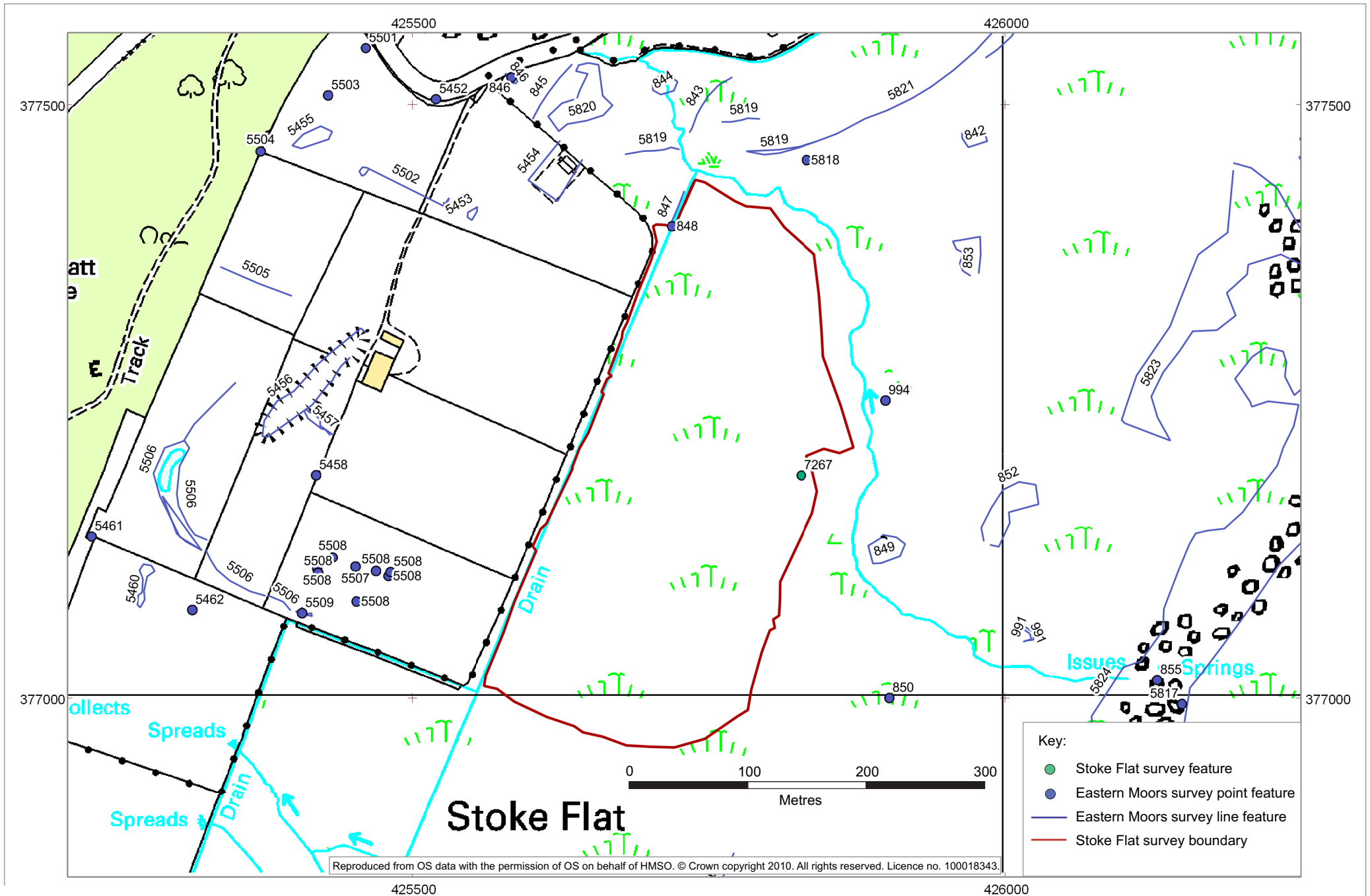
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9 FIGURES





APPENDIX 1 – FEATURE DATABASE ENTRY

Relevant fields only:

ID:	7267	Period:	Post-medieval
Monument type:	Stone extractive site	Description:	Sub-oval quarry hollow cut into side of slope. 4m wide, 0.5m maximum height.
Condition:	Average	Threats:	None
Ground cover:	Molinia grass	Significance:	Local/regional
NGR Easting:	425828	NGR Northing:	377185

APPENDIX 2 – PROJECT BRIEF

NT/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership: ARCHAEOLOGY BRIEF

Project Brief for Archaeological Survey of Stoke Flat Eastern Moors, Derbyshire.

Site: Stoke Flat

NGR: SK 25730 77160 (centre of area)

1 Introduction

1.1 The Eastern Moors Partnership require an archaeological survey of an area previously obscured by Molina grass. The grass was burnt during the spring of 2012 providing an opportunity to record any newly exposed features. A survey level II (EH Guidelines) is expected.

1.2 The Archaeological Survey findings will be incorporated into the existing historic landscape document to inform and underpin all future conservation management of the archaeological and historic resource, providing guidance upon best management practice and highlighting areas that require a greater level of survey. Therefore data must be in the correct format (GIS to be compatible with MapInfo and records in an ACCESS database). The Eastern Moors Partnership will append the report to the original survey and will update the GIS/ACCESS database. The findings of the survey will inform the proposed practical works for the area with regards to Molinia management, namely mechanical application of herbicide and flailing.

1.3 The main aims of the Archaeological Landscape Survey are:

- To identify and record all visible sites, features and landscape elements of archaeological or historic interest. This would include and incorporate those identified through previous investigations.
- To assess the current condition of the archaeological and historic resource and make recommendations for its future conservation and management, including the requirement for any additional survey works and interpretation.
- Production of a final report that presents the results of the Historic Landscape Survey in a meaningful way, allowing its use as a future management tool by the Eastern Moors Partnership. This must be in a format that can be appended to the original historic landscape survey.
- Production of a digital spatial record for uploading to the National Trust HBSMR and the relevant Eastern Moors Partnership property GIS (MapInfo).

2.0 Site Description

2.1 The area to be surveyed is 8.6ha and is shown in figure 1. The survey area is accessed from the A625, see figure 1, and has an altitude of 290m. The vegetation is dominated by *Molinia* which has formed tussocks, making thorough surveys difficult in the past. The area was subject to a controlled burn during March 2012 which has removed much of the vegetation. The area is part of Big Moor which is currently being extensively grazed by cattle. This section is undergoing targeted restoration work to reduce *Molinia* dominance and encourage upland heath vegetation communities and the associated species.

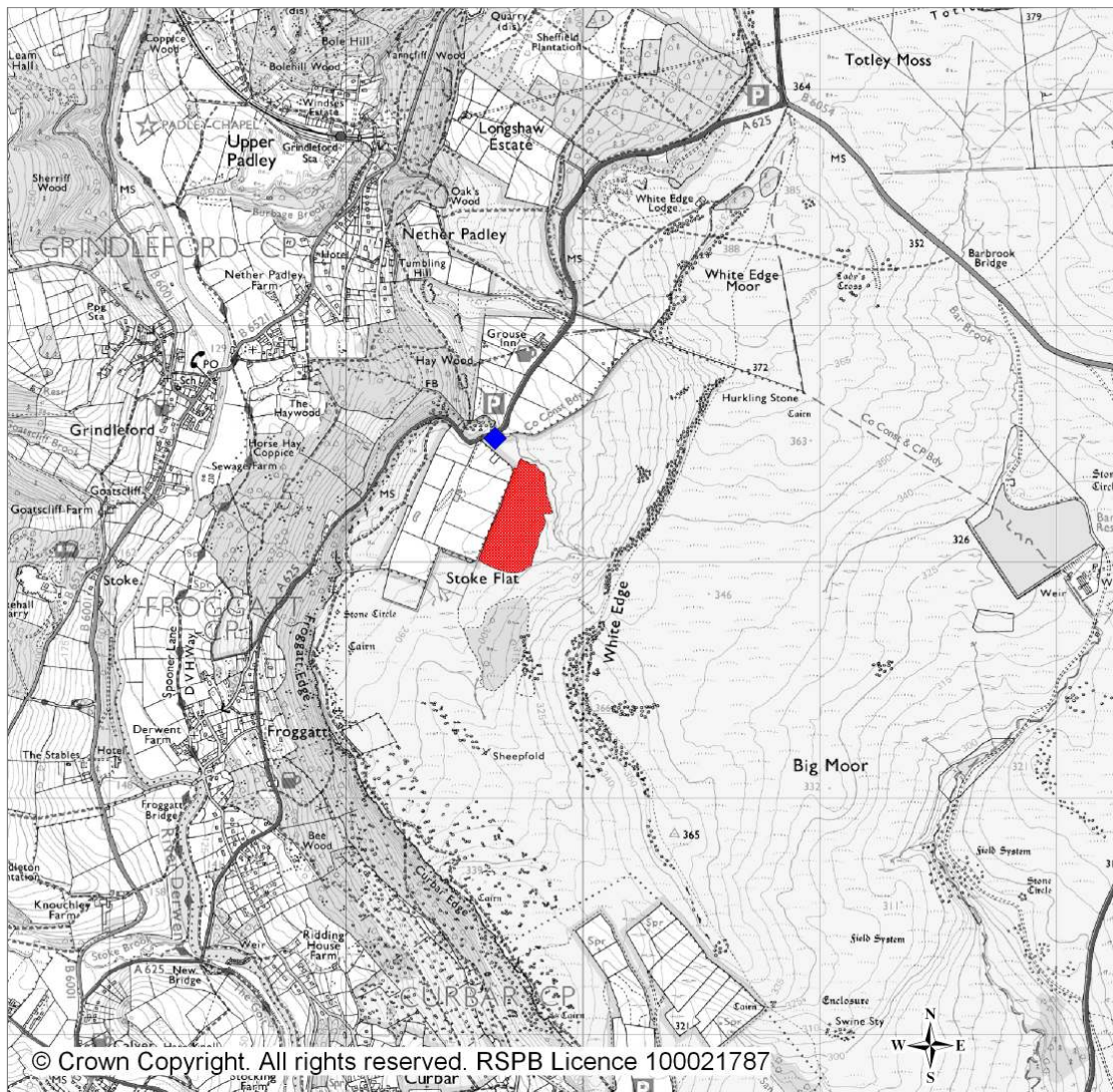


Figure 1: map of survey area (blue diamond indicates access point and red shading shows the survey area).

2.2 For land use please refer to the original historic landscape survey.

3.0 Methodology and Requirements

3.1 Documentary Survey

3.1.1 Note not necessary as was done as part of the original historic landscape survey.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 The objective of the field survey is to identify and record all visible archaeological features within the survey area. The field survey will result in the creation of a comprehensive gazetteer of sites recorded within the specified area which will update original survey.

3.2.1 Based upon the EH Guidance, the field survey should produce accurate survey of all the archaeological and historical sites, features, buildings and landscape elements within the survey area, following which a detailed gazetteer will be produced. The resulting gazetteer, which should also include previously identified monuments will account the following details:

- Site Name (if applicable)
- National Grid Reference (at least 8 figures).
- NTSMR number (and survey/map reference number if used)*
- Monument or site type (using the English Heritage thesaurus)
- Period
- A written description of the site or monument.
- Significance of the monument/site
- Condition of monument/Causes of damage
- Conditions under which the monument were surveyed/visibility etc
- Potential threats to the site/monument
- Known Historical sources which depict/record the monument.
- Photographic image with appropriate scales
- Annotated sketch plan where appropriate
- Conservation/Management recommendations for the monument.
- Recommendations for additional archaeological survey if required
- recommendations for presentation and interpretation of the monument/site

* a block of NTSMR numbers will be allocated by the National Trust Archaeologist to the field surveyor.

3.2.2 A full set of GIS maps pin-pointing the location of any sites and monuments recorded in the gazetteer should also be produced. The GIS mapping and gazetteer records should be fully cross referenced to each other. All maps should be reproduced at an appropriate scale (suggest 1:2500) and referenced to the OS National Grid. Any data should be cross referenced to the existing survey data and compatible to MapInfo/ACCESS.

- 3.2.3 The Archaeological and Historical narrative for the survey area should include a chronologically phased history of the land-use and development, making full reference to previous investigations, other documentary sources and the current field survey. Summaries of the recommendations made for site management, further survey and interpretation/education should be included in the main report.
- 3.2.4 All aspects of the investigation should be conducted in accordance with the National Trust's Policy for Historic Landscape Survey, *Archaeology and the Historic Landscape Survey Guidelines* and English Heritage's, 2007 *Understanding the Landscape. A guide to good recording practice*.

4.0 General Requirements of the Archaeological Contractor

- 4.1 The Contractor will be fully responsible for developing and operating a safe system of working. A full site specific Risk Assessment must be in place and approved by Eastern Moors Partnership prior to commencement of any work.
- 4.2 The contractor will supply as part of their tender a resumes of the archaeologist(s) undertaking the field survey and their relevant experience in relation to the project. It is expected that the named archaeologist(s) will be leading the works on site
- 4.3 The site is ready for survey now and should be surveyed within the next month (May), prior to regrowth of vegetation. Upon completion of survey the Eastern Moors Partnership expect to be in receipt of the final report within 1 month.
- 4.3 The Contractor will observe National Trust, RSPB and PDNPA bye-laws at all times when on site. The successful contractor will be required to sign a contract agreement for the provision of archaeological services prior to the commencement of any on-site work. This contract outlines the roles of and responsibilities of both the contractor and the NT/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership.
- 4.4 The Contractor will liaise fully with the East Moors Estate Staff regarding access to the site, agreed times of work so that the necessary arrangements can be made with any tenants. There may be times when access is not permitted due to ecological considerations. The contractor should keep the Eastern Moors Estate Staff fully informed of the areas in which they are surveying.
- 4.5 The Contractor will note that the NT/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership and PDNPA will retain copyright over all products from this investigation and shall have absolute control over the use and dissemination of the information. The Eastern Moors Partnership fully recognises the originator's moral right to suitable accreditation in any publication of the results. An exchange of information must be signed by the contractor.

5.0 Monitoring arrangements and Publication

- 5.1 The project will be initiated in consultation with the NT/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership, advised by the Site Staff and the Regional National Trust Archaeologist, who can be contacted for guidance during the course of site works. Any problems or unexpected discoveries should be reported immediately to the site staff.
- 5.2 A draft version of the full survey report should be supplied for editing and comment to the Eastern Moors Partnership and the Regional National Trust Archaeologist prior to the submission of a final report as part of the closure process.
- 5.3 Upon approval the Contractor will supply the NT/RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership with six copies of the report, one copy of which should be unbound. Four digital copies of the report should also be submitted. The digital data should include all mapping information in formats compatible with both MapInfo Version 7 and AutoCAD.

6.0 Archive deposition

- 6.1 All materials arising from this survey will be supplied to the Eastern Moors Partnership in standard archiving boxes upon completion of the project. The Regional National Trust Archaeologist will assume responsibility for the archiving of this material, either in regional or central filing systems. Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Peak District National Park, Derbyshire Historic Environment Record and the National Sites and Monument Record by the National Trust. In addition the National Trust Sites and Monuments Record is also publicly indexed (through ADS) and accessible.

7.0 Insurance coverage

- 7.1 The Contractor will carry public liability insurance to the value of not less than £2 million. Proof of this is required prior to the commencement of any works on site.

8.0 Contacts

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