Deserted Sites and Rabbit-Warrens on Dartmoor, Devon

By CATHERINE D. LINEHAN

This paper summarizes the evidence for enclosures and homesteads on Dartmoor from the time of Domesday onward. Part I lists the known deserted sites, including those for which there is as yet no identified name or documentary evidence. A fuller description is given of the deserted sites in Okehampton Park; of three sites in a rabbit-warren on Spitchwick Common in Widecombe-in-the-Moor; of a group of sites in Cornwood; and of Butterberry in Peter Tavy. Maps are given of these four special areas (Figs. 52, 54, 56, 58), together with a distribution-map of sites on Dartmoor as a whole (Fig. 47), and sketch-plans of a number of individual sites. Part II contains a summary of the written evidence for rabbit-warrens on Dartmoor, and a list of 16 sites which contain pillow-mounds.

INTRODUCTION

The upland region of Dartmoor in Devon contains some 111,000 acres (Fig. 46). Of this the Duchy of Cornwall owns about 29,000 acres of unenclosed land, together with certain areas of enclosed land. The remainder, estimated at about 59,000 acres, consists of 'venville commons'—land subject to certain rights by local villages.

Dartmoor has long been known and studied for its prehistoric remains and mining activities. Little interest, however, has been shown in its many deserted homesteads, or in the old rabbit-warrens with their pillow-mounds, known locally as 'burys' or 'buries'. Field-work during the past four years has led to the recording of 16 warrens containing mounds (Table III, p. 124) and of over 100

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1 The scale of all these sketch-plans is 96 ft. to 1 in. The measurements were taken from the inner faces of walls, and, on the pillow-mounds, from the centres of the surrounding ditches, which are indicated by hachuring. Walls of buildings, where visible, are blocked in, and, where they can only be assumed, indicated by broken lines. Enclosure-walls, hedge-banks, etc., are shown by double lines, and these, as well as streams, ponds, etc., are named. The sketch-plans are so orientated that the houses slope downwards from the upper to the lower end. This indicates the fall of the land except in the few instances in which the houses are built along the contour, where it is shown by an arrow.

MAP OF DARTMOOR, DEVON
showing positions of parishes, deserted sites and rabbit-warrens

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site no.</th>
<th>Parish Name</th>
<th>Site no.</th>
<th>Parish Name</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Chagford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Rushlade</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bovey Tracey</td>
<td>Haytor Down</td>
<td>Cornwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Lambsdown</td>
<td>Ford Barn</td>
</tr>
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<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Scorriton Down</td>
<td>Harrowthorn</td>
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<td>Buckland in-the-Moor</td>
<td>Higher Pudsham</td>
<td>Haws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Pudsham Down</td>
<td>High House</td>
</tr>
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<td>Stone</td>
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KEY TO FIG. 47
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<td>W.14</td>
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<td>Merrivale</td>
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<td>Trowlesworthy</td>
<td>W.15</td>
<td>Widecombe-in-the-Moor</td>
<td>Vaghill and Eastern</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Willing Walls</td>
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<td>Combe</td>
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<tr>
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<td>W.9</td>
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<td>W.16</td>
<td>Ugborough</td>
<td>Redlake Tramway</td>
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DESIERTED SITES AND RABBIT-WARRENS ON DARTMOOR

Site no. | Parish                           | Name                          | Site no. | Parish                           | Name                          |
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<td>Legis Tor</td>
<td>W.16</td>
<td>Ugborough</td>
<td>Redlake Tramway</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
abandoned dwelling-sites (TABLE II, p. 124). The majority of the sites appear to be homesteads with one building, as Dinna Clerks, Widecombe-in-the-Moor (FIG. 48, a), Blackslade, Widecombe-in-the-Moor (FIG. 48, b), Blackalder, Shaugh Prior (FIG. 48, c) and Shavercombe, Shaugh Prior (FIG. 48, h); two buildings, as Manaton Rocks, Manaton (FIG. 48, d) and Cold East, Ashburton (FIG. 48, e); or three buildings, as the site near Leapra Farm, North Bovey (FIG. 48, f) and Holne Ridge, Holne (FIG. 48, g), although settlements of up to 13 buildings have been found, as Blackaton, Widecombe-in-the-Moor (FIG. 49).3

The long-houses vary from 18 to 80 ft. in length, and from 9 to 15 ft. in width; they usually lie with the long axis at right angles to the contour, and have a cross-passage with opposed entrances towards the lower end. Occasionally, however, they are built with the long axis along the contour, with an entrance on one side only, as, for example, Hawn (FIG. 57, c) and Parkland Newtake (FIG. 57, f) in Cornwood. Nearly all the larger houses, and at least one house in most of the settlements, have a small room at the upper end. Pairs of houses have also been noticed, lying within a few feet of each other and of much the same dimensions, as in Okehampton Park, site 53 A (FIG. 53, d) and site 56 (FIG. 53, c), and also at Yar Tor, Widecombe-in-the-Moor (FIG. 55, a).

William Crossing, whose Guide to Dartmoor, first published in 1909, remains the most accurate survey available, notes several unoccupied farmhouses, and also mentions the ruins of rectangular buildings, sometimes in connexion with tinning works in the valley bottoms. He also warns his readers against confusing rabbit burys with prehistoric barrows, but he clearly did not consider later features of more than passing interest.

R. Hansford Worth, who died in 1950, was another man with an intimate knowledge of Dartmoor. He described some of the early stone houses, and noted a number still occupied or only recently abandoned. In his collected works plans are given of cross-passage long-houses of early type; he also gives photographs and details of broad and narrow quoins in ruined buildings at Challacombe (Manaton),4 and Yardworthy (Chagford), dating this type of stone work 'not later than 1600'. Worth was also interested in the blowing-houses and their contents; and he gives careful measurements and details of three on the Walkham river above Merrivale bridge. He failed, however, to record a long-house site only a few yards from the most northerly blowing-house on the E. bank (FIG. 50, a), or a number of pillow-mounds near by.5

I. DESERTED SITES

(TABLE II; PLS. IV–VI; FIGS. 48–59)

THE EVIDENCE FROM DOMESDAY

A study of Domesday Book (1086) shows 37 manors with their land lying mostly on the moor (TABLE I, p. 117). Of these no less than 23 lie on the eastern

4 For this site see Appendix, p. 143 f.
5 R. Hansford Worth, Dartmoor (1953), pp. 309, 403.
or north-eastern side; 10 on the southern slopes, and only two each in the west and north. Three have no entry for villeins, but the other 34 manors together contain 158 villeins, and if we add to these the 37 demesne holdings, a total of 195 holdings is obtained. There are 127 ploughlands recorded, though only 87

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Manor</th>
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<td>Chagford</td>
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<td>Chagford</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>(see App. p. 143 f.)</td>
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<td>525</td>
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</table>

1 Text mentions villeins without specifying number, so at least two have been assumed.
3 Ibid., p. 527.
4 See note 1.
5 Ibid.

ploughs were in use at the time of the survey. The excess of ploughlands over plough-teams strengthens the probability of a considerable outfield, where parts of the land were broken up for cultivation and then abandoned again, while a different area was ploughed. The area of a Devon ploughland is not known, but 60 to 80 acres has been suggested.⁶

⁶ V.C.H. Devonshire, i (1906), 386.
a, Dinna Clerks (Widecombe-in-the-Moor); b, Blackslade (Widecombe-in-the-Moor); c, Blackalder (Shaugh Prior); d, Manaton Rocks (Manaton); e, Cold East (Ashburton); f, near Lexpra Farm (North Bovey); g, Holne Ridge (Holne); h, Shavercombe (Shaugh Prior)
To the 195 holdings must be added an unknown number of moorland holdings belonging to manors which lie farther from the moor but which had some land upon it. Such is Lydford, which included all the Royal Forest of Dartmoor, now the Duchy of Cornwall lands, though no mention is made in the Domesday record of any moorland tenements. No deserted sites of early type have been found in the forest area, and it seems possible that Piswell and Babeny (still occupied farms) were the earliest of the ancient tenements allowed in the royal hunting ground. They are first recorded in 1260 in the Exeter Episcopal Registers. Shaugh Prior, Walkhampton, Sampford Spiney, Whitechurch, Bridestowe and Sourton all have common land on the moor, much of which shows signs of past enclosure. Okehampton had 31 villeins and land for 30 ploughs, and must have had holdings on the slopes of Dartmoor, where seven deserted sites have been found (FIG. 52). South Tawton was a large royal manor which included South Zeal, and its holdings of common lands must have been held by some of the 50 villeins recorded.

Because of the uncertainties in the Domesday record, it is not possible to calculate exactly the number of holdings or the amount of land under cultivation on Dartmoor at this early period. It is clear, however, from the figures obtained that there were over 200 holdings. Some of these are, of course, represented by farms still in occupation and several remain almost unchanged since the Domesday record was made, as, for example, Stoke (Estocha in Holne), where the record lists the demesne land and four villein holdings, and where five Stoke farms can still be distinguished.

W. G. Hoskins suggests that much of the outfield may have been in occupation before the time of the earliest charters, which date from the 13th century. He gives as example the charter for Cholwich Town in Cornwood parish (FIG. 56), in which parish he finds almost every farm occupied by a free tenant from the 13th century. The charter, dated between 1200 and 1230, mentions 'all my land of Cholleswyht', showing it as already named and suggesting earlier occupation. This early settlement is corroborated at Houndtor village (Manaton) and another near-by site, Houndtor II (FIG. 50, b), and also at Hut Holes, Widecombe-in-the-Moor (FIG. 50, c), where excavation of stone long-houses of the late 12th to the 13th century has revealed the existence of earlier turf houses, and indicated a pre-Conquest date for the beginning of the sites.

**FIELD EVIDENCE OF ENCLOSURE AND HOMESTEADS**

Field-work shows that much of the venville commons, as also the land in the central plains and in the wider river valleys, has been enclosed; only the highest moorland, the rocky hillsides, and the most precipitous wooded valleys remain unenclosed. Superimposed field-systems and boundary-banks are difficult to interpret. Enclosure has taken place at different periods and for different purposes. Remains may be prehistoric, medieval or post-medieval; they may be connected with farmsteads, with tinner's bounds, or with a combination of the

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two, as for example Ringmoor Down, Sheepstor (FIG. 50, d), where the gully which runs through the site was possibly connected with near-by mining activities. Grants for tinner’s rights were sometimes made to local farmers, as is shown in a document of 1759, granting to Roger Hannaford of Dockwell in Widecombe-in-the-Moor and Robert Mann of Denbury the rights in Dockwell in the manor of Dewdon (Widecombe-in-the-Moor). These bounds were ‘cut and pitched’ in the presence of witnesses, implying the making of a bank or reave.9

9 Grant in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. H. French of Watergate, near Widecombe-in-the-Moor.
Many of the old enclosures have been abandoned to heather, gorse, bilberry and the ever-encroaching bracken; the bracken, often 5 ft. in height, makes fieldwork almost impossible from May to December, except on parts of the west side of the moor, where there is some open grass land. In winter, storms and snow are further hazards. Time and patience are needed to trace these signs of past habitation. Evening or early morning light with a view across a valley may show...
up previously undetected enclosures; then a careful study can sometimes locate the smaller enclosures, crofts and yards which usually surround a dwelling house. Aerial photographs and large-scale maps may also help to identify a group of enclosures, usually about 20 to 30 acres, which contain yet another forgotten site. The map may also indicate an unoccupied house in the middle of nowhere, or some apparently incomplete field banks, whose ruins were sufficiently upstanding to warrant notice by the surveyors, although other buildings and enclosures close by were not recorded.

‘Corn-ditches’ can also act as a guide to deserted sites, even though long abandoned. These boundary-walls between cultivated fields and moorland were reinforced by a ditch on the outer or moorland side, to prevent animals, including deer in earlier times, from invading the corn; in the field itself, stones removed to clear and improve the land gradually formed a sloping bank against the inside of the wall.

Field-work has been most intensive in Widecombe-in-the-Moor and Manaton parishes, where, in consequence, more sites have been found. The Domesday evidence, however, suggests that there were more holdings on the south, east and north-east of Dartmoor, where the rainfall is considerably less than on the west side, and where the hills give protection from the prevailing south-westerly storms.

THE PROCESS OF DESERTION

From the bronze-age and iron-age settlements until the continuing drift from the land at the present day many economic factors must have contributed to the fluctuating process of expansion and contraction of population on Dartmoor. Most of these factors remain obscure; others, such as the increase in sheep-farming and the wool trade in medieval times, are well known.

The height at which some of the deserted sites lie is surprising, and perhaps was itself a cause for early abandonment. A long-house near Berry Pound, Natsworthy (Widecombe-in-the-Moor) is at 1,350 ft.; that at Dean Moor (Dean Prior), now under the waters of the Avon reservoir, is at 1,110 ft.;

Butterberry I (Peter Tavy) is at 1,225 ft., and the Okehampton Park sites lie between 875 and 1,150 ft. Excepting the Dean Moor site, these all show some of the surrounding areas to have been under the plough. At Hen Tor warren, Shaugh Prior (FIG. 51, c), which lies at 1,130 ft., a recollection of 10 ploughing oxen in the 18th century is recorded by Crossing.

The frequent proximity of medieval sites to prehistoric settlement, as at Whitten Knowles, Sheepstor (FIG. 51, a), raises the question of continuity of occupation, although such continuity remains to be proved. The land would obviously be favoured as being already cleared and cultivated; indeed some small rectangular buildings are actually inside prehistoric pounds and enclosures. This can be seen at Willings Walls (Shaugh Prior), and on Holne Moor (Holne) near the Paignton reservoir. Medieval enclosures and terracing have in places

10 This site was excavated in 1956. See A. Fox, ‘A monastic homestead on Dean Moor, S. Devon’, Med. Archeol., ii (1958), 141-157.
FIG. 51
DEserted sites on dartmoor (PP. 122, 124)

a, Whitten Knowles (Sheepstor); b, Cripdon (Manaton); c, Hen Tor (Shaugh Prior)
been superimposed on prehistoric field-systems, as for example on Hound Tor (Manaton), and on the slopes of Vaghill (Widecombe-in-the-Moor) overlooking the river Dart. In the latter there are several prehistoric enclosure-groups, with their attendant hut-circles, in two of which the field-walls have been reconstructed; no long-house has been found, which suggests the possibility that the huts were reoccupied, or that turf houses were in use whose remains have totally disappeared. Medieval pottery has been found in many of the hut-circles excavated in the past. Pottery found on the medieval sites mentioned on p. 119 suggests their abandonment in the late 13th century, but the causes for these early desertions of farms and villages remain obscure.

An increase in the population on Dartmoor occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries, when a number of quarries and mines were opened or reopened in various parts. Charles Vancouver expressed his belief that almost the whole of Dartmoor could be reclaimed by drainage, burning, liming and other means. His optimistic dream was not realized. Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, when Lord Warden of the Stannaries, started large reclamation projects at the end of the 18th century round his granite quarries near what is now Princetown. Because of the employment available, workers were attracted to the district, and a number of dwellings were built at this time. They are of a most primitive type, often little more than a hut some 15 by 20 ft., at most a two-roomed cottage; now only the tumble of a chimney-stack marks them as later erections. With a small garden and a few very small enclosures, they are usually near mining-sites or quarries, although they can easily be mistaken for medieval sites. Indeed they may lie on older sites, and have, therefore, been included in the list. Examples of these are the Cottage in Swincombe (Lydford) and Ridge Ley (Chagford). Their abandonment followed the decay of the mines and quarries at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.

Larger farms were also enclosed during this period. Foxtor Farm at 1,235 ft., Nun's Cross Farm at 1,312 ft., Teignhead Farm at 1,475 ft., and Sheepfold at 1,315 ft., all on Duchy lands, are examples. These farms were occupied for only about a hundred years, conditions no doubt proving too harsh and unproductive at these heights.

At a still later date desertions have followed the construction of reservoirs. At Fernworthy and Burrator all the farms in the catchment areas have been left to crumble to ruins, or have been submerged. A small acreage of land is still being farmed, but most of the surrounding area is being used for forestry or has reverted to rough pasture.

The amalgamation of holdings and consequent desertion of farmhouses, as at Cripdon, Manaton (fig. 51, b), continues apace, and can be seen as yet another retreat from the least productive land. On all sides of the moor, but especially on the west, many houses stand empty, while the land is farmed from adjacent holdings as sheep-runs and cattle-ranches. With the hedge-banks down and the animals grazing at will, the deserted homesteads present a melancholy appearance

TABLE II. DESERTED SITES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>O.S. Ref. SX</th>
<th>Nat. Grid</th>
<th>Feet</th>
<th>O.D.</th>
<th>No. of buildings</th>
<th>Enclosure</th>
<th>R.A.F. air-photographs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
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<th>O.S. Ref. SX</th>
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<th>O.D.</th>
<th>No. of buildings</th>
<th>Enclosure</th>
<th>R.A.F. air-photographs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

TABLE III. RABBIT-WARRENS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>O.S. Ref. SX</th>
<th>Nat. Grid</th>
<th>Feet</th>
<th>O.D.</th>
<th>Pillow-rounds enclosed</th>
<th>R.A.F. air-photographs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

![Image](image-url)
of pending decay. Such farms, although often of medieval origin, mostly have comparatively modern houses; they are clearly marked on the O.S. maps, and have not, therefore, been included in the list.

A reasonable living can no longer be made from the small acreage and poor soil of the average Dartmoor farm. For the time being this seems to be the inevitable trend, and families which have lived for centuries on the moor may soon be gone, as the younger generation moves away to an easier life.

Further work is needed to record the many deserted sites which must still await notice, and work is also needed on the ruined long-houses on existing farms, some of which are still in use as barns or outhouses. A few of these have been listed in this survey, but many farms, particularly in the east and south, have, either in use or in ruins, buildings which clearly represent an older dwelling. Unfortunately they are being swept away at accelerating speed, and time is short in which to record them.

DESERTED SITES IN OKEHAMPTON PARK (PLS. IV, A, B, V, A, B; FIGS. 52, 53, a–j)

Okehampton lies at the junction of the East and West Okement rivers, with its castle about half a mile upstream along the latter. The earliest record of the name is in a missal of about 970 where *ocmundtune* is mentioned as one of the places for the manumission of slaves.5 The castle, mentioned in Domesday Book together with four burgesses, a market and a mill, is said to have been first built by Baldwin de Brion soon after the Conquest.

The park, in which lie the deserted sites, is to the south and south-west of the town and castle, occupying the slopes of the moor between the two Okement rivers. It is bounded on the south by an area of common land belonging to Okehampton, beyond which stretches the forest of Dartmoor. It is not known when the park was formed; it is mentioned in 13th-century charters and was disafforested by Henry VIII at the same time as the castle was demolished, after Henry Courtney, marquis of Exeter, was attainted and beheaded. The medieval manorial records of the manor and the barony of Okehampton, which might have thrown light on the early history of the park, have been lost in the vicissitudes of the Courtney and other later families who held the manor and barony.

In the south-west of the park, overlooking the castle and town, seven sites have been found, containing together 35 long-houses; they are all within a mile of a spot marked 'Chapel' on the O.S. map, where there are enclosure-walls and the remains of a building. The small occupied homestead near by is called 'Saxon Gate', a name for which no early documentation has been found, but which may be of significance. The sites are now in the manor of Meldon, a small manor in Okehampton of uncertain origin, recorded from the 13th century.

An indication of the early occupation of the area is its ancient road-system. The main track, suggested, and discarded, by writers as a Roman road, comes

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14 W. de G. Birch, *Cartularium Saxonicum*, no. 1245.
16 Information from Mr. R. L. Taverner of Okehampton.
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up the slope diagonally from Fatherford on the East Okement river in the north­
east corner of the park, and runs directly south-west through the ‘Chapel’ en­
closures towards Meldon; it ends abruptly where the Meldon quarry works have
destroyed it. This main way is now blocked in places by massive 19th-century
hedge-banks, which divide the area into large fields. Branch tracks lead from
this way into the valley from site 52, the ‘Chapel’, and to site 59 to the west.
An upper, south, branch of the old road from Fatherford follows the present road
for a short distance by Fitzwell and then, branching from the tracks to Halstock,
the army camp and the moor, runs approximately parallel to the lower track.
It passes through sites 53, 54 and 55, but is lost in places. It becomes very clear
between sites 55 and 56, and continues to site 57 as a sunken grass-covered way,
until it, too, ends abruptly over the edge of the Meldon quarry. Several other
tracks, also sunken in parts and grass-covered, lead from this route to the common
lands above. The two main tracks are shown in parts on the 6-in. O.S. map.
A continuation of these ancient roads to Meldon and Tavistock passed Higher
Bowden and Prewley Farms (where a good track still exists) over the shoulder
of the moor, where the way is known today in one part as Kingsway or King­
wall, and is so marked on the O.S. map.  

There are a number of springs in the park close to and below the sites. One,
beside the road from the town, is known as Fitzwell. Some authorities mention a
legend that the stone cross standing beside it was brought from Halstock Chapel,
which lay about one mile to the east. Halstock, now only a single farm, was
once a considerable village, where six tenements were recorded in 1586. The
chapel of St. Michael of Halgestoke is named in the account of a perambulation
of Dartmoor Forest made in 1240.

The sites in the park were noticed by the Rev. H. G. Fothergill. After
describing the hill-fort on the east side of the park, which lies on the spur of
East Hill between the East Okement river and its tributary, the Moorland brook,
he mentions

‘the numerous traces of houses, near any spring of water, also of roads
and enclosed patches of land, to be seen in the Park—that lead me to imagine
that this was the site of the original colony, that peopled, in later and more
civilized times, the old town, now situated near the source of the Okement,
previous to the Norman Conquest, when this spot was converted into a
Park, being well stocked with wood.’

Wimbolt and Ward mention a ‘Saxon village and chapel in the east side
of the Park’. As no ruins have been found in the east, these authors probably
refer to the sites under discussion.

There is a hint that the park was extended over these sites at the time of a
charter dated between 1216 and 1272, by which the lord of the manor confirmed

18 Devonshire Association: Parochial Histories, Okehampton, p. 15.
19 Ibid., p. 60.
the rights of the burgesses of Okehampton. This charter was transcribed by Richard Shebbeare of Okehampton in 1671. He adds:

‘I gather by this Charter of the Borough that at the tyme of this grant, and at all tymes before, either the Lord of Okehampton had noe park within the lordship, or else after this grant hee did much enlarge his parke; for all that wood and soyle on the south part of the Castle and borough, wherein by the instructions hereafter issuing they did release their comons of pasture now inclosed in the parke, which all that time it should seeme, lay open and in comon. Mr. Humberston’s opinion as presented by Shebbeare.’

If the lord of the manor extended his park at this time over the sites of the deserted homesteads, as well as over the common lands of the burgesses in this area, presumably the settlement was already abandoned, although the process may have been assisted. Once the castle, mill and borough had been established in the valley, a transference of population might well have taken place from the old hillside settlement as the lowland woods were thinned and cultivation extended on more fertile land. Fothergill suggests, indeed, that this transference took place from the deserted sites in the park, which he regarded as the original colony that peopled the town, now called Okehampton. If this large scattered settlement, with 35 houses and possibly a chapel to be distinguished at the present day, represents the original Okehampton, the growth of the new town in the valley beneath might well have taken the name as well as the population, thus accounting for the fact that the deserted sites have no recorded name.

This suggestion of Fothergill’s is, however, contradicted by local historians, who consider that the Saxon Okehampton existed on the opposite side of the valley around the present church, which stands in isolation on rising ground half a mile to the west of the town. The church is first mentioned in 1239, together with the chapel of the castle, in the appropriation of both by Bishop William Briwer to the monks of Cowick. No early font or Saxon features exist in the present church, which was rebuilt in 1843-4 after a fire; only the tower remains of the rebuilding of 1447. The existence of the iron-age hill-fort and the large number of long-houses and enclosures on the opposite side of the valley suggests that the site of one Saxon Okehampton lies along the edge of the uplands south of the present town. If, however, the tradition of a Saxon settlement around the church is correct, then the existence of another Okehampton is indicated; a North and South, or Higher and Lower Okehampton, perhaps. As the visible remains of the deserted sites are of stone, occupation in the 13th century, at least, is probable. The post-Conquest migration from the church area to the present town site, nearer to the castle and Okement river, would have preceded that of the scattered upland homesteads, which lingered on into medieval times.

Site 52, the Chapel (PL. IV, A; FIG. 53, a). The remains of a building lie within substantial enclosure-banks to the W. of site 53 and N. of site 54. The W. and S. sides of the ruins are the most upstanding, each about 22 ft. long by 19 ft. wide; there are several dressed stones lying within the ruins, which appear to be parts of a window or door.

11 Cited by Wright, op. cit. in note 20, p. 160 (note).
The tithe map shows the main enclosure and marks it as 'Hospital'; no records have been found to indicate the history or purpose of the site.

Site 53 is the largest, both in area and in the number of long-houses it contains. Eleven have been counted in three groups, and others may remain unnoticed in the
CATHERINE D. LINEHAN

uneven ground and the confused remains of enclosure-walls half hidden in the bracken which covers most of the settlement.

The first group, site 53 A (PL. IV, A; FIG. 53, d), can be found close to the N. fence of the army camp. Two houses, one much ruined, lie side by side, close to one of the circular enclosures or pounds which are a feature of the Okehampton Park homesteads.

The second group, site 53 B (PL. IV, A; FIG. 53, b), a little to the N. and cut by the 19th-century field-bank, consists of four long-houses. The largest, over 72 ft. long, lies on the W. side of the bank. It has a cross-passage and small room at the upper end. Nearby is one of the small rounded enclosures, and also other enclosure-walls. The S. track running through the park from Fatherford to Meldon passes this group of houses a short distance to the S., and two more houses can be seen on the N. side of the track, E. of the others and some distance apart; they can barely be distinguished in the undergrowth, as the remains are slight.

The third group, site 53 C (PL. IV, A; FIG. 53, e), is situated on the brow of the hill, N. of the track. There are three buildings lying parallel to one another, and close together.

A good spring, which would supply water for all the homesteads, rises a little below group B. A side track from the main through way indicates the old track on to the commons. The buildings of the army camp may cover the remains of other medieval sites; indeed a farm is said to have existed where the camp now stands.

Site 54 (PL. IV, A; FIG. 53, g). The three houses lie S. of the 'Chapel' site, near the modern 'Saxon Gate' farm. The longest building, 63 by 14 ft., has a cross-passage and a room at the upper end, where the width tapers to 12 ft. The second building adjoins the first at right angles to its upper end, and the third lies 45 ft. to the west. A spring rises below the buildings.

Site 55 (PL. IV, B; FIG. 53, h). One long-house, 52 by 12 ft., with a small room, 12 ft. square, at the upper end, lies immediately below and to the N. of the track. A small building lies S. of the track, and three others above it are concealed in the gorse. The scanty remains of another house lie close to one of the 19th-century field-banks. There are a number of crofts and enclosures, and below, to the N.E., a spring.

Site 56 (PL. IV, B; FIG. 53, e). In the corner of the field, N. of a modern barn, are two long-houses, parallel to each other, with a small circular pound at the N. end of the E. house. The main S. track passes alongside the hedge-bank from site 55, and continues W. across the open field, as a sunken grassy way, towards site 57. A branch track leads S. from this site towards the moor. A stream runs W. of the site from a spring on the S. side.

Site 57 (PL. V, A; FIG. 53, f) is marked 'cottage and garden' on the tithe map, where it is the only house-site shown; the ruins are clearly of later date, although the enclosures themselves may easily belong to an older homestead. There are two buildings, one of which shows the tumbled stones of a chimney-stack; the other building could have been a barn, or used in connexion with the Meldon quarries, whose workings extend close to it. A stream runs through the site from a spring on the S. side.

Site 58 (PL. V, A; FIG. 53, i). These remains are difficult to interpret. Three buildings lie close to and S. of a hedge-bank, with crofts on its lower side. Disturbances of the ground, possibly caused by mining operations, have confused the area. Parts of the walls of a fourth and larger building exist to the E. This has a room at the upper end and a cross-passage, but the lower half of the house has been almost completely destroyed.

Site 59 (PL. V, B; FIG. 53, j). This site lies below the others, well over the brow of the hill, and comprises seven long-houses in two groups 21 ft. apart. A sunken way curves down to the site from the lower, N., trackway through the park. Some of the buildings have been used as a dump for stones removed from the field during recent land improvement. Three of the houses, which lie close to the hedge-bank, are hidden in a spinney of unfriendly thorn bushes. The largest, 59 by 12 ft., has a room at the upper
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to Eastern Combe, which itself forms the eastern boundary. The head of the combe, which lies a short distance above and to the north of the road, between Corndown and Yar Tor, is also included in the area.

The Dart was the route of penetration for the first inhabitants of this area of early settlement, as is shown by the many prehistoric remains. Three large cairns dominate the heights of Corndown; there is another on Yar Tor, on the eastern slopes of which are the remains of a cist and a stone row. Extensive prehistoric enclosures with hut-circles and ponds exist on these hillsides; some appear to have been reconstructed in later times, and reused in connexion with the medieval homesteads.

Of the three deserted sites recorded, Eastern Combe and Vaghill may have been the homes of warreners, since they lie near some of the pillow-mounds of the warren. In such a large area the warren could have been shared by two men, as, indeed, is suggested by the lease to two separate holders cited below (p. 139). No other documentary evidence has been found for these sites, but there is a local recollection that the building on Vaghill used to be known as ‘Warreners’ House’. All other names have been forgotten, and the settlements are now part of the open common lands of Spitchwick Manor.

Domesday shows Spitchwick Manor as held by the king; there were 8 villeins and 8 ploughlands, although only 4 ploughs were in use. It was a large manor, bounded on the south and west by the Dart and its tributary the Wallabrook, and on the north and east by Challacombe (Manaton) and Blackaton and Dewdon (Widecombe-in-the-Moor).

Site 103, Yar Tor (pl. vi, b; fig. 55, a), lies close to the main road on the N. side, where it curves round to cross the head of Eastern Combe. Two long-houses lie side by side, both with cross-passages, and part of another building can be seen a little above, to the N.; it is likely that road-widening has covered other remains. There is extensive terracing on the hillsides, as well as the walls of smaller enclosures near the houses. Two sunken ways lead towards Corndown and Yar Tor.

Site 97, Eastern Combe (pl. vi, b; fig. 55, b), a little way down the combe from the Yar Tor site, consists of two buildings, each 24 by 11 ft., which appear to be of 18th-century date, but parts of other walls near by suggest an earlier medieval settlement. There are three small enclosures, and three pillow-mounds outside them, two of which have been partially destroyed by the hedge-banks of the lower enclosure. A spring rising near the houses is joined by the stream from another spring which rises a little below the Yar Tor site. Both streams have become choked, and much of the ground around the Eastern Combe site is boggy. The higher stream has changed its course to scour out the old sunken way leading from the road.

Site 102, Vaghill (pl. vii, a; fig. 55, c), lies almost hidden in a dip on the steep S. side of Vaghill above an island in the river Dart. There is one building, 20 by 15 ft., and some tumbled enclosure-walls round the rocky knoll which shelters the small valley on the S. side. The five pillow-mounds near by include a circular one.

The Warren (W. 15; pl. vii, a). Other pillow-mounds of the old warren extend over the S. and E. sides of Vaghill and into Eastern Combe. There are five on the brow of the hill overlooking the combe, and these may have belonged to the Eastern Combe part of the warren. On the S. slope are six others, including two circular ones, and another can be seen from the aerial photograph to lie on the spur of Logator Rocks.
DEserted sites and rabbit-warrens on Dartmoor (misnamed Lucky Tor on the O.S. map), close to the Dart. Others may exist in the very rough and overgrown land on the lower slopes towards the river.

![Map of Dartmoor with labeled sites](image)

**FIG. 55**
DEserted sites in Widcombe-in-the-moor, Dartmoor (p. 132)

- a, Yar Tor; b, Eastern Combe; c, Vaghill

DEserted sites in Cornwood (FIGs. 56, 57, a–f)

Six deserted sites have been found in Cornwood parish in the upper valleys of the Yealm and its tributaries. This is a large parish of over 10,000 acres, of which more than 6,000 acres are woodland and common, stretching into the depths of the moor at Ermehead. The Domesday entry for Cornwood shows it held of the count of Mortain; there were 8 villeins and 5 ploughlands, although only 3½ ploughs were in use. Most of the Cornwood homesteads were held by
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free tenants from the 13th century, and it is likely that the sites under review were among them (see p. 119). High House, Ford and Harrowthorn are named in the Land Tax list of 1824, but it is probable that the houses were no longer occupied, as in each case the occupier mentioned also held near-by farms. Parkland Newtake is perhaps represented by the Little Parkland in a Land Tax list in 1781, held by the occupier of Cholwich, whose lands adjoined it. Place-Names of Devon gives references for some of the sites. Harrowthorn is mentioned in 1249; Ford and Hawns in 1330, and Parkland in 1333.\(^3\) No other documentary evidence has yet been found for any of the six sites.

Site 11, Ford, or Ford Barn (fig. 57, a), is the largest in the group. Seven buildings have been counted; the whole settlement area lies in a large enclosure, and the uneven ground, with a confusion of banks and walls, indicates numerous rebuildings and a considerable period of occupation. One long-house on the SW. side, lying on a different alignment and showing only slight remains, suggests an earlier phase of occupation. The largest house appears to be of typical 17th-century construction; two other buildings are of still later date, showing the use of mortar. It has been noticed that places named 'barn' represent the final phase of an ancient holding. In Cornwood parish, for instance, Wide's Barn and Brook Barn, although now only ruined modern farm buildings, seem to have been ancient holdings, and their land is still being cultivated by neighbouring farms. At Ford Barn desertion is complete.

Site 12, Ford Waste (fig. 57, b), lies in the N. part of the enclosures of this name, close to the 'corn-ditch' which divides them from the open Penn Moor. There are two long-houses with a room at the upper end, one of which is over 70 ft. long; a small building lies at the E. end of the enclosures immediately surrounding the homestead. No documentary evidence has been found for this site, which could, perhaps, have been an off-shot from the Ford Barn settlement.

Site 13, Harrowthorn (fig. 57, d), is in the S. end of Harrowthorn Plantation. There appears to have been considerable quarrying here and a number of trees have been uprooted by gales. As a result, this is a very confused site of tumbled banks which are difficult to interpret. Of the three buildings, all near the S. wall of the plantation, the middle one is the largest.

Site 14, Hawns (fig. 57, c). The buildings, which probably represent the site of ancient Hawns, lie on the opposite side of the valley of Broadall Lake from High House and a little further upstream. They are built along the contour, each with one entrance on the lower side, and are constructed of exceptionally large stones. There are a number of enclosures, and also pits and mounds from later mining operations. The natural oak forest of Hawns Wood, which has encroached on the site after its desertion, has recently been felled and rows of fir trees planted, and these, before long, will further conceal the remains.

Site 15, High House or High House Waste (fig. 57, e). This site, together with its enclosures, has recently been purchased by the Dartmoor Preservation Society. It lies on the hillside above the W. bank of the Broadall Lake, a term indicating a stream or brook on Dartmoor. This is a tributary of the Yealm, which it joins in Dendles Wood about half a mile downstream. The main building shows later development and seems to have been a cottage with three ground-floor rooms. There is a collapsed chimney between the two rooms at the upper end, and a tumbled porch on the S. side leading to the central room. Near by are two small buildings, one of which may have been constructed from a hut-circle. The earliest building lies farther up the slope, against the bank of the sunken way which leads down to the cottage. The walls of this house are only just visible, but the N. end is marked by a distinct kink in the lane-bank into

\(^3\) Place-Names of Devon (English Place-Name Soc., i, 1931–2), pp. 270–1.
which it is built. On the steep slopes are extensive enclosures and massive terracing, and lower down a good spring rises between the buildings and the brook. A small rectangular enclosure lying to the SE. appears to contain another building, of which only one side can be seen.

*Site 16, Parkland Newtake (FIG. 57, f)*, lies a little away from the valleys and is in the middle enclosure of the three which represent Parkland Newtake. Parkland itself is
about half a mile to the west. There is one house only, and it is a good example of the single-house homestead. It is built along the bank and has two entrances on the lower side and a room at the upper end. Adjoining are small enclosures, and a number of hut-circles with their enclosures lie near by.

DEserted Sites at Butterberrу in PeTer Tavy (Pl. VI, a; Figs. 58, 59, a–b)

Two deserted sites, still known locally as Butterberry, lie about a mile south-east of Wapsworthy, and south of the Youldon, or Wapsworthy brook. An amphitheatre of hills encircles the valley of the brook and its small tributaries. All round the slope of the hill extensive terracing and enclosures can be seen, suggesting an area of early settlement, as does the name Youldon, or 'old down'. Today, upstream from Wapsworthy and its still cultivated enclosures, only the empty house of Longbetor farm and the two deserted sites at Butterberry show the remains of homesteads, although it is said locally that 'several cottages' once existed north of Longbetor. The area is now given over to ranching and extensive sheep-runs.

Sites 60 and 61, Butterberry I and II, lie at heights of 1,225 and 1,125 ft. respectively. The higher site (fig. 59, a) consists of six buildings. One, with a cross-passage and a room at the upper end, shows considerable tapering at both ends of the house; two buildings have small annexes, and another long-house appears to have been rebuilt in part to make a shed or barn. There are crofts adjoining two of the houses, and a track enters the site through the old enclosures from Wapsworthy. A spring rises a short distance above the site, and forms a small stream which runs down past the lower site to join the Youldon brook below it. The lower site (fig. 59, b) comprises three buildings, with yards and enclosures; here, also, two of the buildings show later development.

Butterberry was the demesne land of the manor of Cudlipptown to the west. Cudlipptown at the time of Domesday was included in the manor of Tavistock (Taustocha), which was the principal demesne and seat of Tavistock. The abbot had to contribute 15 knights, a duty imposed by William the Conqueror. Domesday Book shows 6 knights holding lands in Tavistock, and others were added to insure against possible defaults. One such was endowed during the abbacy of Wymund (c. 1091–1102) and consisted of Roweburgh, now Morwell, and Cudlippe, an isolated holding on the edge of the Moor. The connexion between these two manors lasted for centuries; in 1194 they were seized by Richard I together with all lands held by those accused of siding with John Lackland. The Pipe Roll for 1194 shows the revenue as 14s. 7d. from Morwell and 9s. 11d. from Cudlipp; the following year Ralph Archdeacon proffered 10 marks to recover his inheritance. In 1488 Morwell and Cudlipp were held together for one knight's fee. In 1252, the abbot of Tavistock granted a tenement at Butterworthy, reserving the right to enclose let or otherwise use the whole waste of Butterworthy, except the common pasture on Langstone Moor (misnamed Lanceston Moor on the O.S. map). Butworthy was leased for twenty years from

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FIG. 58
MAP SHOWING POSITIONS OF DESERTED SITES
at Wapsworthy and Butterberry (Peter Tavy), Dartmoor (p. 137)

Based on the 6-in. O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Crown copyright reserved
Other variants of the name are shown in *Place-Names of Devon*: Boterworthi in 1330, and Boterworthie in 1408. The Land Tax list of 1780 shows two holdings at Butaford alias Butworthy owned by Stephen Madaford for £48. and £8s. respectively. This is a comparatively small sum for a relatively large area of land and may represent the final phase of the farms, when only a barn or outhouse remained in use, buildings, perhaps, which show signs of later redevelopment.

II. RABBIT-WARRENS

(Summary of Table III, opp. p. 124; PL. VII, VIII; Fig. 59, c)

Sixteen rabbit-warrens have been found on Dartmoor. The greatest concentration is in the upper Plym valley, where 86 pillow-mounds have been counted in five warrens, Legis Tor and Ditworthy (Sheepstor), Hen Tor, Willings Walls and Trowlesworthy (Shaugh Prior).

It is interesting to note that 14 of the warrens are in or close to areas of prehistoric settlement, the exceptions being Skaigh, South Tawton (PL. VIII, a), in the north, where there are few early remains, and Redlake Tramway (Ugborough), which was formed in recent times.

Documentary evidence for the warrens is sparse. A lease concerning the making of Vag hill warren (Widecombe-in-the-Moor) is dated 23 April 1613 and is by William earl of Bath to Richard Reynell esq. and Walter Fursland of Bickington gent.,

'concerning waste ground called Spitchwick Common lying between the river Dart on the west and south east, and from thence to Yartor on the north and from Yartor to Corndon Tor on the north and east to the west of Rowbrook hedge and so on to Logator on the East and so on to the river Dart with free liberty to make a warren there for the keeping breeding and killing of rabbits. And also if any rabbits go over the Dart to the commons there called Holne Commons . . . the said Richard and Walter may kill them. Rent 108.'

There is, however, no mention of the making of any mounds, and the problem of dating them remains to be solved.

Both William Crossing and R. Hansford Worth by inference imply that rabbit burys were well-known objects. Referring to Zeal Burrows (South Brent) Crossing warns the visitor against mistaking such mounds for prehistoric barrows. 'They are really old rabbit shelters . . . and mark the site of a former warren.' He also mentions that Trowlesworthy warren (Shaugh Prior) on the Plym is recorded in the 13th century and that in old documents relating to the forest the burys are recorded as a form of burrows. Unfortunately he gives no reference for these statements and so far they have not been traced to their source.

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17 Ibid., p. 242.
19 Exeter City Library Muniments, ref. 48/t4/40/9.
21 Ibid., p. 13.
The inhabitants of Dartmoor today certainly recognize the pillow-mounds as indicating the existence of rabbit-warrens, and indeed most of the mounds show clear signs of occupation by rabbits; they were no doubt in use by the rabbits until myxomatosis almost wiped them out. The farming of rabbits was at times an industry of considerable importance both for the food they provided and for their skins. Huntingdon warren (Lydford) on the Avon, and Ditsworthy warren, Sheepstor (Pl. viii, B) on the Plym have houses only recently abandoned; Ditsworthy latterly included the old warrens of Hen Tor and Willings Walls (Shaugh Prior) and Legis Tor (Sheepstor). Trowlesworthy (Shaugh Prior) is
still occupied as a farm, although the rabbits have gone. The final blow to the ancient trade came as recently as 2 February 1956, when Devon was declared a 'rabbit clearance area' by the County Council and the industry became illegal.

In an interesting article by Eric Hemery much information is given. He says that the industry was carried on until after the second world war. He mentions that rabbits were fetching 9d. or 10d. each in the early years of this century in Devonport and Plymouth markets, and he tells how 3-cwt. loads were carried down by pack-horse. During the second world war rabbit skins were selling for 1s. each; the warrener would deftly skin the rabbits for his customers, and then carry the pelts back home to be dried and tied into bundles of two dozen for collection by the furrier. Later in this century carts were used, but the trips to market remained a day of hard toil for the warrener and his family, as well as the high spot of the week.

Hemery gives more details of the earliest documentary evidence for Trowlesworthy warren (Shaugh Prior), although again no exact reference is stated. The date is 1292 and the document tells that Samson de Traylesworthie some time before that date had become lessee of land near the Plym; the grant was for additional land for a rabbit-warren. We cannot be sure that this Samson threw up mounds for his newly-introduced stock, but it seems likely that some such encouragement would be needed, especially in the boggy areas otherwise quite unsuited to burrowing animals.

The mounds vary greatly in size and shape. On Legis Tor (Sheepstor) there are huge mounds up to 130 ft. long by 24 ft. wide, measuring from the middle of the ditches which surround them. In places an old boundary-ditch and bank seem to have been reused to form a succession of long mounds with only a few feet between them to form a gap. On Vaghill, Widecombe-in-the-Moor (PL. vii, A), there are four circular mounds, 30 to 40 ft. in diameter, which are the only circular pillow-mounds so far found on Dartmoor. Examples on Sheepstor warren (Sheepstor) have revetted stonework 2 or 3 ft. high with a mound above; others with similar revetting have been recorded at Willings Walls (Shaugh Prior) and Ditsworthy, Sheepstor (PL. viii, B), both in the upper Plym valley. Some can barely be seen above the undergrowth, or only in the right light; others are quite upstanding, such as those on Sheepstor and in the Merrivale warren (Walkhampton) on the bank of the Walkham river, where their height is 4 or 5 ft.

Some at Merrivale are marked, wrongly I believe, as tumuli on the O.S. map. Several appear to have been dug into from the top. By their scattered distribution in an area of prehistoric and medieval settlement, they are more probably pillow-mounds. They are of an unusual oval shape, about 30 ft. long by 20 ft. wide, which perhaps explains their being mistaken for barrows. It is tempting to suggest an early date for this warren, as also for that at Yalland, South Brent (FIG. 59, c), because there are deserted long-houses close to some of the pillow-mounds. This could, however, be illusory, as the medieval buildings may belong

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31 E. Hemery, 'Rent Act has spelled doom to an ancient Dartmoor trade', Western Morning News, 3 Sept. 1956.
to a period before the warren existed. Excavation might assist in clarifying the issue.

Examples of warrens near quarrying and mining works are the Plym valley group, Merrivale warren (Walkhampton) near the Walkham valley tin-working, Huntingdon warren (Lydford) on the Avon, where there has been considerable mining, and Headland warren (North Bovey), near the Vitifer mines.

It is known that quite recently mounds were thrown up for food and sport for the workers at the Redlake and Leftlake Clay Works that lie between the heads of the Erme and Avon valleys. Crossing describes the works as long-deserted but they were reopened in this century, and the tramway, alongside which the mounds can be seen, was completed in 1911. The men stayed on the moor for weeks together in the summer, and no doubt the rabbits were an important asset. These modern mounds are of very rough construction and seem to be formed of waste material brought down the line from the workings; they show no surrounding ditch and are of varying sizes. One, near Spurrells Cross, has more the shape of a field silo, sloping down towards the end from which the material was dumped on the mound. There are five of these mounds near the track below Hangershell Rock and others along the way towards the clay works. The project failed after little more than 20 years.33

It is interesting to note that the tinner's emblem was three rabbits, arranged in a triangle, with only three ears between them. This can be seen in the medieval carved roof-bosses in several of the moorland churches, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, North Bovey and Chagford amongst them. Although the rabbit, together with the hare, was an earlier pagan fertility symbol, its adoption by the tin miners as their device suggests its importance to their economy in earlier times.

Worth mentions a species of rush, J. conglomeratus, as being especially luxuriant 'on the summits of the rabbit burries, which are mounds of peat soil raised to give dry conditions for the rabbit burrows. Similar instances occur elsewhere on the moor, so that it would appear that the opportunity afforded by light, well broken, peat soil, even when aerated by rabbit burrows, may outweigh the loss of moisture involved in such a roothold'.34 These rushes grow on the mounds in several of the warrens, including Ditsworthy (Sheepstor), Hentor and Trowlesworthy (Shaugh Prior). They stand up above the other herbage, and thus aid recognition from afar.

Stone-built vermin-traps have been recorded in several warrens. Worth notes a number of these,35 and more recently R. M. L. Cook gives details of such traps in south-west Dartmoor, mostly in the upper Plym valley. He has listed 58 traps and suggests a date 'not earlier than 1700' for their structure, because of their construction in the walls of tin-works of the 18th century.36 Worth suggests that the traps were already a thing of the past by the middle of the 19th century. He records a conversation with Mr. Richard Lavers, the warrener at Trowles-

33 Information supplied by Mr. H. L. Watkins, Ivybridge, from his personal contact with some of the workers concerned.
34 Op. cit. in note 5, p. 70.
worthy, who died in 1914 aged 94, who 'had heard the structures were vermin traps for the elimination of stoats, weasels and other small animals of prey; but he did not know how the traps were set'.37 No doubt the traps were no longer necessary when the shot-gun became a common acquisition, and the barbarous gin was used. The method of catching the rabbits was always by the use of a long net, with help from ferrets and dogs.

From all the evidence available locally, therefore, it can be confidently stated that, on Dartmoor, the pillow-mounds were constructed for the encouragement and habitation of rabbits in the warrens devoted to their breeding.

APPENDIX

CHALLACOMBE (MANATON)

The Challacombe village and lynchets are well known; the lynchets were studied and planned by Dr. A. H. Shorter before the last war.39 A few of the houses appear to have been long deserted, but others are quite upstanding, including one which is said to have been an inn. There was a considerable increase in population in the 18th and 19th centuries, when the Vitifer mines at Headland (North Bovey), further up the valley, were being worked. Today the modern farmhouse and two cottages which have been converted into another dwelling are all that remain of the village. Including these, there are 12 houses and a number of crofts on either side of an old track which goes north to Headland and beyond. A cross track in the centre of the village goes west on to Challacombe Down, and east over the stream towards another small site in front of a modern barn.40 Here one wall of a building and a croft remain, although it is possible that other houses lay under the barn. A track, known as the Challacombe Churchway, goes from this side of the valley across Blackaton land above Blackaton deserted village (Widecombe-in-the-Moor), beyond which it joins the Blackaton Churchway to pass over the shoulder of Hameldown to Widecombe-in-the-Moor.41 Although in Manaton parish, the people of Challacombe seem to have used the shorter route to Widecombe church, some two miles away; this is confirmed in the parish registers of Widecombe, in which there are numerous entries from Challacombe in the 18th and 19th centuries. The site has probably never been altogether deserted. The remains of the earlier houses indicate a considerable population, and a contraction, possibly at the same period as at sites already excavated (p. 119), can be suggested. A renewal of occupation occurred in connexion with the mining operations near by, followed by a partial abandonment when mining ceased.

Challacombe is probably the manor represented by the one virgate held 'by a certain knight Roger' from Nicholas the Crossbowman who held Buckland-in-the-Moor. Testa de Nevil, dated about 1244, shows Cherlecombe again held with Buckland-in-the-Moor for one fee.42 It has been suggested that this Cherlecombe was Challamoor in Buckland-in-the-Moor parish,43 but this seems unlikely, not only because of the difference in name, but because of its situation. In a document dated 1303, there is mention of 'one messuage one mill and three furlongs of land' in Churlecombe.44
Challamoor farm is on level ground where there is only a small stream. It appears a most unlikely place for a mill, whereas at Challacombe there is a good flow of water, where the remains of a blowing-mill can be seen above the village on the bank of the brook. This could have been the site of the mill mentioned in 1303. Challacombe has clearly been a place of some standing, whereas Challamoor seems to be a single homestead. The confusion may have occurred because Challacombe, though held with Buckland-in-the-Moor, was in the parish of Manaton.

Challacombe is also mentioned in a list of Fines Villarum dated 1504-5 headed Foreign Rents, which includes an entry 'Villat de Chalnecombe in parochia de Moneton VI d.'

**POSTSCRIPT**

Since the completion of this paper, Mr. R. G. Haynes of Plympton has brought to my notice a further seven deserted sites. These have been added to the gazetteer as a supplement (opp, p. 124), and the positions indicated on the distribution map (FIG. 47). In his unpublished 'Warrens on Dartmoor' Mr. Haynes has dealt with the warrens in detail and provided information on the field-systems and vermin-traps in the areas. In the Plym valley group, which is considered to comprise the oldest warrens, 160 pillow-mounds have been mapped, and in Huntingdon warren 80 mounds have been estimated. Evidence is given for regarding Merri Vale and Wistman's warrens as comparatively recent, and mention is also made of the Trowlesworthy document (pp. 139 and 141 f.), giving Risdon's *Survey of the County of Devon* as the reference. Professor E. Carus-Wilson has drawn my attention to references to rabbits on Lundy Island and the Isles of Scilly in the 12th century.

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45 Dartmoor Preservation Assoc. (1890), *Dartmoor*, p. 40.
46 The manuscript is in the Plymouth City Library.
47 Tristram Risdon, *Survey of the County of Devon*, published 1811 from an earlier manuscript copy, p. 392.