



# **Burcombe and Wester Emmetts, Exmoor: archaeological survey**



**Historic Environment Projects**



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<b>Client</b>	<b>Exmoor Mires Project</b>
<b>Report Number</b>	<b>2012R009</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>February 2012</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
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## **Acknowledgements**

This study was commissioned by Lee Bray, Historic Environment Officer for the Exmoor Mires Project, and carried out by Historic Environment (Projects), Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was Andy Jones.

The Exmoor Mires Project is funded by South West Water Ltd.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Historic Environment Projects and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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## **Cover illustration**

A standing stone on Wester Emmetts (Exmoor National Park HER MSO7144)

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## **Abbreviations**

CCHE	Historic Environment (Projects), Cornwall Council
CD	Compact disk
EH	English Heritage
EMP	Exmoor Mires Project
GPS	Global Positioning System
HEO	Historic Environment Officer, Exmoor Mires Project
HER	Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record

## **Summary**

A walkover survey was carried out on land at Burcombe and Wester Emmetts, Exmoor, in advance of proposed drainage ditch blocking works by the Exmoor Mires Project (EMP).

A total of 40 heritage assets were identified, the majority of which were associated with historic iron ore exploitation in the area. Other site types located included hollow ways, a variety of mounds and isolated stones. Accurate locations were recorded for a small number of previously known sites to enhance the Historic Environment Record.



# **1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Project background**

The Exmoor Mire Restoration Project is working to restore the healthy condition of many of the mires of Exmoor's moorlands by blocking drainage ditches dug as part of programmes of agricultural improvement in the past. This will be beneficial to the historic environment in preserving the palaeoenvironmental resource and buried artefactual material. However, the work also has the potential to damage, destroy or obscure archaeological features, directly or indirectly. To mitigate this threat walkover surveys are conducted on specific sites in advance of works in order to acquire as complete an understanding of the historic environment resource as possible and, with this information, guide the subsequent ditch blocking operations.

## **1.2 Location**

The survey project reported on here covered two adjacent areas of moorland, Burcombe and Wester Emmett, located to the south west of Simonsbath within Exmoor National Park. The Burcombe survey area was centred approximately on NGR SS 753 380 and that for Wester Emmetts at SS 744 380. The two areas are divided by a post and wire fence with access between them via a number of hunting gates.

## **1.3 Objectives**

The principal aim of the walkover archaeological survey in advance of works was to characterise, quantify and locate known and unknown heritage assets within the survey area.

## **1.4 Methodology**

The methodology for the walkover survey was specified in the brief for the project, prepared by the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) for the Exmoor Mires Project (Appendix 2).

### **1.4.1 Fieldwork**

The survey areas were specified on base mapping provided by the HEO in both paper form (Appendix 2) and loaded on the GPS unit used for recording during the survey. These provided the following data:

- Drainage ditches to be targeted for blocking. These totalled 5876m on Wester Emmetts and 6346m on Burcombe. (In final briefing by the HEO before fieldwork a small group of ditches on Burcombe, totalling approximately 800m, was taken out of the survey targets.)
- Traffic and access routes, totalling 6.9 ha.
- Areas defined as 'archaeologically sensitive', totalling 34.5 ha.
- Data from the Historic Environment Record detailing sites and features already known within the survey area.

The defined survey method was coverage of a zone 5m wide on each side of drainage ditches and full walkover coverage of the traffic and access and archaeologically sensitive areas. Features identified in the field within these areas were recorded according to a prescribed standard data set:

- A unique feature identifier, prefixed by EBC12 for sites on Burcombe, EWE12 for sites on Wester Emmetts.
- A 10-figure National Grid Reference.
- Monument type (following definitions in the English Heritage Thesaurus).
- Monument period (following English Heritage guidelines).

- Dimensions.
- GPS data in the form of points, lines or polygons.
- Description and interpretation, including dimensions of features.
- A sketch (for complex features).
- Photographs (referenced by individual feature identifier, survey area code, direction of photograph, date and contractor).

In addition, areas of erosion due to vehicle or animal disturbance were to be examined for artefacts (principally lithic scatters). Any finds were to be collected, bagged and labelled and the locations recorded, and subsequently passed to the HEO.

Drainage ditches and areas of past peat cutting were specifically excluded from the remit of the survey by the project brief.

#### **1.4.2 Post-fieldwork**

The following deliverables were specified in the project brief:

- Digital files containing GPS data.
- A summary of heritage assets in the form of an Excel spreadsheet.
- A report on the project.
- A digital photographic archive on CD, with an index incorporated into the gazetteer of identified heritage assets (Appendix 1).

## 2 Results

The walkover survey was carried out during the period 16-18 January 2012. Weather conditions on 16-17 January were cold and bright; low temperatures made for easier walking on the part-frozen moorland surface but made examination of exposed peat surfaces difficult because they were masked by ice. Conditions on 18 January were much warmer but visibility was poor and the moorland surface extremely wet, again making close examination of eroded and exposed surfaces difficult. In the event no artefact finds were made during the survey.

### 2.1 Gazetteer of identified heritage assets

#### **EBC12 1 SS 75758 37735 Mound Medieval / post medieval**

An oval mound, approximately 5-6m across, up to 0.4m high and flat topped. No adjacent cuts or ditches were apparent. The earthwork is located on the axis of mound 2 and may be an extension of it, the two features together perhaps representing spoil from relatively early prospecting trenches which have silted or infilled through peat growth. Alternatively, and perhaps more probably, these features may be associated with the nearby Blue Gate mine, active between c 1853 and World War I (HER MMO602).



*EBC12 1  
looking SE (1m scale)*



**EBC12 2 SS 75767 37758 Mound Medieval / post medieval**

A linear mound or bank aligned NE-SW, 18m long, up to 3.5m wide and 0.25m high, with an irregular surface. There are occasional hollows up to 1m wide along the sides of the feature but no clear ditches; it is possible, however, that this represents spoil from a prospecting trench of an earlier phase than most of the others in the area, and that the original cut has been infilled through silting or peat growth. Alternatively, and perhaps more probably, these features may be associated with the nearby Blue Gate mine, active between c 1853 and World War I (HER MMO602). The feature is aligned on, and may be a continuation of, mound 1.



*EBC12 2  
looking NE (1m scale)*

**EBC12 3 SS 75781 37745 Mound Medieval / post medieval**

A linear mound approximately 32m long and 5m wide and up to 0.2m high, oriented SSW-NNE. There is no clear indication of an accompanying cut, from which the spoil may have come, but as with the nearby features 1 and 2, it is possible that it represents spoil from a relatively early prospecting trench which has subsequently infilled through silting or peat growth. Alternatively, and perhaps more probably, these features may be associated with the nearby Blue Gate mine, active between c 1853 and World War I (HER MMO602).



*EBC12 3  
looking E (1m scale)*

**EBC12 4 SS 75799 37774 Mound Medieval / post medieval**

A linear mound, oriented SSW-NNE and probably a continuation of mound 3. The feature is 18m long, up to 4m wide and 0.3m high. As with other similar features in the area, this may represent spoil from a relatively early prospecting trench which has infilled through silting or peat growth. Alternatively, and perhaps more probably, these features may be associated with the nearby Blue Gate mine, active between c 1853 and World War I (HER MMO602).



*EBC12 4  
looking NE (1m scale)*

**EBC 12 5 SS 75774 37899 Extractive pit Post medieval**

A water and vegetation filled linear cut approximately 30m long, aligned N-S. It is of variable width, up to 4.5m but mostly narrower. There is a linear spoil dump on the downslope (east) side 3.5m wide and up to 0.7m high. The spoil heap is cut by an east – west feature, probably a drainage ditch, close to its northern end. Despite the width of the linear cut the presence of spoil suggests that this is not a peat cutting; the limited quantity of spoil, however, indicates a prospecting trench rather than a small openwork. It is likely to be of post-medieval date, probably associated with the nearby Blue Gate mine, active between c 1853 and World War I (HER MMO602).



*EBC12 5  
looking N (1m scale)*



**EBC12 6 SS 75766 37871 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A water and vegetation filled linear cut 15m long and generally about 1m wide, aligned N-S. A spoil bank on the eastern (downslope) side is approximately 2.5m wide and 0.4m high. This is probably a post-medieval prospecting trench associated with the nearby Blue Gate mine, active between c 1853 and World War I (HER MMO602).



*EBC12 6  
looking SE (1m scale)*

**EBC12 7 SS 75820 37831 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A sub-circular hollow approximately 3m in diameter cut into the upper part of the slope at the head of Drybridge Combe. Discrete spoil heaps up to 0.5m high lie to the E and SW. The feature is likely to be post medieval in date but it is unclear whether it represents a small quarry or, more probably, was associated with adjacent iron ore workings.



*EBC12 7  
looking S (1m scale)*



**EBC12 8 SS 75834 37851 Ditch**

**Post medieval**

A probable drainage ditch following the N side of the combe. It is cut by, and therefore pre-dates, the iron workings recorded by HER MSO7065, 12534.



*EBC12 8  
looking SE (1m scale)*

**EBC12 9 SS 75707 38407 Stone**

**Unknown**

Two large stones are exposed by erosion in the base of a drainage ditch; one lies partly under the adjacent spoil bank. Both stones are approximately 1m long. There is no indication that these stones are anything but natural but few other large stones are apparent in the vicinity.



*EBC12 9  
looking W (1m scale)*



**EBC12 10 SS 75495 38538 Stone**

**Unknown**

A large stone protrudes from the surface peat and vegetation, approximately 1.2m by 1m by 0.3m high.



*EBC12 10  
looking E (1m scale)*

**EBC12 11 SS 75207 38517 Stone**

**Unknown**

A large stone protrudes from the surface peat and vegetation, approximately 1.2m on its longest side and 0.6m high.



*EBC12 11  
looking N (1m scale)*

**EBC12 12 SS 75126 38488 Stone**

**Unknown**

A stone up to 0.8m on its longest side and 0.5m high protrudes from surface peat and vegetation on a NW-facing scarp.



*EBC12 12  
looking E (1m scale)*

**EBC12 13 SS 75379 38035 Mound**

**Post medieval**

A molinia-covered sub-rectangular mound approximately 10m by 7m and up to 0.35m high, with a central hollowed area approximately 0.15m deep. The mound continues to the W with no hollowing apparent. There are peat cuttings adjacent to the SE and N and this may have been a drying or storage area but is also conceivably an area left high by the removal of adjacent peat.



*EBC12 13  
looking SE (1m scale)*



**EBC12 14 SS 75292 37950 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A water and vegetation filled openwork more than 70m long and up to 3m wide lies on the E side of and parallel to the trackway known as the Two Moors Way. It is flanked by linear spoil dumps of broken rock up to 1.6m high on both the NE and SW sides. There are also some discrete spoil heaps, separate from the linear dumps, to each side of the openwork, perhaps representing different phases of work. The feature is likely to be post medieval and may have been part of the Roman Lode iron mining complex to the north at Cornham Ford (HER MSO6804, MSO6812): the late nineteenth-century 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6in: 1 mile map shows various earthworks in the combe north of this site and labels them 'Iron Mine (Disused)'.



*EBC12 14  
looking SE (1m scale)*

**EBC12 15 SS 75266 37975 Stone**

**Unknown**

A quartz-rich stone 0.5m by 0.3m by 0.2m high, currently earth-set. This lies adjacent to the spoil from openwork 14 and may derive from it but could also be an earlier earth-set feature on the site.



*EBC12 15  
looking N (1m scale)*



**EBC12 16 SS 75243 37982 Culvert**

**Post medieval**

A culvert approximately 10m long carries water from the lower end of openwork 14 under the track now followed by the Two Moors Way. It appears to be constructed with a dry-stone central pillar supporting substantial flat-laid slabs carrying the track across the drain.



*EBC12 16  
looking E (1m scale)*

**EBC12 17 SS 75236 37998 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A water and vegetation filled linear cut 10-12m long and up to 3m wide aligned NE - SW, with a spoil heap up to 0.8m high downslope to the N. Although a discrete feature this appears to be a continuation of the works associated with openwork 14, to the axis of which it is approximately perpendicular.



*EBC12 17  
looking N (1m scale)*

**EBC12 18 SS 75207 37934 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A sub-rectangular hollow 4m by 3m with a spoil heap approximately 5m by 4m and up to 0.9m high on its upslope (southern) side.



*EBC12 18  
looking E (1m scale)*

**EBC 12 19 SS 75199 37951 Hollow way**

**Post medieval**

A hollowed track 4-5m wide and up to 0.6m deep is aligned E-W and appears to be directed towards (or away from) the area of extractive workings represented by features 14 and 29. It fades at the head of the slope to the W.



*EBC12 19  
looking W (1m scale)*



**EBC12 20 SS 75185 37960 Mound**

**Unknown**

A small oviform mound up to 0.4m high and measuring approximately 2m by 1.75m. There is no visible ditch or adjacent cut.

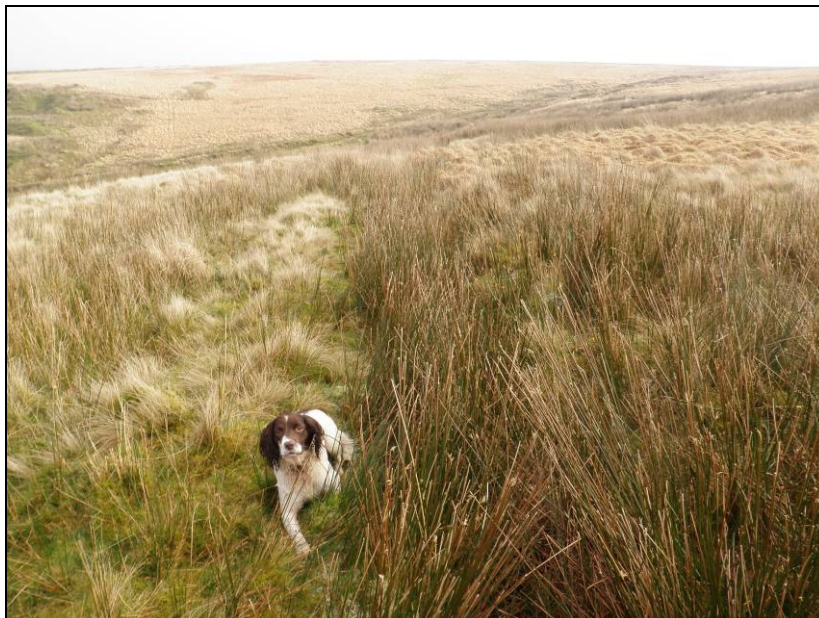


*EBC12 20  
looking S (1m scale)*

**EBC12 21 SS 75150 37981 Hollow way**

**Post medieval**

A linear hollow 2-2.5m wide, aligned E-W. It resembles a former routeway but a ditch now drains into it and it may simply be an enlarged drainage ditch.



*EBC12 21  
looking E*

**EBC 12 22 SS 75140 37886 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A linear cut approximately 35m long and 1m wide aligned N-S, flanked by spoil banks up to 3.5m wide and 0.4m high to E and W. This is probably a post-medieval prospecting trench. The southern end of the feature (EBC12 31) has been partly slighted by a modern vehicle route across the open moor. [HER MMO2949, previously recorded from air photographs.]



*EBC12 22  
looking N (1m scale)*

**EBC12 23 SS 74878 37901 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A substantial cut aligned NW-SE into the head of the slope close to the head of a combe. The cut is up to 1.5m deep with spoil dumps up to 1m high on its SW and NW (downslope) sides. The earthworks cover an area about 15m by 11m. It is unclear whether this feature represents a small post-medieval quarry or was associated with iron ore prospecting or extraction.



*EBC12 23  
looking NE (1m scale)*



**EBC12 24 SS 74874 37923 Hollow way**

**Post medieval**

A group of hollowed and terraced tracks around the head of a combe. One lies N-S and runs across the face of the side of the combe as a terraced way, with another crossing the head of the combe E-W and perhaps serving feature 23. The tracks vary from 2m to 7m wide.



*EBC12 24  
looking W*

**EBC12 25 SS 74842 38315 Extractive pit Medieval / post medieval**

A tight cluster of 6-7 pits and associated spoil dumps cut into the break of slope at the head of the steep descent to the valley bottom. The pits are up to 4-5m by 3m, with some smaller; the downslope spoil heaps are up to 0.75m high. Some spoil dumps appear to partly overlie earlier pits and there are probably several phases of working. These pits are on the axis of the Roman Lode, clearly visible on the facing hillslope, and disturbance can be seen to continue downslope towards it beyond the area surveyed. [Part of HER MSO6804.]



*EBC12 25  
looking SE (Roman  
Lode in left middle  
distance)*

**EBC12 26 SS 74823 38321 Extractive pit Medieval / post medieval**

A pit, upslope from but probably part of feature 25. The pit is 2m across with a low spoil dump downslope. [Part of HER MSO6804.]



*EBC12 26  
looking NW (1m scale)*

**EWE12 27 SS 74585 38380 Standing stone**

**Prehistoric**

[HER MSO7144. Recorded to provide a more precise location than the existing HER record.]



*EWE12 27  
looking NW (1m scale)*



**EWE12 28 SS 74731 37907 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A linear cut approximately 15m long aligned E-W. It was probably originally 1-1.5m wide but is now substantially silted or infilled. Spoil has been cast downslope to the N, forming a bank 4m wide and up to 0.4m high. The stony nature of the spoil suggests that this working cut into bedrock.



*EWE12 28  
looking SE (1m scale)*

**EBC12 29 SS 75342 37871 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A substantial openwork approximately 50m long and 2-3m wide aligned N-S, with linear spoil dumps to E and W up to 0.75m high. Two areas of widening in the openwork may represent later shafts cut into it. Water from the N end of the feature is carried by a culvert under the historic track now followed by the Two Moors Way. The feature is likely to be post medieval and was possibly part of the iron mining complex to the north at Cornham Ford (HER MSO6812): the late nineteenth-century 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6in: 1 mile map shows various earthworks in the combe north of this site and labels them 'Iron Mine (Disused)'.



*EBC12 29  
looking NE (1m scale)*



**EBC12 30 SS 75363 37895 Ditch Post medieval / 20th century**

A ditch 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep with linear spoil banks on both sides up to 0.4m high. The ditch apparently drains surface water from the Two Moors Way and may be modern - other similar ditches draining the track were noted to the south - but its position immediately to the south of a cluster of extractive features adjacent to the track raises the possibility that it was intended to prevent water running into the working area and may therefore be contemporary with it.



*EBC12 30  
looking N (1m scale)*

**EBC12 31**

(The GPS polygon EBC12 31 represents the damaged southern extent of EBC12 22.)

**EWE12 32 SS 74706 37835 Extractive pit Post medieval**

A water-filled linear cut 7-8m long and up to 2.5m wide with a low spoil mound to the NE approximately 5m wide and up to 0.2m high. The feature is probably associated with iron ore working and of post-medieval date.



*EWE12 32  
looking N (1m scale)*

**EWE12 33 SS 74404 37678 Clearance cairn**

**? Prehistoric**

A small irregular mound approximately 1.2m in diameter and 0.15m high. It is covered by grass and moss but probing suggests some stone in its make up, suggesting a possible clearance cairn. If this interpretation is correct the feature may be of prehistoric origin. It is located within an area at least 40m by 25m free from molinia; this may be a consequence of differences in drainage but could conceivably relate to past disturbance or differences in land use.

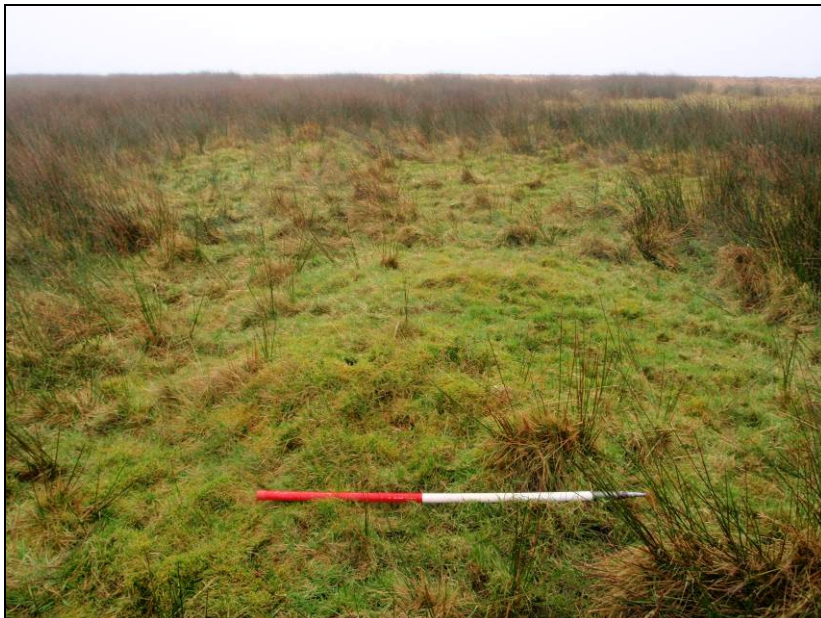


*EWE12 33  
looking SE (1m scale)*

**EWE12 34 SS 74380 37661 Mound**

**Unknown**

A vegetation-covered mound 3m in diameter and 0.2m high. No stone is apparent in the make up and the origin of the feature is unclear.



*EWE12 34  
looking SE (1m scale)*



**EWE12 35 SS 74284 37775 Hollow way Medieval / post medieval**

A hollowed track 3-4m wide running NW-SE and terraced into the slope, crossing the head of a combe (see also feature 41).



*EWE12 35  
looking SE (1m scale)*

**EWE12 36 SS 73731 37715 Mound**

**Unknown**

A mound up to 0.1m high and 2.5m in diameter. One side is cut by a drainage ditch, which it therefore pre-dates.



*EWE12 36  
looking SE (1m scale)*

**EWE12 37 SS 74158 38049 Peat deposit**

**Unknown**

A buried peat deposit interleaved with gravel layers, together up to approximately 0.85-1m deep, exposed by stream erosion in the bottom of a combe.



*EWE12 37  
looking SW*

**EWE12 38 SS 74141 38076 Extractive pit**

**Post medieval**

A substantial cut with accompanying spoil heaps aligned E-W excavated into the bottom of the west-facing slope of the combe. The cut reveals and appears to have explored around a natural rock outcrop; spoil is predominantly to the north. It seems probable that this feature is associated with post-medieval iron ore working but there is no indication of an adit opening at the upslope end of the cut and it is uncertain whether it represents extraction or prospecting. The spoil heaps are up to about 1m high and the earthworks extend over an area approximately 20m E-W by 10m N-S.



*EWE12 38  
looking NE*



**EWE12 39 SS 74172 38119 Standing stone**

**Prehistoric**

An upright stone 0.1m by 0.05m and 0.2m high. [HER MSO10348. Recorded to provide a more precise location than the present HER record.]



*EWE12 39  
looking N*

**EWE12 40 SS 74306 37984 Potential monitoring site**

A large dendritic gully system on the eastern side of the lower part of a combe has created a substantial area of exposed and eroding peat. No finds were retrieved from these exposures during the survey, although time and conditions did not allow a comprehensive examination to be made of all surfaces. However, an eroding site of this scale would allow ongoing monitoring for lithics or other artefacts in a specific topographical locale and might therefore offer better opportunities for data collection on past human activity than is provided by chance collection from smaller exposures elsewhere.

**EWE12 41 SS 74359 37783 Hollow way Medieval / post medieval**

A hollow way 4m wide and 0.2m deep, continuing the line of hollow way 35 across the head of the combe. The linking portion between them has been removed by water erosion and the hollow way itself now functions as a watercourse.



*EWE12 41  
looking W (1m scale)*

### 3 Discussion

The walkover survey of Burcombe and Wester Emmetts identified a total of 39 discrete historic environment features (Table 1). Of these, 28 were located within Burcombe, the remainder in Wester Emmetts. Five of these sites were already incorporated, explicitly or implicitly, in the Historic Environment Record. They included prospecting trench EBC12 22 and standing stones EWE12 27 and 39; the locations of these were recorded accurately during the survey in order to improve the existing location details in the HER (one site was mislocated by about 40m). Extractive pits EBC12 25 and 26 fell within a large HER polygon recording iron ore extraction on Roman Lode (MSO6804) but were similarly recorded to provide accurate locations and descriptive information for these features at the far western extent of visible activity on this axis. The project brief excluded ditches as targets for the survey but two exceptions were made (EBC12 8, EBC12 30) because in each case there was a possible chronological relationship with adjacent extractive activity.

The most significant outcome of the walkover survey was arguably the recognition of a wider geographical distribution of features related to the exploitation of iron ore in this part of Exmoor than was previously recorded. A variety of prospecting trenches, openworks and other extractive features were located and make it clear that activity spread well beyond the known foci south east of the survey area in the Blue Gate mining area (MMO602), in Drybridge Combe to the east (MMO462, MSO6936, MSO7065, etc) and on Roman Lode to the north east (MSO6804). Further survey in the areas of Burcombe and Wester Emmetts outside the present project may produce further evidence.

**Table 1 Features recorded during the walkover survey**

Standing stones	2
Other surface stones	5
Mounds (indeterminate function)	6
Ditches	2
Peat deposit	1
Hollow ways	5
Features related to iron ore extraction	
Prospecting trenches	4
Possible prospecting	4
Openworks	2
Indeterminate	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

There was some indication of time depth on the extractive sites. Four adjacent linear mounds lacking obvious cuts (EBC12 1-4) may represent prospecting works relatively early in the historic sequence, with the assumed associated trenches having infilled from silting or peat formation. Alternatively, they may simply have been backfilled. A cluster of extraction pits at the western extent of Roman Lode has been suggested as dating to the early phase of its working, perhaps medieval or early post medieval (Riley and Wilson North 2001, 112). Most of the prospecting trenches and accompanying spoil heaps (other than EBC12 1-4) were relatively clearly defined and may derive from the phase of iron ore extraction known to have taken place in the wider area in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (*cf* HER MSO6804, 6936; MMO602; Riley and Wilson North 2001, 147, 148). Two shafts appear to have been cut into one of the



openworks identified (EBC12 29) and discrete spoil heaps outside the flanking linear spoil banks on the adjacent openwork EBC12 14 similarly suggest more than one phase of working. Culverts (EBC12 16, 29) carrying water from these openworks under the Two Moors Way and a nearby ditch (EBC12 30) suggest some degree of formal management of surface water on the site, either contemporary with the workings or subsequently.

Several hollow ways were recorded and some at least of these are likely to have been associated with exploitation of iron ore resources. Hollow way EBC12 19, for example, is aligned on the northern end of the openworks complex around the Two Moors Way (features EBC12 14 and 29); extractive pit EBC12 23 may have been served by adjacent hollow way EBC12 24.

As noted above, accurate locations were acquired for two known standing stones (EWE12 27, 39) and several other isolated stones were recorded (EBC12 9-12, 15). None of the latter clearly represents a 'monument' of anthropogenic origin. They may nonetheless be of interest: further inspection may indicate that these stones have fallen or have been broken, and future work in the area may identify other stones which aid recognition of a wider pattern. It may also be that in a landscape in which substantial stones appear to be fairly rare, the locations of these stones, even if their current locations are entirely natural, may have had significance for past peoples.

Other features identified include a number of small and relatively amorphous mounds (EBC12 13, 20; EWE12 33, 34, 36). One of these (EWE12 33) incorporated stony material in its make up and could conceivably represent a clearance cairn, now overgrown by moorland vegetation. The origin of most of the other mounds is uncertain and it is possible that some are natural.

One peat deposit (EWE12 37) was observed apparently of greater depth than the general peat coverage across the area. This may offer a resource for future palaeoenvironmental sampling. In addition, a substantial dendritic gully system close to the base of a combe in Wester Emmetts (EWE12 40) could conceivably offer potential for long-term monitoring for the presence of artefactual material.

In addition to the sites noted in the gazetteer of identified heritage assets (above) it should be noted that the trackway now followed by the Two Moors Way is also an historic feature, forming part of a routeway running south from Lynton and Lynmouth across the former Royal Forest. The track was shown on the late nineteenth century 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6in: 1 mile map and is likely to have been used in association with the iron mining complex around Cornham Ford.

## 4 References

### 4.1 Primary sources

Ordnance Survey, 1st edition 6-inch map c 1889 (digital copy of mapping for survey area provided by HEO for reference purposes)

Ordnance Survey, 2007. Mastermap digital mapping (provided under licence by Exmoor National Park Authority for the purposes of the project)

### 4.2 Publications

Riley, H, and Wilson-North, R, 2001. *The field archaeology of Exmoor*, Swindon (English Heritage)

### 4.3 Websites

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk) (Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record)

## 5 Project archive

The HE project number is **2012001**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. GIS files stored in the directory L:\Historic Environment (Data)\HE\_Projects\Exmoor\Exmoor\_Mires\_Restoration\_2012001
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\Sites Exmoor\Exmoor Mires Project Survey 2012001\survey photographs
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-118510

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Exmoor\Exmoor Mires survey Burcombe and Wester Emmetts 2012001\Exmoor Mires, Burcombe and Wester Emmetts survey 2012001 report.doc

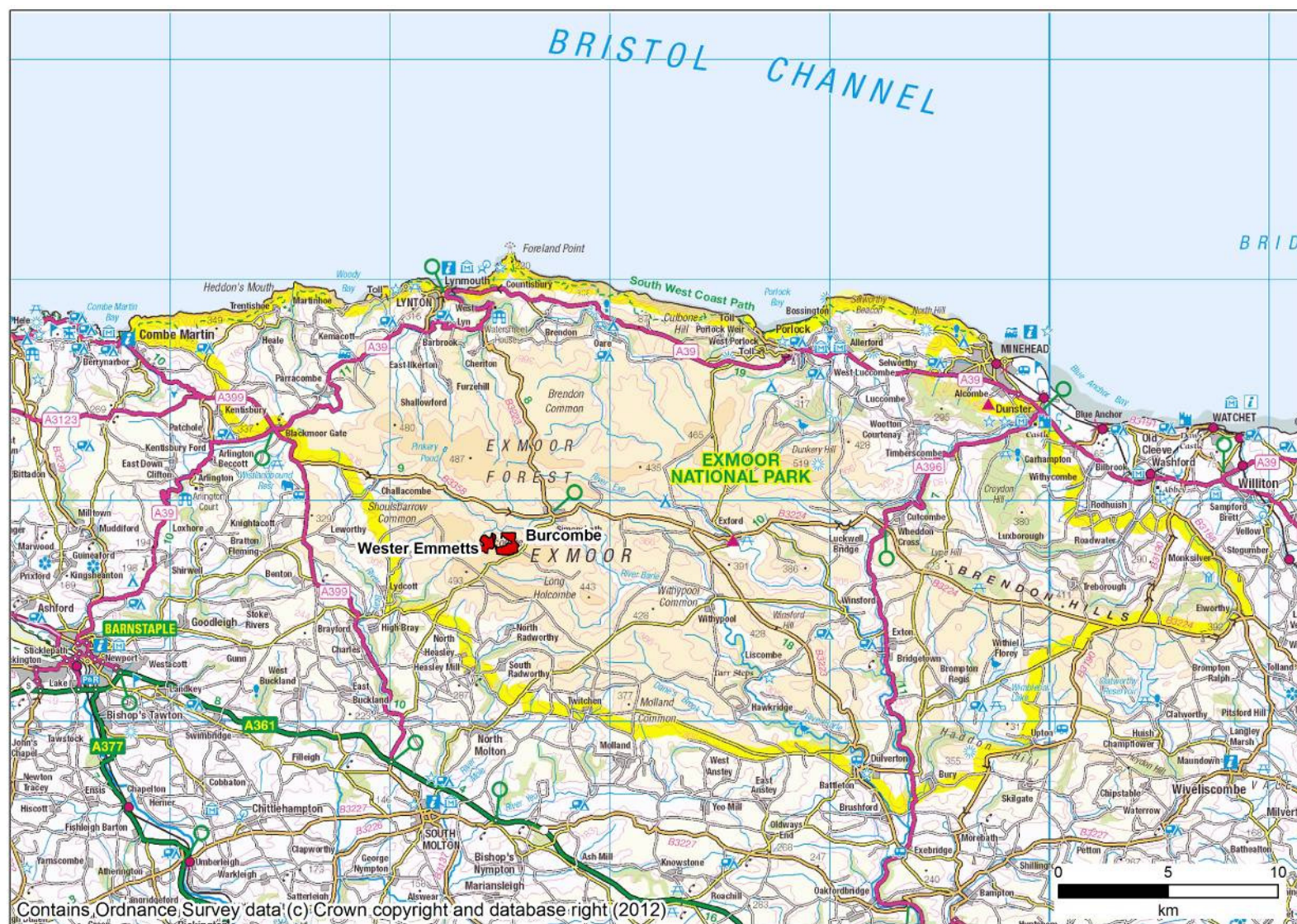


Fig 1 The survey areas: location

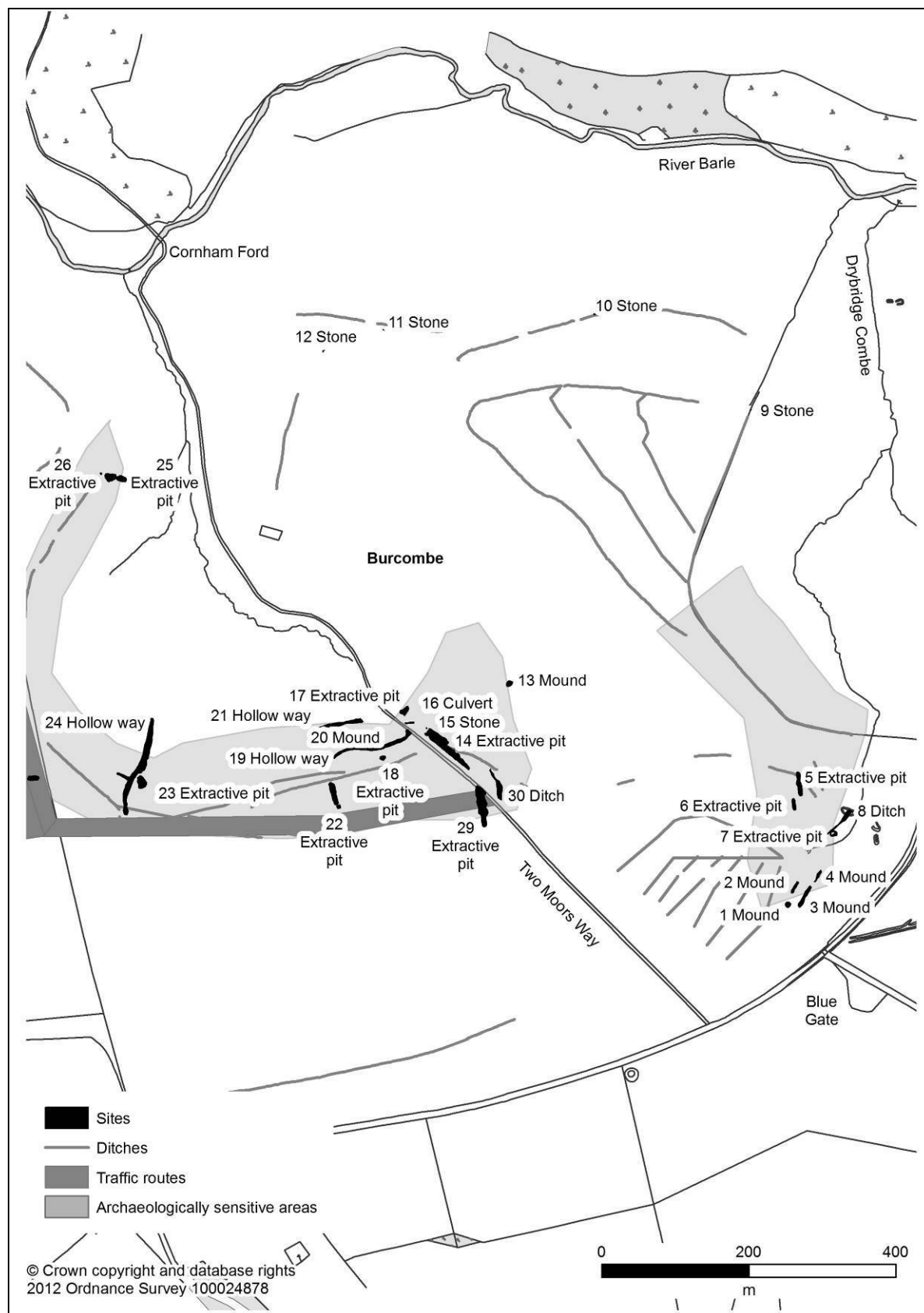


Fig 2 Heritage assets identified in the Burcombe (EBC12) survey area (section 2.1)

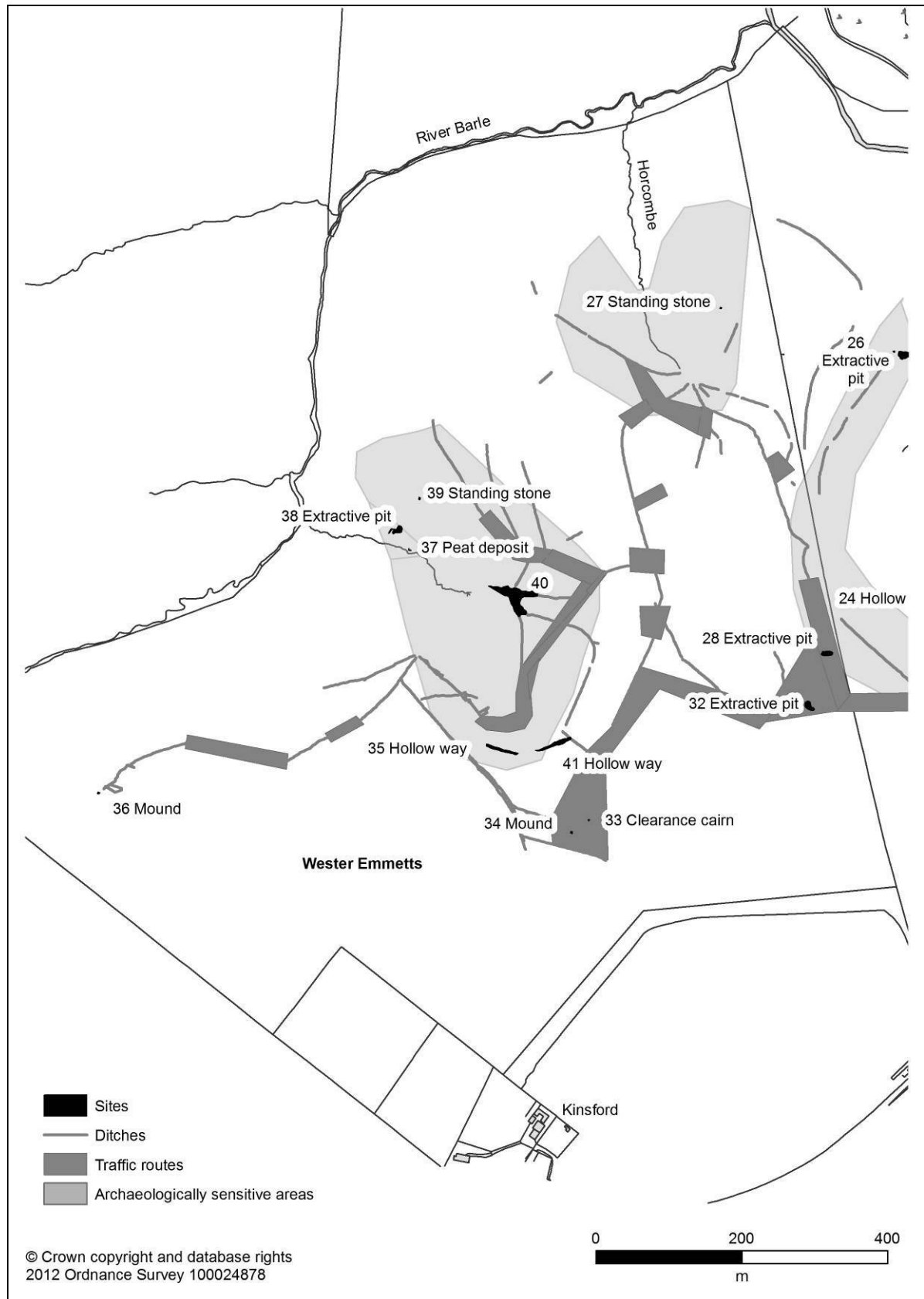


Fig 3 Heritage assets identified in the Wester Emmetts (EWE12) survey area (section 2.1)

## 6 Appendices

### Appendix 1 Identified heritage assets and index of photographs

**NB.** Full descriptions of features are given in section 2.1 of this report.

Site code	Site no	Easting	Northing	Feature type	Period	Description	Photo ID (including orientation)
EBC 12	1	275758	137735	MOUND	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	An oval mound, approx 5-6m across, up to 0.4m high and flat topped. Possible spoil from infilled prospecting trench.	EBC12_1_SE_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	2	275767	137758	MOUND	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	A linear mound or bank, aligned NE-SW, 18m long, up to 3.5m wide and 0.25m high with an irregular surface. Possible spoil from infilled prospecting trench. On same orientation as mound 1.	EBC12_2_NE_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	3	275781	137745	MOUND	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	A linear mound approximately 32m long and 5m wide and up to 0.2m high, oriented SSW-NNE. Possible spoil from infilled prospecting trench.	EBC12_3_E_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	4	275799	137774	MOUND	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	A linear mound, oriented SSW-NNE and probably a continuation of mound 3. The feature is 18m long, up to 4m wide and 0.3m high. Possible spoil from infilled prospecting trench.	EBC12_4_NE_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	5	275774	137899	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A linear cut approximately 30m long, aligned N-S. It is of variable width up to 4.5m, but mostly narrower. There is a linear spoil dump on the downslope side 3.5m wide and up to 0.7m high. Probable post-medieval prospecting trench.	EBC12_5_SE_16-1-2012-CCHE; EBC12_5_N_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	6	275766	137871	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A linear cut 15m long and generally about 1m wide, aligned N-S. A spoil bank on the eastern (downslope) side is approximately 2.5m wide and 0.4m high. Probably a post-medieval prospecting trench.	EBC12_6_SE_16-1-2012-CCHE



<b>Site code</b>	<b>Site no</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Photo ID (including orientation)</b>
EBC 12	7	275820	137831	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A sub-circular hollow approximately 3m in diameter cut into the upper part of the slope at the head of Drybridge Combe. Discrete spoil heaps up to 0.5m high lie to the E and SW. Probable post-medieval quarry or iron ore working.	EBC12_7_S_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	8	275834	137851	DITCH	POST MEDIEVAL	A probable drainage ditch following the N side of the combe. It is cut by and therefore pre-dates the iron workings recorded by HER MSO7065.	EBC12_8_SE_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	9	275707	138407	STONE	UNKNOWN	Two large stones exposed by erosion in the base of a drainage ditch; one lies partly under the adjacent spoil bank. Both stones are approximately 1m long.	EBC12_9_W_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	10	275495	138538	STONE	UNKNOWN	A large stone, approx 1.2m by 1m by 0.3m high.	EBC12_10_E_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	11	275207	138517	STONE	UNKNOWN	A large stone, approx 1.2m by 0.6m high.	EBC12_11_N_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	12	275126	138488	STONE	UNKNOWN	A large stone up to 0.8m and 0.5m high.	EBC12_12_E_16-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	13	275379	138035	MOUND	POST MEDIEVAL	A sub-rectangular mound approximately 10m by 7m and up to 0.35m high, with a central hollowed area approximately 0.15m deep. The mound continues to the W with no hollowing apparent. Possibly associated with or derived from adjacent peat cutting.	EBC12_13_SE_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	14	275292	137950	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	An openwork more than 70m long and up to 3m wide, flanked by linear spoil dumps of broken rock up to 1.6m high.	EBC12_14_SE_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	15	275266	137975	STONE	UNKNOWN	A quartz-rich stone 0.5m by 0.3m by 0.2m high.	EBC12_15_N_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	16	275243	137982	CULVERT	POST MEDIEVAL	A culvert approximately 10m long carries water from the lower end of openwork 14 under the Two Moors Way.	EBC12_16_E_17-1-2012-CCHE

<b>Site code</b>	<b>Site no</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Photo ID (including orientation)</b>
EBC 12	17	275236	137998	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A linear cut 10-12m long and up to 3m wide aligned NE - SW, with a spoil heap up to 0.8m high dpwslope to the N.	EBC12_17_N_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	18	275207	137934	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A sub-rectangular hollow 4m by 3m with a spoil heap approximately 5m by 4m and up to 0.9m high on its upslope (southern) side.	EBC12_18_E_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	19	275199	137951	HOLLOW WAY	POST MEDIEVAL	A hollowed track 4-5m wide and up to 0.6m deep aligned E-W.	EBC12_19_W_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	20	275185	137960	MOUND	UNKNOWN	Small oviform mound up to 0.4m high and measuring approximately 2m by 1.75m.	EBC12_20_S_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	21	275150	137981	HOLLOW WAY	POST MEDIEVAL	A hollowed trackway 2-2.5m wide, aligned E-W.	EBC12_21_E_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	22	275140	137886	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A linear cut approximately 35m long and 1m wide aligned N-S, flanked by spoil banks up to 3.5m wide and 0.4m high to E and W. Probably a post-medieval prospecting trench.	EBC12_22_N_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	23	274878	137901	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A cut aligned NW-SE into the head of the slope close to the head of a combe. The cut is up to 1.5m deep with spoil dumps up to 1m high on its SW and NW (downslope) sides. The earthworks cover an area about 15m by 11m. Possible quarry or iron ore working.	EBC12_23_NE_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	24	274874	137923	HOLLOW WAY	POST MEDIEVAL	A group of hollowed and terraced tracks around the head of a combe, from 2-7m wide.	EBC12_24_NE_17-1-2012-CCHE; EBC12_24_W_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	25	274842	138315	EXTRACTIVE PIT	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	A cluster of 6-7 pits and associated spoil dumps. The pits are up to 4-5m by 3m, with some smaller, with spoil heaps downslope up to 0.75m. Part of Roman Lode [Part of HER MSO6804.]	EBC12_25_W_17-1-2012-CCHE; EBC12_25_SE_17-1-2012-CCHE



Site code	Site no	Easting	Northing	Feature type	Period	Description	Photo ID (including orientation)
EBC 12	26	274823	138321	EXTRACTIVE PIT	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	Pit 2m across with a low spoil dump downslope. [Part of HER MSO6804.]	EBC12_26_NW_17-1-2012-CCHE
EWE12	27	274585	138380	STANDING STONE	PREHISTORIC	[HER MSO7144. Recorded for more precise location than provided by the present HER record.]	EBC12_27_NW_17-1-2012-CCHE
EWE12	28	274731	137907	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A linear cut approximately 15m long aligned E-W with spoil bank downslope to the N 4m wide and up to 0.4m high.	EBC12_28_SE_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	29	275342	137871	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	Openwork, approx 50m long and 2-3m wide aligned N-S, with linear spoil dumps to E and W sides up to 0.75m high.	EBC12_29_S_17-1-2012-CCHE; EBC12_29_NE_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	30	275363	137895	DITCH	POST MEDIEVAL / 20TH CENTURY	A ditch 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep with linear spoil banks on both sides up to 0.4m high.	EBC12_30_N_17-1-2012-CCHE
EBC 12	31	275147	137868			See EBC12 22	
EWE12	32	274706	137835	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	A linear cut 7-8m long and up to 2.5m wide with spoil to the NE approximately 5m wide and up to 0.2m high.	EBC12_32_N_18-01-2012_CCHE
EWE12	33	274404	137678	CLEARANCE CAIRN	UNKNOWN	A small irregular mound approximately 1.2m in diameter and 0.15m high; some stone in make up.	EBC12_33_SE_18-01-2012_CCHE
EWE12	34	274380	137661	MOUND	UNKNOWN	A mound 3m in diameter and 0.2m high.	EBC12_34_SE_18-01-2012_CCHE
EWE12	35	274284	137775	HOLLOW WAY	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	A hollowed track 3-4m wide running NW-SE and terraced into the slope.	EBC12_35_SE_18-01-2012_CCHE
EWE12	36	273731	137715	MOUND	UNKNOWN	A mound up to 0.1m high and 2.5m in diameter.	EBC12_36_SE_18-01-2012_CCHE

<b>Site code</b>	<b>Site no</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Photo ID (including orientation)</b>
EWE12	37	274158	138049	Peat deposit	UNKNOWN	A buried peat deposit interleaved with gravel layers, together up to approximately 0.85-1m deep.	EBC12_37_SW_18-01-2012_CCHE
EWE12	38	274141	138076	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST MEDIEVAL	Cut with spoil heaps to 1m high aligned E-W in bottom of west-facing slope of combe. The cut is aligned on and appears to explore around the margins of a natural rock outcrop. The earthworks extend over an area approx 20m E-W and 10m N-S.	EBC12_38_NE_18-01-2012_CCHE
EWE12	39	274172	138119	STANDING STONE	PREHISTORIC	An upright stone 0.1m by 0.05m and 0.2m high. [HER MSO10348. Recorded for more precise location than provided by the present HER record.]	EBC12_39_N_18-01-2012_CCHE
EWE12	40	274306	137984	POTENTIAL MONITORING SITE		Extensive peat exposure along margins of gully system. May provide extended opportunity for monitoring artefacts eroding from peat	
EWE12	41	274359	137783	HOLLOW WAY	MEDIEVAL / POST MEDIEVAL	A holloway 4m wide and 0.2m deep, continuing the line of holloway 35.	EBC12_41_W_18-01-2012_CCHE

## **Appendix 2 Project brief**

The following project brief was supplied by the Exmoor Mires Project HEO in advance of Cornwall Council Historic Environment tendering for the project.

### **Brief for archaeological walkover survey**

#### **1.0: Aim**

- 1.1: This brief has been prepared on behalf of Exmoor National Park Authority by the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) for the Exmoor Mires Project (EMP), a project funded by South West Water Ltd.
- 1.2: The principal aim of the work described by this document is characterize, quantify and locate known and unknown heritage assets within the area defined using non-intrusive walkover survey according to the methodology outlined below.

#### **2.0: Background**

- 2.1: The aim of the Exmoor Mires Project is to restore to healthy condition many of the mires of Exmoor's moorlands by blocking drainage ditches that have been dug as part of programmes of agricultural improvement in the past. In many ways this will be beneficial to the historic environment, preserving important palaeo-environmental resources and maintaining the ability of the mires to preserve other archaeological material. However, the work of drain blocking also has the potential to damage, destroy or obscure archaeological features either directly or indirectly. In order to mitigate this threat it is necessary to acquire as complete a picture of the historic environment on any given site as possible. Walkover survey will provide an overall view of the visible archaeology within each area affected by restoration.
- 2.2: The moorland terrain of Exmoor is often difficult to traverse which, combined with the region's unpredictable weather, can often result in unforeseen delays to work in this environment. It is thus advisable to account for this when planning work and quotes for the survey described here must allow an appropriate contingency which will be released at the discretion of the HEO.
- 2.3: Quotations should be submitted by to; Lee Bray, the Exmoor Mires Project Historic Environment Officer (HEO) either by email to [lsbray@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:lsbray@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk) or in writing to Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9HL. The closing date for submissions is 21st December 2011.

#### **3.0: Methodology**

- 3.1: Walkover survey will be undertaken within the EMP restoration areas on Burcombe and Wester Emmetts, Exmoor (see accompanying map) according to the methodology described here. Each survey area will be described using an abbreviated site code. For Burcombe this will be EBC12 and for Wester Emmetts; EWE12. All field notes, finds labelling, reports, communications and other material must contain this code.
- 3.2: A standard data set describing each feature identified by the survey will be captured in the field and is described in Appendix 1 of this brief. This includes the recording of data using a GPS system with an accuracy of



1-3m. A suitable device can be supplied by EMP for this purpose for the duration of the survey subject to the contractor's signature of an appropriate loan agreement document.

3.3: Survey coverage within the restoration area will include:

- A 5m zone on each side of each drainage ditch. The accurate location of each ditch will be provided by the EMP HEO as part of the GPS data set supplied prior to the survey. 5876m of drainage ditch have been targeted for blocking on Wester Emmetts and 6346m on Burcombe.
- Traffic and access routes, as indicated on the accompanying maps, which total 6.9 ha in area.
- Areas defined as sensitive by the HEO in which survey should not be restricted to ditches but should cover the defined area fully. These are indicated on the accompanying maps and total 34.5 ha.
- Tracks and areas of erosion due to vehicle and animal traffic should be examined for artefacts. Any such artefacts should be collected, bagged and labelled appropriately and their location recorded.

3.4: The HEO will be available for site visits during the survey work to advise on the proposed site works.

3.5: Any variation from this methodology should be agreed in writing with the HEO.

3.6 The HEO should be informed at least 1 week before commencement of works which should be completed by 27th January 2012.

3.7: Quotes for this work should include a timescale with a detailed breakdown of resource allocation and budget.

3.8: Personnel undertaking the survey should remain consistent for its duration and quotes for the work must include short CVs demonstrating appropriate expertise and experience in survey of this kind.

3.9: Tables of HER information for both Burcombe and Wester Emmetts are presented in Appendix 3 (see also the accompanying map) to enable familiarization with the known archaeology of the survey areas.

#### **4.0: Deliverables**

4.1: The digital files containing the GPS data recorded during the survey will be returned to the HEO with the hand-held GPS device (if borrowed) at the conclusion of the survey. Appropriate arrangements should be made with the HEO to facilitate this.

4.2: An initial summary of the heritage assets identified by the survey should be made available to the HEO as an Excel spreadsheet by 3rd February 2012.

4.3: A draft digital copy, in MS Word format, of an appropriately illustrated report on the work should be provided to the HEO 2nd March 2012.. The report will be structured as laid out in appendix 2 of this brief.

4.4: The HEO will return the draft report by 16th March 2012 with appropriate comments.

- 4.5: It is important that the archaeological survey reports commissioned by EMP are produced in a standardized format. Accordingly the report should be structured according to the scheme described in Appendix 2 of this brief.
- 4.6: Following any necessary revisions, an unbound hard copy, as well as 3 bound hard copies of the final report will be delivered to the HEO, in addition to a digital copy and a PDF version by 13th April 2012.
- 4.7: The digital photographic archive will be delivered on a CD included in the back of the final report. The file name of each image should be in the following format:
- Site&Feature Identifier\_ImageOrientation\_Date\_ContractorName*
- 4.8: Any finds should be delivered to the HEO on conclusion of the survey.
- 4.9: The archaeological consultant shall complete an online OASIS form describing the survey, including a digital copy of the report before completion of this contract. The report will also contain the appropriate OASIS number.

## **5.0: Health and Safety at Work**

- 5.1: The contractors shall at all times comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work, Etc., Act 1974, and any other Acts, Regulations or Orders pertaining to the health and safety of employees. All personnel will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner in accordance with relevant IfA guidelines (<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>).
- 5.2: ENPA's Authorised Officer shall be empowered to suspend the work or provision of the Service or part thereof in the event of non-compliance by the contractors with this condition or with its legal duties in health and safety matters. The contractors shall not resume provision of the Service or such part until the Authorised Officer is satisfied that the non-compliance has been rectified.
- 5.3: A full risk assessment will be submitted to the HEO and agreed by him in advance of any fieldwork. Any variation to working practices set out in the risk assessment must be agreed by the HEO.
- 5.4: It is emphasized that conditions on Exmoor's moorlands can be unpredictable and extreme. Accordingly contractors are expected to be appropriately equipped and have access to a mobile telephone with reasonable coverage in the region if lone working, or employ multiple personnel to undertake the work. It will also be advantageous for surveyors to be experienced in working under upland and/or wetland conditions.

## **6.0: Insurance**

- 6.1: The contractor shall satisfy ENPA that he (the contractor) during the whole period of this Contract has an insurance policy with an Insurance Company of good repute covering himself and all persons deriving right from him against claims by the owners, his officers and employees and by third parties. This is in respect of any claim for damages caused by accident or negligence arising out of this Contract, it being understood

that the amount of the insurance shall not in any way limit the liability of the contractors to the owners. The contractors shall on request produce for inspection by ENPA the policy and premium receipts.

## **7.0: Termination**

7.1: In the event of a breach of any of the conditions of this Agreement, ENPA may terminate the Agreement on seven days notice in writing and may by other means carry out or complete the works specified herein, and recover the cost or any additional cost thereof from the contractors.

## **8.0 Disputes**

8.1: Any dispute arising between ENPA and the contractor shall be referred to a single arbitrator to be appointed by agreement, or failing agreement to be appointed by the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the award of such arbitration to be final and binding upon both parties.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Data Capture**

*Unique Feature Identifier: EBC12\_Feature Number for Burcombe, EWE12\_Feature Number for Wester Emmetts*

*Location:* representative 10 figure National Grid reference

*Type :* follow EH Thesaurus

*Period:* follow EH guidelines

*Dimensions*

*GPS Data:* an appropriate point, line or polygon describing the feature in a georeferenced MapInfo compatible layer.

*Description and interpretation:* to include dimensions and heights of feature

*Sketch:* for complex features

*References:* list file names of all survey photographs

## **Appendix 2**

### **Required Outline Report Structure**

1.0: *Introduction*

2.0: *Objectives*

3.0: *Methodology*, including descriptions of any variations agreed with the HEO

4.0: *Results*; a concise description of each identified heritage asset within the restoration area with representative photograph and including mapping illustrating the parameters of the survey and its results

5.0: *Discussion*, including an overall quantification of the results of the survey and a basic assessment of their significance.

*Appendices*, including an index of the photographic archive, a brief gazetteer of the heritage assets identified and the brief for the work.



### Appendix 3

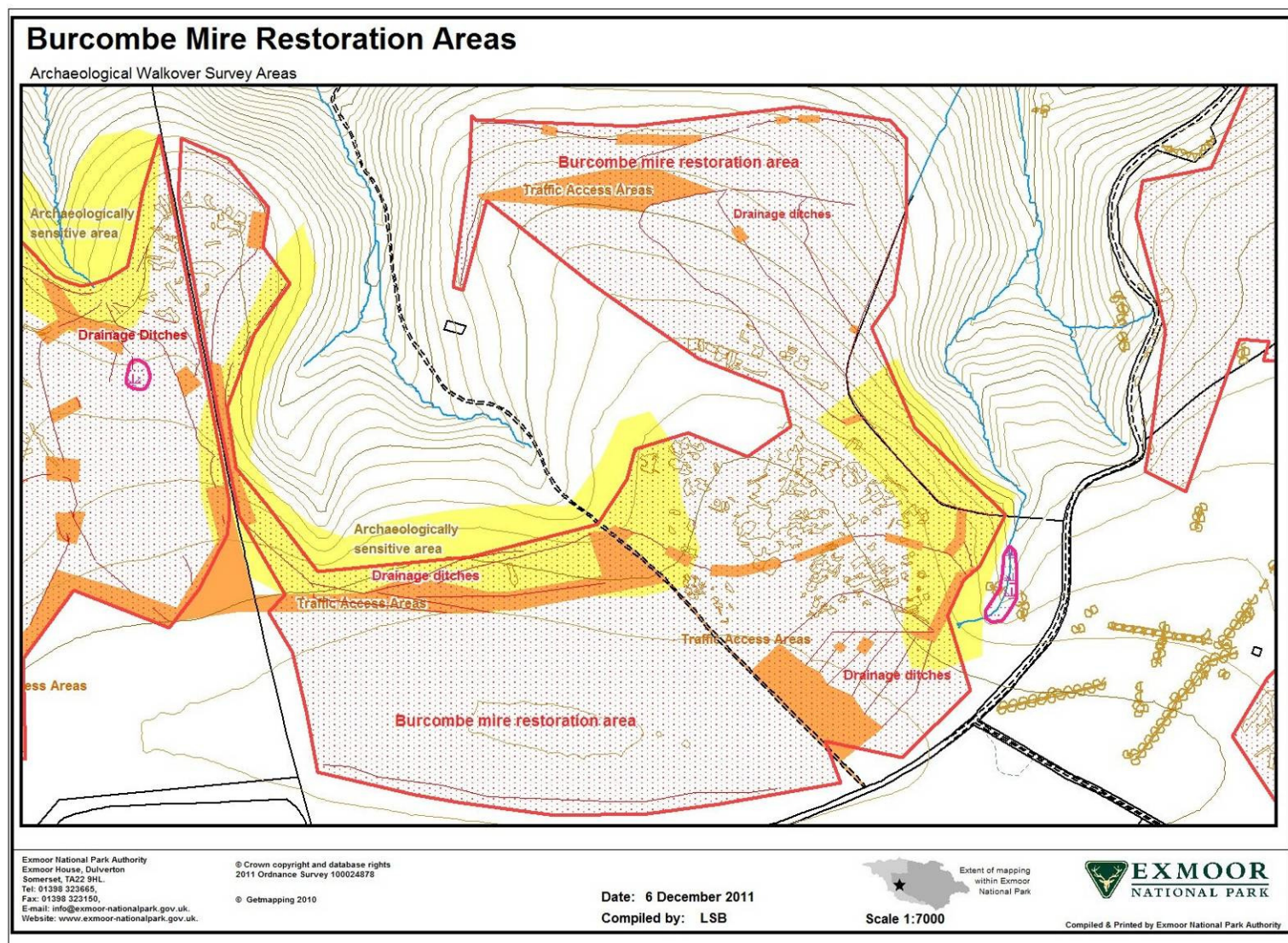
#### Burcombe HER Information

HER number	Grid reference	Description	Designation
MMO2715	SS 7444 3811	An area of curvilinear, post medieval drainage ditches around Horcombe, Burcombe and Wester Emmetts. The ditches are 1.5 – 2m wide, 80 to 400m long, cover an area of c. 60 ha. They drain into 3 unnamed tributaries of the River Barle and were probably constructed as part of the Knight family programme of agricultural improvement in the mid 19th century. The curvilinear and irregular form of these ditches in marked contrast to the regular drainage systems elsewhere in the Royal Forest.	HER, PAL
MMO2768	SS 7467 3833	An area of peat cutting covering c. 2.5ha, probably of mid to late 19th century date, as prior to this the area would have fallen within the Royal Forest. The cuttings vary in form from square or rectangular pits measuring 7m across, to curved or branching trenches up to 45 m across.	HER, PAL
MMO2881	SS 7547 3832	A system of interconnecting drainage ditches covering c. 60 ha and feeding water into the River Barle. They are probably of mid-19th century date; part of the programme of agricultural improvement of the Knight family.	HER, PAL
MMO2931	SS 7552 3803	An area of peat cuttings visible as numerous small pits and earthworks and covering c. 14 ha on Burcombe. The form of the cuttings varies from squares pits measuring 8m across to less regularly shaped, curved pits up to 63m across. The features are likely to be of post medieval date although it is unclear whether the peat was extracted for use as fuel or construction of enclosure boundaries. They were probable abandoned by the late 19th or 20th centuries.	HER, PAL
MMO2949	SS 7513 3788	A linear openwork measuring 35m long, orientated approximately north-south. Given its location within 1km of both Roman Lode to the north and Blue Gate Mine to the east, it is most likely to be a prospecting pit, probably of mid 19th century date.	HER
MSO6804	SS 751 382	Complex of mine workings located along the approximately east-west trending outcrop of a major iron ore deposit. The workings and associated spoil dumps run for approximately 600m and have a variety of morphologies. These range from pits of up to 14m diameter which have linked together to form an irregular trench, to 20th century shafts, to much smaller hummocks and hollows around 2 metres in diameter. The implication that the deposit was exploited in a variety of different ways probably in different periods. Excavation at the eastern end of the complex between 2002 and 2004 encountered evidence for activity in the Early Bronze Age, while the most recent mining on the site took place in the early 20th century. The Bronze Age activity potentially indicates mining and, if this is the case, the site is of national and even international importance as it would represent the first evidence for early mining within the South Western Metallogenic Province.	HER, PAL

HER number	Grid reference	Description	Designation
MSO6936	SS 7585 3785	The remains of at least four adits at Drybridge Combe which are associated with the mining activity at Blue Gate and Burcombe and are thus of mid 19th century date. Although not within the mire restoration area on Burcombe, they fall close to its boundary and are situated downslope from it. They thus have the potential to be affected by re-wetting and are included here for completeness.	HER, PAL

Wester Emmetts HER Information

HER number	Grid reference	Description	Designation
MMO 2715	SS 7444 3811	An area of curvilinear, post medieval drainage ditches around Horcombe, Burcombe and Wester Emmetts. The ditches are 1.5 – 2m wide, 80 to 400m long, cover an area of c. 60 ha. They drain into 3 unnamed tributaries of the River Barle and were probably constructed as part of the Knight family programme of agricultural improvement in the mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century. The curvilinear and irregular form of these ditches in marked contrast to the regular drainage systems elsewhere in the Royal Forest.	HER, PAL
MMO2767	SS 7434 3821	An area of peat cuttings, probably of post-medieval date is visible as numerous small pits and irregular earthworks on Horcombe covering an area of 8 ha. The morphology of the earthworks varies from rectangular pits c. 10m across to curving, branching trenches 60 m across. These features probably date to the second half of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century as before this the area was part of the Royal Forest.	HER
MMO2768	SS 7467 3833	An area of peat cutting covering c. 2.5ha, probably of mid to late 19 <sup>th</sup> century date, as prior to this the area would have fallen within the Royal Forest. The cuttings vary in form from square or rectangular pits measuring 7m across, to curved or branching trenches up to 45 m across.	HER, PAL
MSO6811	SS 7431 3755	An irregular enclosure measuring 90m by 69m situated on a south-facing slope of Wester Emmetts and defined by a low earth and stone bank. Peat has encroached on the earthwork suggesting it is of considerable antiquity and prehistoric in date.	HER
MSO7144	SS 7458 3842	A single upright stone on Horcombe surrounded by an erosion hollow containing more, smaller stones. It may be of prehistoric date or a more recent rubbing stone although its topographic location may suggest and ancient origin.	HER
MSO10348	SS 7415 3811	A standing stone in a partial pit standing c. 0.3m tall.	HER
MSO12304	SS 7458 3837	An upright stone standing 0.8m high surrounded by a large erosion hollow with trigger stones in evidence. It may be of prehistoric date or a more recent rubbing stone although its topographic location may suggest and ancient origin.	HER



Mapping for the Burcombe survey area provided with the project brief



# Wester Emmetts Mire Restoration Areas

Archaeological Walkover Survey Areas



Exmoor National Park Authority  
Exmoor House, Dulverton  
Somerset, TA22 9HL  
Tel: 01398 323865  
Fax: 01398 323150  
E-mail: [info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

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2011 Ordnance Survey 100024879  
© Getmapping 2010

Date: 6 December 2011  
Compiled by: LSB

Scale 1:7000  
Extent of mapping within Exmoor National Park

**EXMOOR**  
NATIONAL PARK

Compiled & Printed by Exmoor National Park Authority

Mapping for the Wester Emmetts survey area provided with the project brief

