

HOAROAK VALLEY: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE SURVEY
AND ANALYSIS
Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership
PROJECT REPORT

By Hazel Riley



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OASIS PROJECT NO 160966

ABBREVIATIONS

DRO Devon Record Office

EH NMR English Heritage National Monuments Record

EMLP Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership Scheme

ENPA Exmoor National Park Authority

HER Historic Environment Record

NMP National Mapping Programme

OSGB36 Ordnance Survey National Grid

OSTN02 Ordnance Survey transformation parameters for conversion of WGS84 coordinates to the Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinates

RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

RICS Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hoaroak Cottage, an abandoned 19th-century farmstead, has been the focus of informed conservation work by the ENPA in 2010-13. It lies at the heart of the Hoaroak Valley, which contains a wealth of historic landscape features reflecting the importance of this part of Exmoor from the Neolithic period onwards. Numerous standing stones and stone settings were placed around the valley around 6000 years ago, and several large burial cairns were used by medieval farmers to mark out the boundaries of their fields. This was an attractive place to live: four Bronze Age round houses, an enclosure and several fields, lie at the heart of a newly discovered settlement complex on the west facing slopes of Cheriton Ridge, opposite Hoaroak Cottage. Routes across Exmoor Forest towards Brendon and the coast used the valley and the higher ground on Exe Plain, and by c AD 1200 a hamlet of two farms was established close to the prehistoric settlements on Cheriton Ridge. These farms worked two large blocks of fields, growing arable crops and keeping livestock, until c AD 1400. Periodic cultivation of these fields continued in the post-medieval period.

Recent analysis of the structure of Hoaroak Cottage has shown that it may have been built in the late 18th or early 19th century using a much earlier building as its core. Agricultural labourers, working for the Vellacott family at Furzehill, lived at Hoaroak in the 19th century. By 1870 it was leased to Frederic Knight and Hoaroak Cottage became the base for the Hoar Oak herding until 1958.

The survival of the multi-period settlement complex on Cheriton Ridge, with two phases of Bronze Age settlement and associated field systems adjacent to a medieval farmstead with its fields, is important both regionally for the story of the development of settlement on Exmoor, but also nationally for the implications it has for furthering our knowledge of the early medieval period in Britain.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The deserted farmstead NW of Hoar Oak, known as Hoaroak Cottage, was bought by the ENPA in 1969 as part of a large block of moorland on Exmoor which included Pinkery and Driver Farms, Hoaroak and the Chains (Burton 1989, 234). The last occupants of the house moved out in 1958, there was no electricity and the house was not let again. Following deterioration to the structure over a number of years, the ENPA embarked on a programme of recording and informed conservation work at Hoaroak Cottage, with the aim of making the structure a stable part of the relict landscape, as well as taking the opportunity presented by the building to learn more about its origins and how it functioned as part of the agricultural economy of the 19th and 20th centuries.

This report has several aims, set out in the Project Brief (Balmond and Wilson-North 2013) and summarised here:

It synthesises the results of a number of surveys and reports that have been carried out on the Hoaroak Valley, both as part of the EMLP Scheme and through other projects, including the conservation work at Hoaroak Cottage and the ruined cottage and enclosure to the south.

It places the historic structure of Hoar Oak Cottage in its historic landscape context, on the edge of Exmoor Forest and within an extensive area of relict field systems.

Recent work by the Exmoor NMP and new features discovered through the analysis of Lidar images of the area have identified two phases of prehistoric settlement and a probable early medieval settlement on the edge of Cheriton Ridge, east of Hoar Oak Cottage. A large scale survey of a prehistoric enclosure, potentially under threat from erosion around a track along Cheriton Ridge, and a preliminary assessment of these important new discoveries, forms part of this work.

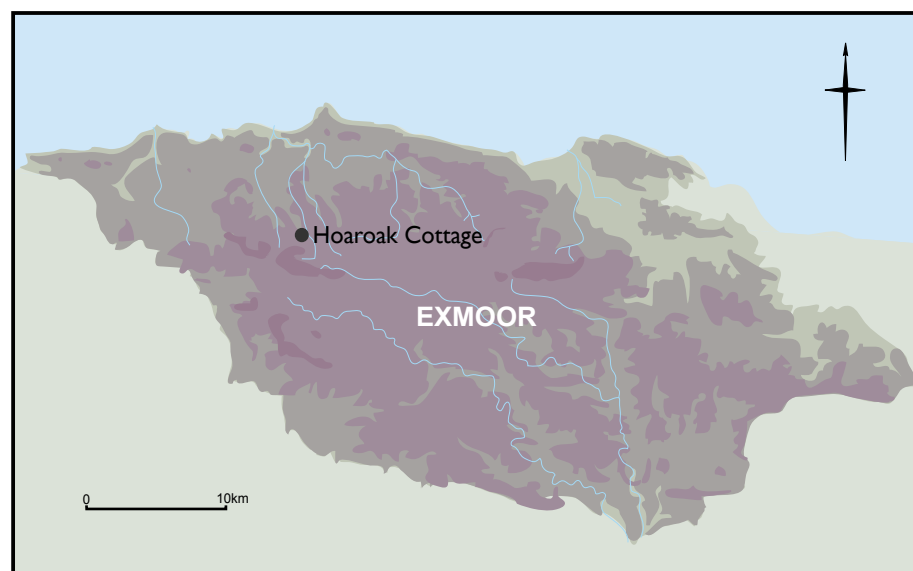
A timeline for the development of the historic landscape in Hoar Oak Valley, from the earliest times to the present day is presented as part of this report, with particular reference to the 19th and 20th centuries from research carried out by The Friends of Hoar Oak Cottage (www.hoar Oak Cottage.org).

Location, topography and geology

The study area examines the upper part of the Hoar Oak Valley, from the confluence of Hoar Oak Water with the Chains Valley to the southern edge of Furze Hill Common (centred NGR SS 742 434) (Fig 1). It includes parts of Exe Plain and Hoar Oak Hill, in Exmoor Forest, Somerset; part of Furze Hill Common in Lynton and Lynmouth, Devon, and part of Cheriton Ridge in Brendon, Devon (Fig 2).

The topography comprises four distinct landscape types. These are: the narrow floodplain of Hoar Oak Water; the gentle, west-facing slopes of the west side of Cheriton Ridge; the very steep valley sides above the floodplain in the south of the study area and north of Hoar Oak Cottage, graphically called 'Great Fall' on the Tithe map, and the level plateaux or gently sloping spurs of the highest parts of the study area (Figs 3 and 4). The area is currently open moorland which is grazed by cattle, sheep and ponies. Cheriton Ridge supports predominantly heather moorland; in the south of the study area the former Royal Forest supports *Molinia* dominated moorland and the relict fields and moorland edge enclosures of the Hoar Oak holding are rough grassland and heath with some scrub (ENPA 2011: Moorland Units 4,5,12/13) (Fig 5). The underlying geology is rocks of the Devonian period: sandstones of the Hangman

Fig 1 Location map



formation in the centre and north of the study area, with slates of the Combe Martin formation to the south. There are deposits of blanket peat on most of the level plateaux and alluvium deposits on the valley floors (bgs.ac.uk).

Site numbering and names

Most of the sites and features discussed in the report are documented in the Exmoor HER and are referred to by this number. Several new sites were discovered during the course of this project and these have been given a number with the prefix 'HOL' for the purposes of this report. A gazetteer listing the elements of the historic landscape described and discussed below forms part of this report. The building associated with the deserted farmstead in the Hoar Oak Valley is generally known as Hoar Oak Cottage. In the tithe apportionment the farm is simply called 'Near Oar Oak' and the census records and parish registers refer to it as 'Oar Oak' (1841) and 'Hoar Oak' (1851 and 1861). The ruined building at the bottom of Long Chains Combe at the head of the Hoar Oak Valley in Exmoor Forest was known as 'Hoar Oak Cottage' in the mid-19th century (Burton 1989; Riley 2012).



Fig 3 The floodplain of Hoar Oak Water and the gently sloping west side of Cheriton Ridge (right) with the steep fields of the Hoar Oak holding in the middle ground (left) (Hazel Riley)



Fig 4 The level plateaux of Exe Plain (left) and Hoar Oak Hill (right) and steep sides of the Hoar Oak Valley (Hazel Riley)

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND RESEARCH WORK

The study area was included in three extensive landscape scale surveys of Exmoor and one thematic study of Exmoor's standing stones. A transcription of Exmoor's archaeology from air photographs was undertaken in the 1980s by Richard McDonnell (information held at ENPA). The Exmoor NMP project also transcribed the archaeological features visible on air photographs (records held in Exmoor HER and EH NMR). The NMP project mapped the extent of disused turf pits on Cheriton Ridge, Furzehill Common and Hoar Oak Hill, recorded elements of the relict field systems (12856, 20820) and identified a possible prehistoric enclosure and hut platform on Cheriton Ridge (2197, 2198). The project also mapped some of the platforms which appear to be an early medieval farmstead but these were identified as the remains of peat cutting (2199).

The field based investigations undertaken by the RCHME covered the area (Riley and Wilson-North 2001; records in the Exmoor HER and EH NMR). The RCHME's investigation of Exmoor's lithic monuments surveyed all of the known standing stones in the area (Quinnell and Dunn 1992) and formed the basis for subsequent condition surveys of these monuments by ENPA (information in Exmoor HER). The SW part of the study area was included in a survey of the ENPA's Pinkworthy Estate, and the upper part of the valley was included in a survey of Hoar Oak and the Chains for ENPA (McDonnell 1995; Preece 1992).

SURVEY METHODS AND SOURCES

Field assessment

A walkover survey of the study area was undertaken in early June 2013. Each site recorded as medieval or post-medieval in date in the Exmoor HER was visited and a photographic record was made. The results of this are detailed in the Site Gazetteer. The stone settings and burial mounds were not investigated in such a systematic

Fig 5 Molinia dominated moorland on the former Royal Forest with grassland and heath on the relict fields around Hoar Oak Cottage (NMR 27653/12)(© English Heritage)



fashion as they have been the subject of several recent condition surveys (details in Exmoor HER) and field assessment of these features was not part of this project (Balmond and Wilson-North 2013). The ENPA Lidar survey was used in conjunction with information from air photographs (RAF 1946-48 and ENPA 2010 vertical coverage). This resulted in the discovery of several new sites which are discussed below and described in the Site Gazetteer.

Analytical earthwork survey of the prehistoric enclosure on Cheriton Ridge

The prehistoric enclosure on Cheriton Ridge (2197) was surveyed at a scale of 1:250 on June 5th 2013 using survey grade differential GPS. A section line was surveyed across the enclosure to record the profiles and heights of the earthworks. The GPS-derived geodetic WGS84 coordinates were transformed to the Ordnance Survey National Grid (OSGB36) using the Ordnance Survey's grid transformation (OSTN02) in Leica's GPS post-processing software. Observation times were based on those recommended by the OS and the RICS in order to obtain accurate heighting information (OS 2010; RICS 2010). A geophysical survey of the enclosure was also carried out (Carey 2013).

THE PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE OF THE HOAROAK VALLEY

The prehistoric remains contained within this part of the Hoar Oak Valley are of exceptional importance for Exmoor and for the narrative of upland settlement in the South West (Fig 6).

Flint tools

Several pieces of worked flint have been discovered in the area. In the late 19th century:

'A labourer named John Richards, now residing near Parracombe, who has worked a great deal at hedging and ditching, has been in the habit of preserving any good specimens of flint he found in his work, and has a small but representative collection' (Chanter 1906, 120).

One is a finely worked discoidal knife found at Furzehill, similar to that found on Kentisbury Down (Riley and Wilson-North 2001, fig 2.6) and dates from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. A small barbed and tanged arrowhead and a notched piece from Hoar Oak are of a similar date, as are the arrowheads from Furzehill (Chanter 1906, photograph facing page 120). A thumbnail scraper, again of similar date, was found on the edge of a vehicle track, very close to the prehistoric hut platform HOL 2, in June 2013 (Fig 7).



Fig 7 Early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper found at the Bronze Age unenclosed settlement on Cheriton Ridge (Catherine Dove)

Standing stones and burial cairns

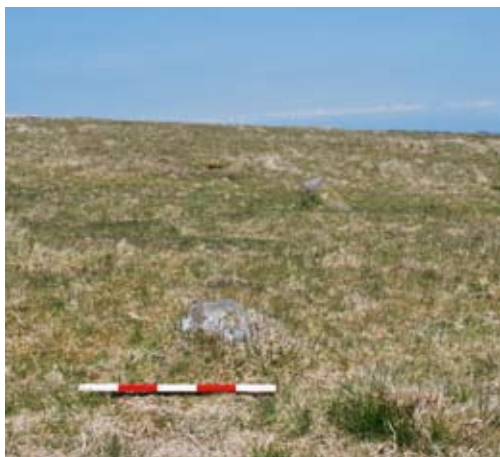
The stone monuments and burial cairns are the earliest monuments in the Hoar Oak Valley. They were probably built at the same time the flint tools described above were being used in the valley: c 2200-1500 BC. The study area contains eight stone settings and standing stones, including a stone row and some of the more elaborate stone settings found on Exmoor such as the setting of 10 to 15 stones on Furze Hill Common (1305) and the arrangement of 11 stones on the steep slope above Gammon's Corner (7120). A stone setting lies on the edge of disused turf pits on the west edge of the Hoar Oak holding (1304) (Fig 8). The whole of the upper part of the Hoar Oak Valley is overlooked by these monuments whose exact date, function and historic landscape context is not yet properly understood, although recent research is addressing this question (Gillings *et al* 2010; Gillings 2012; Gillings and Taylor 2011; 2012).

Two large prehistoric funerary cairns lie on the edge of (1309) and inside (1308) the medieval relict fields on Cheriton Ridge. One of these (1308) is located inside a small enclosure which appears to be a later addition to the field system, suggesting that these two large prehistoric monuments were used to mark the edges of enclosure on Cheriton Ridge in the medieval period. Both of the cairns were also probably used as convenient places to heap loose stones brought to the surface by cultivation (Fig 9). A small cairn (7121) is located at the edge of the study area in a striking location high up on Exe Plain looking up Long Chains Combe; two very similar cairns (6848) lie across the Hoar Oak Valley, on the northern side of Long Chains Combe (Fig 10).

Fig 8 (below) Stone setting on the edge of the Hoar Oak holding (1304) (Hazel Riley)

Fig 9 (right) Large prehistoric funerary cairn at the north end of the medieval field system on Cheriton Ridge (1309) (Hazel Riley)

Fig 10 (below right) Small prehistoric cairn on Exe Plain sited to look into Long Chains Combe (7121) (Hazel Riley)



Prehistoric settlements and field systems

Four very well defined hut platforms have been identified from the Lidar survey (HOL 1; 2; 11; 12). Two lie opposite each other on either side of a dry gully; the third is sited below these two on the south side of the same gully, and the fourth is on the edge of the probable prehistoric field system (Fig 11). The platforms are all similar in form, terraced into the hill side by about 1m to form roughly circular platforms between c 6-10m in diameter in diameter (Fig 12). Part of the relict field system on Cheriton Ridge is probably prehistoric. A clear relationship can be observed just to the north of the hut platforms, where a substantial lynchet, c 1m high is overlain by a field bank with a ditch on a different alignment (Fig 13). As the prehistoric fields have been overlain by a later field system only fragments survive, but detailed metric survey may reveal further prehistoric elements. The Lidar image shows part of a long, narrow field 250m long and 40m wide, indicating that this may be the remains of a co-axial field system (HOL 4). Fragments of banks to the north and east of the paired platforms are on a different alignment but could also be prehistoric (HOL 13).

A very well preserved prehistoric enclosure with overall dimensions of 23m NW/SE by 24m NE/SW lies 150m to the south of the hut platforms on Cheriton Ridge, on the south side of a dry gully (2197). The enclosure is formed by an earthwork bank, 4m wide and 0.5-0.8m high, on the NE and SW sides. On the SE side the main element of the enclosure is a scarp, 1m deep, cut into the hillside. A track used for vehicle access to the ford below Hoar Oak Cottage runs close to the SE side of the enclosure and this may be the reason why the bank is discontinuous. The NW side of the enclosure is formed by a sharp scarp, 1.5m high. These earthworks define a sub-rectangular, level platform, with dimensions 18m NW/SE and 15m NE/SW (Figs 14 and 15). A gap in the bank on the NW side of the enclosure may be the original entrance (Fig 16). Two slight platforms inside the enclosure could well be stances for contemporary buildings. The enclosure overlies a very spread, low bank which runs for 18m between it and



Fig 11 Extract from Lidar DTM image showing the prehistoric and early medieval field system on Cheriton Ridge (based on data supplied by South West Water) (© Geomatics)

a 19th-century leat, indicating that some elements of the prehistoric field system pre-date this enclosure and were probably set out at the same time the hut platforms to the north were in use. The east edge of the enclosure is cut by the 19th-century leat (11685).

The prehistoric enclosure on Cheriton Ridge is similar in size and form to several other earthwork enclosures on Exmoor (Riley and Wilson North 2001). On Codsand Moors two enclosures overlie elements of an earlier field system (Riley 2009). The presence of stances or platforms for buildings has been demonstrated on several sites on Exmoor by field observation, geophysical survey and excavation (Riley and Wilson-North 2001; Riley 2013a; Green 2009). Recent work across Cornwall, Devon and Somerset indicates that these sort of enclosures can date from the early Bronze Age through to the early post-Roman period (Riley 2009, 18). The enclosure on Cheriton Ridge could date from the mid- to late Bronze Age and represent a phase of activity on the ridge after organised field systems were in use; it could also have been used as part of the early medieval complex which lies only 50m to the east (below).

Fig 12 Prehistoric hut platform on Cheriton Ridge (HOL 1) (Hazel Riley)



Fig 13 A medieval field bank overlies a prehistoric lynchet on Cheriton Ridge (Hazel Riley)



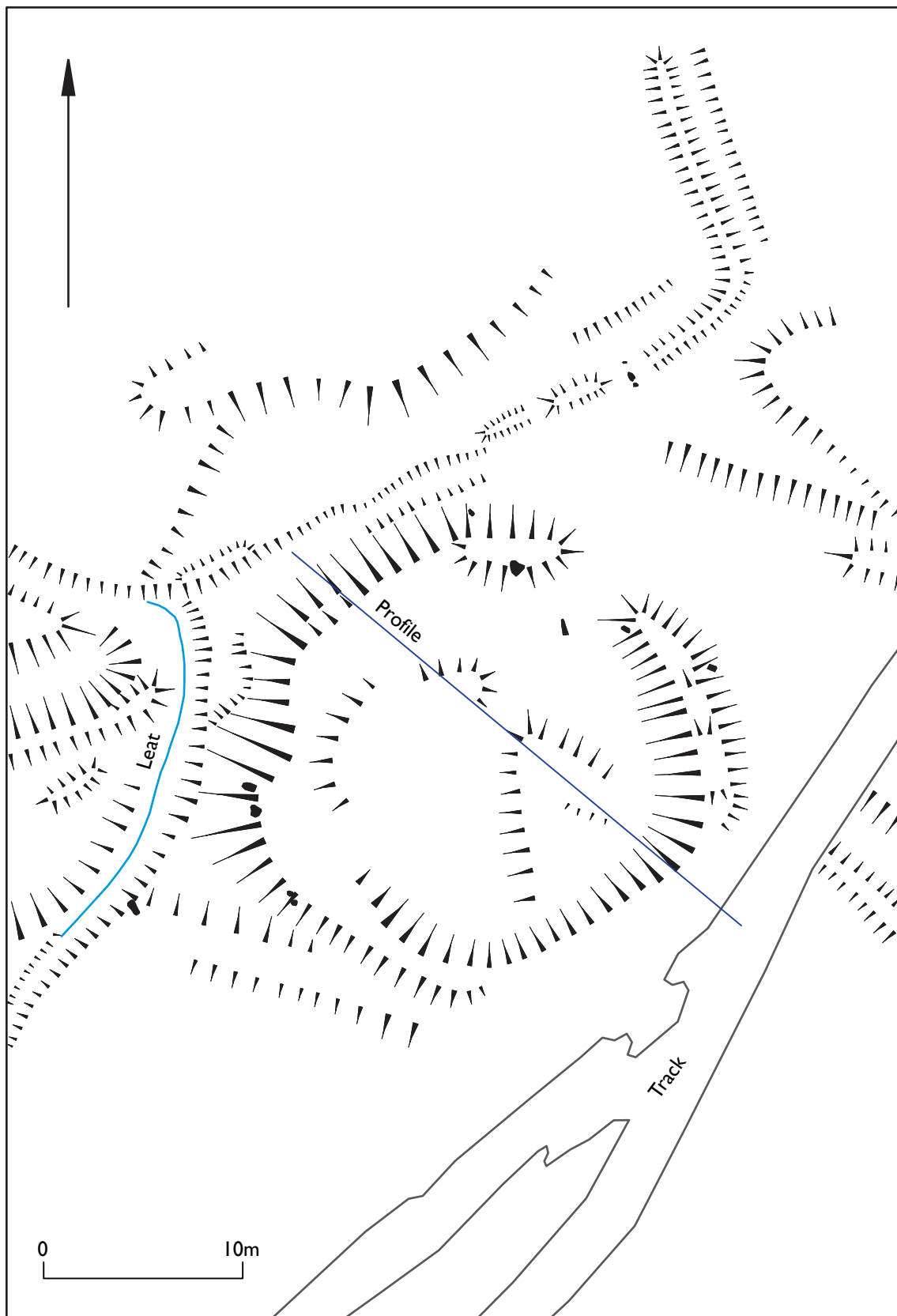


Figure 14 Earthwork survey of the prehistoric enclosure on Cheriton Ridge (surveyed at 1:250, reproduced at 1:300)

Fig 15 Profile
NW/SE across
the enclosure
(vertical scale
x 2)

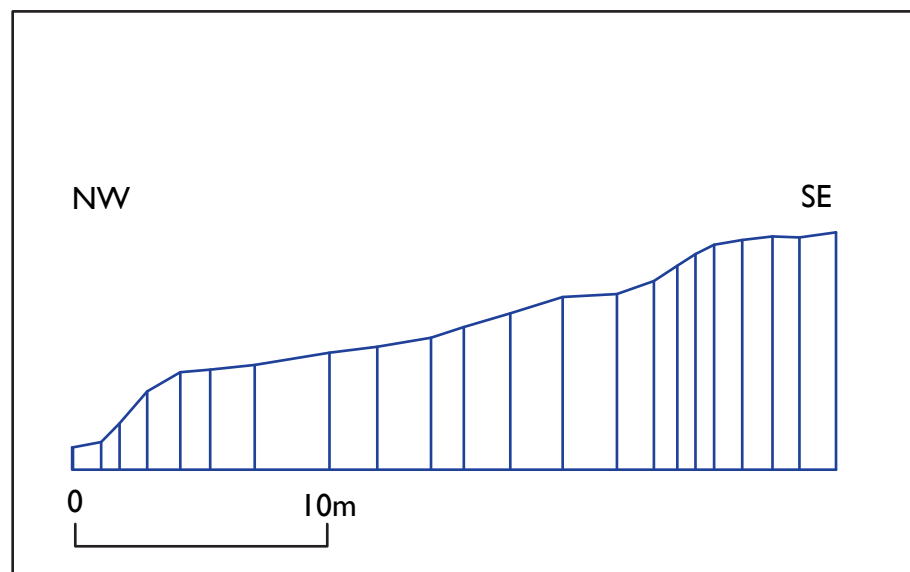


Figure 16
(below) Looking
east across the
entrance gap in
the prehistoric
enclosure (2197),
1m scale below
the left of the gap
(Hazel Riley)



THE ROYAL FOREST AND MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT IN THE HOAR OAK VALLEY

Routes across the Royal Forest

Hoar Oak, a large oak tree of considerable antiquity, fell down in c 1658. Its replacement, an oak sapling, planted at the same spot, was blown down when it was a veteran tree in 1916. There may well have been an oak tree here from as early as the 13th century (MacDermot 1973, 4, 113). An oak planted in the early 20th century now grows here. The trees were planted here to mark an important place in both the physical and administrative landscape: the point where the parishes of Brendon and Lynton, in Devon meet the boundary of Exmoor Forest, in Somerset (Fig 17). Several tracks and paths across Exe Plain, Hoar Oak Hill and along the valley bottom converge around the Hoar Oak then fan out towards Hoar Oak Cottage and Furzehill Common, and across Cheriton Ridge. One of these, known as 'The Linton Road' by the 19th century (Preece 1993) is shown on the OS mapping of 1805. It runs across the west edge of Exe Plain and splits into two, with the northern track heading towards Cheriton Ridge and the southern track in the direction of the Hoar Oak. On Exe Plain, its course is marked by an earthwork, a substantial bank, 2m wide and 1m high, flanked by ditches on both sides which are 1m wide and 1m deep. Seven hollowed tracks and paths run NW/SE down the steep slope from Furzehill Common to Hoar Oak Water (Fig 18). The northern boundary of the Hoar Oak holding utilises one, suggesting that this route, which provided access to the deserted medieval farmstead on Cheriton Ridge from Furzehill and Lynton, was out of use by the late 18th century (Fig 19).



Fig 18 Hollow ways and tracks on the north edge of the Hoar Oak holding (2638) (Hazel Riley)



Fig 19 Detail of the hollow way re-used as part of the boundary of the Hoar Oak holding (Hazel Riley)

Medieval settlement and fields

The Exmoor NMP project recorded four small features on the west side of Cheriton Ridge from air photographs, which were interpreted as disused turf pits (2199). Subsequent examination of the Lidar image for the area and field investigation located these features in quite deep heather, close to the prehistoric enclosure (2197) described above. Four regular rectangular or sub-rectangular platforms were found (HOL 7-10). They are all similar in size and form, c 7-8m long, 4-5m wide and terraced into the gentle slope to a depth of c 1m (Fig 20). The four building platforms lie in between two dry gullies and within a ditched enclosure, although further survey work is needed to establish the exact form of this.

Most of the relict fields (12856; 20820) which are laid out across the west side of Cheriton Ridge are probably contemporary with this settlement. The settlement lies just to the east of the eastern or upper boundary of the fields, and roughly halfway along it. To the south of the settlement is a regular block of four fields, 150-200m square, with a rectangular enclosure 150m by 50m on the east side (20820). The field boundaries are banks, 1.5-2m wide and no more than 0.5m high, often with a ditch, 1m wide and 0.5m deep on the outer side. The banks are quite spread, a result of their age, but also because of later ploughing (below) (Fig 21). Four small stone clearance mounds lie towards the southern edge of the fields (Fig 22). To the north of the settlement a regular, rectangular block of fields is divided into five or six smaller fields. A single bank extends the field system for a further 400m to the north. The field boundaries are

Fig 20 Rectangular building platform on Cheriton Ridge, 1m scale on NE corner (HOL 10) (Hazel Riley)



Fig 21 Medieval field boundary SW of the medieval settlement on Cheriton Ridge (20820). The ridging of later ploughing can be seen on the bank to the right of the 1m scale (Hazel Riley)



substantial banks; the top or east boundary is made up of rather spread bank, 2m wide, 0.7m high, with an outer ditch, 2m wide and 0.9m deep (Fig 13). Some of the internal boundaries also have ditches. A boundary formed by a ditch with banks on both sides could be a way between two fields; it leads up to a small triangular-shaped area within the relict fields (Fig 23).

These fields are very similar in form and size to those on the hillslopes at Bradimoor, which are also overlain by ridge and furrow (Riley and Wilson-North 2001, fig 5.6). Small triangular areas in the field boundaries on Cheriton Ridge have parallels in the Bradimoor fields, but no function for these have yet been determined (information from R Wilson-North).

The well known deserted medieval settlement of Badgworthy lies in a similar location on the east edge of Brendon Common some 5km to the east of Cheriton Ridge. It was probably an established settlement by the time of the Norman Conquest; by the early 15th century it was largely unoccupied (MacDermot 1973, 9). The remains of 13



Fig 22 Stone clearance mound on the south edge of the medieval fields on Cheriton Ridge (1311), with the 19th-century sheepfold above Gammon's Corner in the middle ground (Hazel Riley)



Fig 23 Field boundary and access way up through the medieval fields on Cheriton Ridge (12856) (Hazel Riley)

buildings together with an extensive relict system extending over 1 km indicate an organised agricultural settlement with some of the most elevated arable cultivation on Exmoor (Wilson-North 1996).

The medieval settlement and field system on Cheriton Ridge is smaller than the remains at Badgworthy and are comparable to the deserted farmsteads and relict field systems at Ley Hill and Mansley Combe which lie to the north and south of Dunkery Hill. At Ley Hill, the remains of seven medieval buildings with an associated field system lie on an east-facing slope above Horner Water; at Mansley Combe there are six medieval buildings and a field system with prehistoric elements (Wilson-North 1997, Riley and Wilson-North 2001). These sites are undocumented in the medieval period but an excavation of one of the buildings at Ley Hill indicate the site was deserted by c AD 1400 (Richardson 1999).

No documentary evidence has been found for a medieval tenement on Cheriton Ridge, and the map evidence, summarised below, shows only a few fragments of field boundaries on Cheriton Ridge in the late 19th century. The field remains and comparison with other sites on Exmoor suggest that the settlement on Cheriton Ridge dates was established by the Norman Conquest and was abandoned in the 15th century.

Some of the disused turf pits on Furzehill Common and on Cheriton Ridge are very likely to have been worked in the medieval period, supplying fuel for the medieval farmstead on Cheriton Ridge and the farms at Furzehill and Cheriton.

HOAROAK VALLEY 1550-1800

The Forest Books for 1722 record the home parishes of the sheep flocks who grazed on the Royal Forest. Hoar Oak Hill and Exe Plain were the summer homes of flocks from Brendon, Goodleigh, Landkey, Tawstock, Challacombe and Exford. This movement of stock from the neighbouring commons and from places farther afield in north Devon and Somerset to the Forest is documented in detail for most of the 18th century (Burton 1989, 42).

Periodic arable cultivation on Cheriton Ridge

The medieval relict fields on Cheriton Ridge show evidence that they continued to be used after the medieval farmstead fell into disuse. Air photographs and the Lidar survey images show narrow ridge and furrow ploughing across the fields to the south of the settlement which occasionally continues across the field banks (Fig 21). The ridges are clearest in the large field west of the prehistoric burial mound (1308), where a sample area has been transcribed (Figs 17 and 24).

Cultivation of an arable crop on the commons of Exmoor is documented from as early as the 13th century (MacDermot 1973, 8), and there is evidence from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries that arable crops, probably rye, were grown on the commons bordering Exmoor Forest (MacDermot 1973, 343; 352; 446-450) as well as the southern commons of Withypool and Molland (MacDermot 1973, 362; NDRO MOLLAND 50/11/25/15; 50/11/26/12; 50/11/26/30). By the 18th century, a fee of 6d an acre was

paid to the lord of the manor of Molland for every acre tilled on Molland Moor. The ridge and furrow on Cheriton Ridge seems to date from after the medieval settlement was abandoned, and probably represents the farmers on the moorland edge farms at Cheriton, Woolaway and Farley using the existing fields on Cheriton Ridge to grow occasional crops of rye in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. None of the enclosures on Cheriton Ridge are depicted on a late 18th-century map of the area which shows the Forest boundary and 'Ore Oak', with a drawing of a tree (Donn 1765) (Fig 25).

A small, single-roomed building was built on the site of Hoar Oak Cottage before the 19th century, perhaps as early as the 17th century (Morris 2013). The function of this building is not known. It may have been seasonally occupied by shepherds, it may have been a turf store – a less likely explanation given the provision of a window. The tradition of a telling house at Gammon's Corner (6990) should also be noted in this context, although a possible site on the Forest boundary near Brendon Two Gates also needs consideration (124060). The presence of an earlier building, perhaps already ruined by the late 18th century, goes some way to explaining why the Vellacotts established a farm here in the late 18th or early 19th century.

There are few parallels for such buildings on the Exmoor commons. A ruined building, of unknown date and function, on the west edge of Challacombe Common, surviving as an earthwork, has a very similar floor plan, 7.5 by 5.3m (1058). On the south side of Badgworthy Hill the remains of a rectangular building with associated relict field system could be medieval or post-medieval and may be a small 17th or 18th century tenement on the common, although it has been tentatively identified as the medieval holding of 'Lank Comb' (1277).

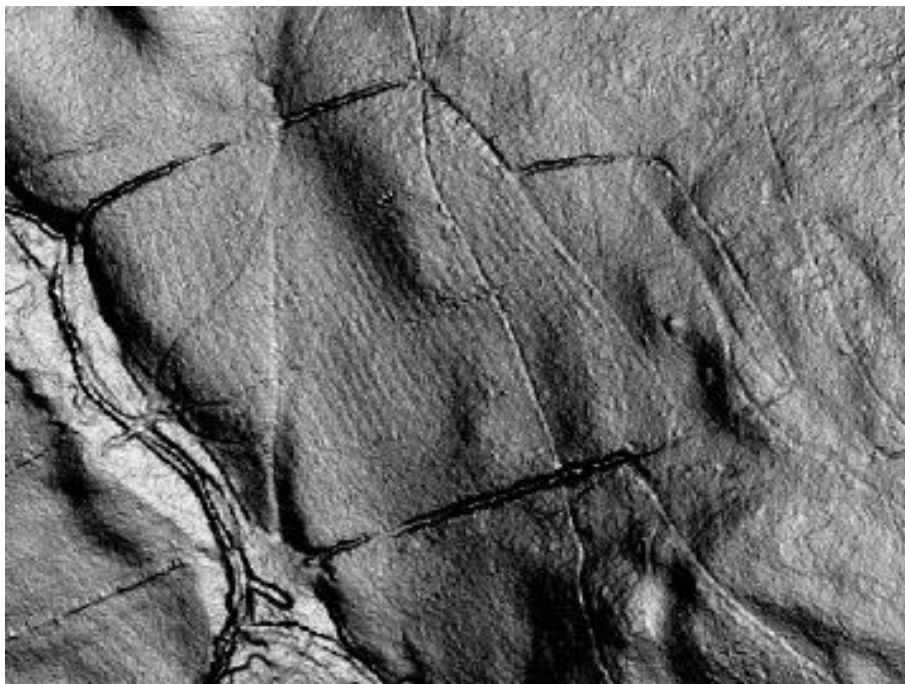


Fig 24 Extract from Lidar DTM image showing the narrow ridge and furrow ploughing in the medieval field system on Cheriton Ridge (based on data supplied by South West Water) (© Geomatics)

THE VELLACOTTS AND HOAR OAK FARM

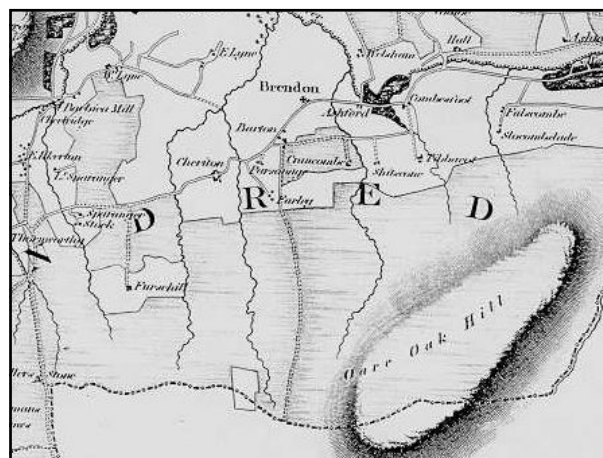
There is a large amount of documentary evidence to show that a farm with a small holding and access to common pasture was built on the west side of Hoar Oak Water, on the edge of Furze Hill Common in the late 18th or very early 19th centuries (Fig 26). The OS drawing of 1805 shows a tree named 'Oare Oak', with a track crossing Cheriton Ridge from Exe Head to Brendon (Fig 27). The published map (1809-1813) made from these drawings also shows an enclosure on the west side of Hoar Oak Water, which takes in part of Exmoor Forest and part of Furze Hill Common (Margary 1977). The 1816 enclosure map of Exmoor Forest notes 'Hoar Oak Inclosure,' west of Gammon's Corner (Orwin 1929, map facing page 20). Greenway's map of 1827, clearly based on these OS drawings, shows this enclosure west of Hoar Oak very clearly (Fig 28). The tithe apportionment (1839) and map (1840) for Lynton names the farm as simply 'Near Oar Oak' and shows the holding of 14 fields, set out on the west side of Hoar Oak Water, with 'Hoar Oak Common,' over 100 acres of pasture between Furze Hill Common and Benjamy (Fig 29).

The research carried out by 'The Friends of Hoar Oak Cottage' Community Association has discovered the histories of the families who lived at Hoar Oak in the 19th and 20th centuries. This work is published in considerable detail on their website (www.hoar oakcottage.org) and is summarised below (Timeline for the Hoar Oak Valley). Research in the Devon Record Office archives found that the earliest family

Fig 25 (below) Extract from Donn's Devon County Map (1765) (reproduced with the kind permission of Devon Heritage Services)

Fig 27 (right) Extract from the OS drawing North Molton by James Hewitt (bl.ac.uk)

Fig 28 (below right) Extract from Greenway's County Map of Devon (1827) (reproduced with the kind permission of Devon Heritage Services)



recorded at Hoaroak were the Vellacotts, from the Lynton parish registers of 1810 and 1817. John Vellacott, who owned Furzehill and Ratsbury, the closest farms to Hoar Oak, owned the farm in 1839 (Lynton tithe apportionment).

The buildings at Hoaroak

The tithe map is the first depiction of buildings at Hoaroak: two rectangular buildings in a small enclosure at the centre of the holding (Fig 30). The northern building was demolished by 1891 (1st edition OS map), but the west edge of the platform for this building, which was terraced into the hillside, is just discernible, despite various phases of demolition and rebuilding (Fig 31).

Documentary research, historic building recording and archaeological monitoring at Hoaroak Cottage was carried out between 2010 and 2013 (Green and Humphreys 2010; Morris 2013 and below, Conservation Work). The conclusions of this work show that Hoaroak Cottage has a complex structural history (Fig 32). Phase 1 was a single-celled, single-storey building, 7.8 by 5.3m, which was well built of quarried slate, bonded with a lime and clay mortar. This was dated as definitely pre-19th century, and perhaps as early as 17th century in date. In Phase 2 (18th century) this single-storey building was raised to 1½ storeys and in Phase 3 (late 18th century) the west gable was rebuilt with a substantial external chimney stack. In the 19th century, a two-storey extension was added to the east end, followed by small, single-storey extensions on the west and east ends of the building, with the addition of fire-places to the upper storey rooms.



Fig 29 (left) Extract from Lynton tithe map showing the extent of the Hoaroak holding in 1840 (reproduced with the kind permission of Devon Heritage Services)

Fig 30 (below) Extract from the Lynton tithe map showing the buildings at Hoaroak in 1840 (reproduced with the kind permission of Devon Heritage Services)

Fig 31 (below left) Earthwork remains of the building shown on the 1840 tithe map (Hazel Riley)



The Hoaroak holding

The boundaries of the relict fields around Hoaroak Cottage are different to those on Cheriton Ridge. The west or upper boundary of the holding is a substantial bank, 2m wide and 1.6m high, faced with stone on both the inner and outer faces, with a ditch, 3.5m wide and 1m deep on the outer side (Fig 33). Some of the banks have unmanaged beech hedging growing on them; this is particularly a feature of the boundaries along Hoaroak Water (Fig 3). These fields were probably laid out in the late 18th or early 19th centuries and were farmed by the occupants of Hoaroak, who were tenants of the Vellacotts until c 1867, and are mostly described as 'agricultural labourers' in the Lynton census returns. They lived in a small house with a loft or tallet for sleeping above, and a barn at right angles to the house, which probably functioned as an animal shelter, fodder store, workshop and implement shed with extra sleeping space in any remaining loft space.

Just to the south of the house is a spring which provided water for the farm. Waste water from the house and yard was carried away across the field to the north by two channels which may have functioned like a small gutter system; they are now silted up and are 1m wide and cut into the hillside by 0.5m (Fig 34). Below the house a field called 'Moor' is poorly drained with several disused turf pits which provided a convenient source of fuel for the farm; turf pits on Furzehill Common were probably also used by the farm. One of the most striking features of the early 19th century

Fig 32 (right) West gable end of Hoaroak Cottage during conservation work. The Phase 1 fabric of the window splay is on the left, below the dog (Hazel Riley)



Fig 33 (below) Outer face of the west enclosure bank of the Hoaroak holding (HOL 6) (Hazel Riley)

Fig 34 (below right) Early 19th-century drainage channels or gutter system below Hoaroak Cottage (2633) (Hazel Riley)



farming landscape is a stone gate post set up where the track from Furzehill enters the Hoar Oak holding at the field known as 'Gate Field' (Lynton tithe apportionment 1839) (Fig 35). This may be from John Knight's stone working site, upstream of the farm (below, Hoar Oak Valley and the Knights' Exmoor estates); it could also be a re-used prehistoric standing stone (12831).

The last Vellacott tenant was a smallholder, Mr R Taylor, who lived at Hoar Oak for about 6 years. He sold his livestock - ten bullocks, 50 sheep and two horses – in Michaelmas 1867. The Hoar Oak holding was sold to Mr Jeune by the Vellacott family shortly before this, probably in the summer of 1866 (Burton 1989, 116).

A leat runs from just north of the Forest boundary, where the remains of a collapsed stone bridge or sluice at the take off point can be seen, across the west side of Cheriton Ridge to the edge of the common south of Cheriton (11685). The leat cuts through the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval landscape features on the common and is marked on both the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps of 1889 and 1905 (Fig 36). The northern end of the leat, where it leaves the common, has not been established, but the channel is substantial and takes water from several streams which flow into Hoar Oak Water, suggesting it may have been built in the late 19th century to power farm machinery at farms in Cheriton.



Fig 35 Early 19th-century stone gate post in Gate Field on the Hoar Oak holding (12831) (Hazel Riley)



Fig 36 Southern end of the leat on Cheriton Ridge; the 1m scale is by the collapsed stone structure (11685) (Hazel Riley)

HOAROAK VALLEY AND THE KNIGHTS' EXMOOR ESTATES

John Knight's purchase of Exmoor Forest in 1818 led to some of the most striking changes to the landscape of the Hoar Oak Valley. By 1824 a permanent boundary, rather than topographic features and boundary stones, separated the Forest from the neighbouring commons, and four years later the road from Simonsbath across Brendon Common to Lynton was completed (Orwin 1929, 28; 30), making it more practical to farm in this part of the former Royal Forest. John Knight's labourers lived in cottages scattered across his estate and one was built on a rocky knoll on the west side of Hoar Oak Water at the bottom of Long Chains Combe in the 1830s (Fig 37). The cottage was only lived in for a few decades, and the ruined stone walls on top of the knoll are now the only evidence that people lived here 180 years ago (Riley 2012; below, Conservation Work). As well as building enclosure banks, the labourers worked at making stone slabs on the opposite hillside into gate posts, and many roughly worked stone gate posts are still strewn across the site (Fig 38). Two are set up on the boundary between Exmoor Forest and Cheriton Ridge, where a route of some antiquity (above, The Royal Forest) crosses the boundary (10209).

John Knight's son, Frederic, ran his Exmoor Estates for most of the latter half of the 19th century (1850-1897). With a view to increasing his income from the Forest he started the search for ironstone in the 1850s. The prospecting work in the northern part of the Forest was undertaken by Scheidner and Hannay, who leased a large sett

Fig 37 Early 19th-century cottage and enclosure on the knoll at the end of Long Chains Combe (6988) (Hazel Riley)



Fig 38 Unfinished stone gate post at the stone working site on the east side of Hoar Oak Water (7123) (Hazel Riley)



which included a large area north of the Simonsbath to Challacombe road, extending as far north as the Forest boundary at the Hoar Oak (Burton 1989, 142). There are two large prospecting pits on the west side of Exe Plain (6982; 7124), which are the result of this work. A linear hollow at the edge of the working area for stone gate posts is probably also the result of iron prospecting (7123) (Fig 39). A more intensive area of iron working lies to the north of this, on the east side of a tributary stream above Gammon's Corner, where four adits and their spoil heaps are spread over some 300m (7125). Above the northern adit are at least seven lode back pits (Fig 40). Two further prospecting pits on Benjamy are probably the result of further prospecting for this iron lode (2628; 2201).

An extensive area of drainage ditches on Hoar Oak Hill were probably also dug in the later part of the 19th century, to improve the grazing potential of some of the highest parts of the Forest, as sheep farming became the mainstay of the Forest for Frederic Knight and the next owner, Lord Fortescue.



Fig 39 Linear prospecting trench on edge of stone working site, east of Hoar Oak Water (7123) (Hazel Riley)



Fig 40 Mid-19th-century lode back pits above Gammon's Corner (7125) (Hazel Riley)

THE HOAR OAK HERDING

In the 1860s and 1870s the more remote parts of Frederic Knight's Exmoor Estates were divided into herdings. Each herding had a shepherd who lived as close to his flocks as was practical. Most of the shepherds, and indeed the sheep, came from Scotland. The Chains or Hoar Oak herding took in some of the most remote parts of Exmoor. It was created before 1870 and the shepherd lived at Hoar Oak Cottage, not in John Knight's ruined labourer's cottage up the valley in the Forest, but in Hoar Oak farm, Lynton. After Mr Jeune bought Hoar Oak farm from the Vellacotts in 1867, and before the census of 1871, Frederic Knight took a lease for Hoar Oak, Lynton, and William Davidson, from Ayrshire, moved into the house and ran the Hoar Oak herding. A flock of Scottish Blackface sheep travelled from Scotland by ship to Lynton and Hoar Oak Cottage, as it became known, remained the home for the shepherd in charge of the Hoar Oak herding, together with the descendants of the Scottish Blackface sheep, until 1958.

The house at Hoar Oak underwent several changes during the 19th century, with the addition of extra living accommodation, and a cartshed and dairy (detailed in Morris 2013). The holding around the house also changed: part of Benjamy and more of the common to the west was enclosed and some smaller fields were created near to the house, used for vegetable plots or animal enclosures (Figs 5 and 26). Between 1889 and 1905 a sheepfold was built 30m south of the house. The remains of this still survive as a rectangular platform, 14.5m long, 4.2m wide and terraced into the hillside by 1.2m (Fig 41). It was built by James Johnstone, the third Scottish shepherd to live at Hoar Oak Cottage and is one of the few structures associated with the Exmoor Estate shepherds to survive around the farmstead. Simonsbath was the centre for the Estate sheep shearing in the later 19th century, but shearing also took place at Hoar Oak Cottage in the 1890s (Burton 1989, 125), and this structure was part of the infrastructure needed for flock management.



Fig 41 Remains of a rectangular sheepfold by Hoar Oak Cottage, built between 1889 and 1905 (HOL 3) (Hazel Riley)

Over 600m to the SE of the farm, just inside the Forest boundary and above Gammon's Corner, is a circular enclosure (6989) (Fig 22). This is one of the two circular sheep stells that were built in the more remote herdings (Hoar Oak and Larkbarrow) following the bad winter of 1878, when heavy losses of sheep were recorded by the Head Shepherd, Robert Little (Burton 1989, 119-120). The enclosure associated with the ruined 'Hoar Oak Cottage', Exmoor Forest, probably functioned as a sheepfold at this time (Riley 2012).

The sale of Hoar Oak Cottage, Lynton, together with 60 acres, from Mr Jeune to Lord Fortescue was completed in 1898. Between 1870 and 1958, seven shepherds and their families lived at Hoar Oak Cottage (Burton 1989, 116; 268). The history of the shepherds and their families, as well as Vellacott's tenants, has been documented in some detail by 'The Friends of Hoar Oak Cottage' (www.hoarokcottage.org), and is presented in outline below (Timeline for the Hoar Oak Valley). Their influence on the landscape is seen around the buildings at Hoar Oak, which grows from a single roomed house to a double fronted, two-storied building with a range of outbuildings in the course of some 100-150 years (Morris 2013; Figs 30, 42, and 43).

Two objects abandoned in the Hoar Oak holding are tangible reminders of the domestic and agricultural work that was carried out at the farm. The frame of a wringer mangle stands in the corner of the small field north of Hoar Oak Cottage (Fig 44). These were in use from the 1850s to the 1940s, and it is easy to imagine Sarah Johnstone, wife of

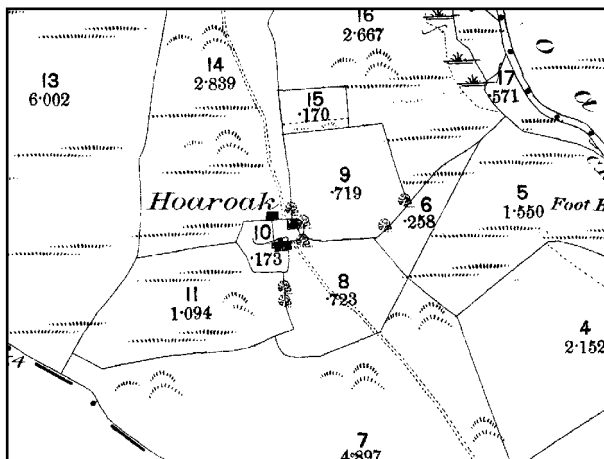


Fig 42 (left) Extract from the OS 1st edition map showing Hoar Oak Cottage and outbuildings (1889)

Fig 43 (below left) Hoar Oak Cottage in the 1950s (www.hoarokcottage.org)

Fig 44 (below) Wringer mangle at Hoar Oak Cottage (Hazel Riley)



the shepherd James and mother of 13 children, labouring at the handle of this every washday. A more puzzling object is the frame of an original Ferguson manure spreader for a TE20 tractor (A-JE-A20), at the bottom of a very steep field close to the river (Fig 45). These were manufactured 1946-1956 and, due to the corrosive nature of muck, are now quite rare (Farnworth 1996, 2; 46-7). The Exmoor Estate shepherds each had their own house cow, but there was no need to spread manure from one or two beasts and Abel Antell travelled around on horseback, and there are no mentions of a tractor at Hoar Oak. It was probably left here by one of the farmers from Ilkerton or Furzehill.

HOAR OAK VALLEY IN THE LATER 20TH CENTURY

In 1958 Abel Antell, the last Hoar Oak herding shepherd, moved from Hoar Oak to Blackpitts; the Scottish Blackface sheep left Hoar Oak for the newly created Ashcombe Herding. The Fortescue Estate sold the Challacombe Estate and 4640 acres of the Exmoor Estate, which included the Hoar Oak holding and about 200 acres in Devon to an investment company in 1959. The Challacombe tenants were able to buy the farms and other properties, the remainder was put up for sale as the Emmetts Grange Estate. This included the Chains and Hoar Oak herding, 1210 acres, and the sale brochure showed that the Hoar Oak Cottage had no electricity, no bathroom and a bucket water closet, with a water supply to a sink in the scullery. In 1967 Mr Darby Haddon sold the Emmetts Grange Estate to Mr Bradley; Exmoor National Park bought Pinkery and Driver Farms, Hoar Oak and the Chains in 1969 (Burton 1989, 227, 230-1, 234).

Fig 45 Ferguson manure spreader on the Hoar Oak holding (Hazel Riley)



Fig 46 Laser scan of the south elevation of Hoar Oak Cottage (© Lewis Brown Land Surveyors)



CONSERVATION WORK IN THE HOAROAK VALLEY

Hoar oak Cottage was not lived in after Abel Antel moved out in 1958. In 2010 the building was described as: 'in a semi-derelict condition with no surviving internal timber work'. There was a small amount of internal plaster, the floor was buried in animal dung and rubbish and a replacement roof had failed. Earlier stabilisation and conservation work included the reduction of the height of the gables and the internal walls, blocking of the upper floor windows, the addition of a concrete wallplate and an Onduline sheet roof (Green and Humphreys 2010, 15).

A desk-based assessment and survey of the building was carried out in 2010, (Green and Humphreys 2010) and the whole of the building was also recorded using laser scanning in 2012 (Fig 46) (Lewis Brown Land Surveyors, results at the ENPA), prior to the formulation of a programme of conservation work (P J Stow and Associates 2013). The remaining parts of the roof structure were taken down and areas of render from the front elevation were removed, followed by dismantling parts of the structure to a 'desire line,' then the consolidation of the remaining fabric. The



*Fig 47
Conservation
work in progress
at Hoar oak
Cottage,
September 2013
(Hazel Riley)*



*Fig 48 Enclosure
wall and part
of the 19th-
century cottage
at the bottom
of Long Chains
Combe after
consolidation
work, June 2013
(Hazel Riley)*

detailed methodology for this process is set out in P J Stow and Associates 2013, with the overarching aim being to extend the life of the building as 'a substantial tangible footprint and guide to the history of the site' (P J Stow and Associates 2013, Part 2, 1). This work was carried out during the summer of 2013 (Fig 47); additional archaeological recording work was carried out during the course of the work (Morris 2013).

The ruined cottage at the foot of Long Chains Combe, built by John Knight for his Estate workers in the 1830s, was also the subject of a recording, conservation and consolidation project in 2012 and 2013 (Riley 2012). The ruined walls were rebuilt in places, and a soft capping was added, again with the aim of extending the life of the structure in its historic landscape setting (Fig 48).

CONCLUSIONS

The historic landscape around Hoar Oak Cottage is significant for a number of reasons. The multi-period settlement complex on Cheriton Ridge highlights once more the potential for the discovery of new sites on Exmoor, particularly with the use of Lidar imagery (Riley 2013b). Exmoor's importance in the study of settlement transition in the early medieval period is emphasised by this discovery. At sites such as Sweetworthy and Ley Hill the prehistoric elements of the multi-period complexes lie some distance away from the medieval farmsteads. On Cheriton Ridge the elements are closely associated spatially and the nature of the remains indicates excellent preservation of the archaeological resource.

The recent conservation work at Hoar Oak Cottage has shown that the building has its origins before the Vellacotts started work there in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and questions about the use of Exmoor's commons for agriculture in the post-medieval period and the archaeological and documentary evidence associated with this need addressing. The work of 'The Friends of Hoar Oak Cottage' has shed light on the people who lived at Hoar Oak in the 19th and 20th centuries, and we can now link historic structures in the landscape, such as the sheep fold by the cottage, with the people who built them.

Recommendations for further research and recording work

Large scale analytical earthwork survey of the prehistoric and medieval settlement complex on Cheriton Ridge

Geophysical survey of the prehistoric and medieval settlement complex on Cheriton Ridge

Metric survey of the field system to the north of the settlement complex on Cheriton Ridge (12856) to investigate the phasing set out in this document and the relationship of elements of the field systems to the prehistoric and medieval settlement complex

Large scale surveys of the prehistoric burial cairns on Cheriton Ridge (1308; 1309)

Investigation of the archaeological and documentary evidence for the cultivation of the commons of Exmoor in the late medieval and post-medieval period

Large scale analytical survey of the iron workings south of Gammon's Corner (7125)

Investigation of the 19th-century leat and its relationship to the farming systems in place at Cheriton at this time

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was commissioned by the Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership. I would like to thank staff at the ENPA for providing background material; the DRO for access to the original tithe maps and apportionments, and The Friends of Hoar Oak Cottage, whose research into the families who lived at Hoar Oak has brought that part of the story so vividly to life.

TIMELINE FOR THE HOAR OAK VALLEY

Date: 2200-1500 BC

Later Neolithic and early Bronze Age use of the valley for hunting; placing of stone monuments and funerary monuments in the valley

Date: Mid- 2nd millennium BC

Middle Bronze Age settlement with associated field system on Cheriton Ridge

Date: Late 2nd millennium BC

Later Bronze Age enclosed settlement on Cheriton Ridge

Date: 9th-10th centuries AD

Establishment of Royal Forest of Exmoor

Date: 13th century AD

Hoar Oak tree part of the Forest boundary

Date: 1200-1400 AD

Medieval settlement with associated field system on Cheriton Ridge

Date: 1200-1550 AD

Routes across Exe Plain, Furzehill Common and Cheriton Ridge are established in the landscape

Date: 1550-1800

Periodic arable cultivation of parts of the abandoned medieval fields on Cheriton Ridge

Date: ?1700-1800

Single-roomed, stone building on the site of Hoar Oak Cottage

Date: 1800

Vellacotts build farm house and outbuilding at Hoar Oak, together with enclosure of a holding of 60 acres with 286 acres of rough grazing

Date: 1800-1867

Hoar Oak farm let to various tenants who were usually described as agricultural labourers in the Lynton parish registers and census records:

1819 William Dovell

1824 William Rawle

1825-1829 Richards

1838 Saunders

1838 Lancey

1841 John Bale

1850-1851 George Moule

1859-1861 Vellacott

1861-1867 R Taylor

Date: 1830-1851

Cottage for John Knight's labourers built c 1835 at bottom of Long Chains Combe; abandoned by 1851

Date: 1830-1850

Stone gate post working site in production

Date: 1850s

Iron prospecting in the upper part of the Hoar Oak Valley and its tributary stream SW of Gammon's Corner

Date: 1850-1885

Construction of leat along Cheriton Ridge, possibly taking water to power machinery at farms in Cheriton

Date: 1866

Hoar Oak holding is purchased from Vellacotts by Mr Jeune

Date: 1870

Hoar Oak herding established; Hoar Oak Cottage leased from Mr Jeune by Frederic Knight and used as the home for the Hoar Oak herding shepherd. William Davidson, the first shepherd to run the Hoar Oak herding, moves from Ayrshire to Hoar Oak Cottage and Scottish Blackface sheep travel by ship to Lynton then on to the herding

Date: 1870-1879

William Davidson, shepherd of Hoar Oak herding, lives at Hoar Oak Cottage

Date: 1879-1886

John Renwick, shepherd of Hoar Oak herding, lives at Hoar Oak Cottage; is 'taken away to Exeter Asylum' in 1886

Date: 1886-1904

James Johnstone, shepherd of Hoar Oak herding, lives at Hoar Oak Cottage with his wife and 13 children; dies of 'dysentery and syncope [exhaustion]' at the age of 50 at Hoar Oak

Date: 1904-1913

Archie Jackson, shepherd of Hoar Oak herding, lives at Hoar Oak Cottage

Date: 1913-1932

Will Hobbs, shepherd of Hoar Oak herding, lives at Hoar Oak Cottage

Date: 1932-1938

William Little, shepherd of Hoar Oak herding, lives at Hoar Oak Cottage

Date: 1938-1958

Abel Antell, shepherd of Hoar Oak herding, lives at Hoar Oak Cottage. Hoar Oak herding given up in 1958, Abel Antell moves to Blackpitts and takes on the Ashcombe herding

Date: 1959

The Fortescue Estate sell the Challacombe Estate and 4640 acres of the Exmoor Estate, which include Hoar Oak and about 200 acres in Devon, to an investment company

Date: 1967

Mr Darby Haddon sells the Emmetts Grange Estate to Mr Bradley

Date: 1969

ENPA purchase Pinkery and Driver Farms, Hoar Oak and the Chains

SITE GAZETTEER

Exmoor HER: 1305

Name: Stone setting on Furzehill Common

Location: SS 7389 4470

Type: Stone setting

Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 1302
 Name: Stone setting on Furzehill Common
 Location: SS 7373 4424
 Type: Stone setting
 Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 8985
 Name: Standing stone on Furzehill Common
 Location: SS 7395 4421
 Type: Standing stone
 Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 8977
 Name: Stone row on Furzehill Common
 Location: SS 7382 4395
 Type: Stone alignment
 Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 1304
 Name: Stone setting near Hoaroak
 Location: SS 7392 4378
 Type: Stone setting
 Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 7120
 Name: Stone setting on Hoaroak Hill
 Location: SS 7449 4297
 Type: Stone setting
 Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 6964
 Name: Stone setting on Hoaroak Hill
 Location: SS 7456 4235
 Type: Stone setting
 Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 6840
 Name: Stone setting on Exe Plain
 Location: SS 7496 4263
 Type: Stone setting
 Period: Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC)
 Exmoor HER: 1309
 Name: Burial cairn on Cheriton Ridge
 Location: SS 7425 4451
 Type: Cairn
 Period: Bronze Age (2000 BC to 700 BC)
 Reference: HOL_1309_NW_06JUN13_HRILEY
 Exmoor HER: 12859
 Name: Probable burial cairn on Cheriton Ridge
 Location: SS 7479 4430
 Type: Cairn
 Period: Bronze Age (2000 BC to 700 BC)

Exmoor HER: 1308

Name: Burial cairn on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 7470 4354

Type: Cairn

Period: Bronze Age (2000 BC to 700 BC)

Reference: 1767HOL_1308_N_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 6848

Name: Two burial cairns on Hoar Oak Hill

Location: 74394 42361 and SS 74423 42355

Type: Cairn

Period: Bronze Age (2000 BC to 700 BC)

Exmoor HER: 7121

Name: Bronze Age burial cairn above Long Chains Combe

Location: SS 7493 4218

Type: Cairn

Period: Bronze Age (2000 BC to 700 BC)

Reference: HOL_7121_W_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 1

Name: Bronze Age hut platform on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 74697 44031

Type: HUT PLATFORM

Period: Bronze Age (2000-700 BC)

Description and interpretation: A well defined sub-circular platform, close to the track to the ford below Hoar Oak Cottage. The platform measures 10.8m NW/SE by 9.3m NE/SW and is defined on the east by a scarp cut into the hillside 1m deep, on the south by a scarp up to 1.5m high, and on the north by a bank 1.5m wide and 0.5m high. This is a platform for a Bronze Age round house and forms part of a larger Bronze Age settlement on the west side of Cheriton Ridge

Reference: HOL_(HOL1)_SE_29MAY13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 2

Name: Bronze Age hut platform on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 7472 44031

Type: HUT PLATFORM

Period: Bronze Age (2000-700 BC)

Description and interpretation: A well defined prehistoric hut platform on the north of a dry gully on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. The platform is oval and measures 10.8m NW/SE by 9.2m NE/SW and is defined to the west by a scarp up to 0.9m high cut into the hillside, and to the east by a scarp 0.5m high. This is a platform for a Bronze Age round house and forms part of a larger Bronze Age settlement on the west side of Cheriton Ridge

Reference: HOL_(HOL2)_S_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 11

Name: Bronze Age hut platform on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 74739 43994

Type: HUT PLATFORM

Period: Bronze Age (2000-700 BC)

Description and interpretation: A prehistoric hut platform on the south of a dry gully

on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. The platform is sub-circular and measures 8m NS by 7m EW and is defined on the east by a scarp cut into the hillside 1.1m deep and on the west by a scarp 1m high. This is a platform for a Bronze Age round house and forms part of a larger Bronze Age settlement on the west side of Cheriton Ridge

Reference: HOL_(HOL11)_N_18SEP13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 12

Name: Bronze Age hut platform on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 74620 44024

Type: HUT PLATFORM

Period: Bronze Age (2000-700 BC)

Description and interpretation: A prehistoric hut platform inside a relict field system on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. The platform is oval and measures 6m NS by 5m EW and is defined on the east by a well defined scarp cut into the hillside up to 1.1m deep and on the west by a less clear scarp less than 0.25m high. This is probably a platform for a Bronze Age round house and forms part of a larger Bronze Age settlement on the west side of Cheriton Ridge

Reference: 1727 HOL_(HOL12)_N_18SEP13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2197

Name: Prehistoric enclosure on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 74644 43859

Type: ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT

Period: Bronze Age (2000 – 700 BC)

Description and interpretation: A well defined enclosure on the south side of a dry gully and close to the track to the ford below Hoar Oak Cottage on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. The enclosure is sub-rectangular with overall measurements 23m NW/SE by 25m NE/SW. It is defined on the S by a scarp cut into the hillside 1m deep and on the north by a scarp 1.6m high. The SW side is marked by a spread bank, 4m wide and less than 0.25m high. The NE side is clearer with a bank 5m wide, 0.5-0.8m high with a gap 2m wide which is very likely to be the original entrance into the enclosure. The interior is a level platform, 18m by 16m, and contains two slight platforms which could well be the stances for prehistoric buildings.

Reference: HOL_2197a_W_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2197b_E_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2197c_NE_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2197d_W_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 4

Name: Bronze Age field system on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 74657 44018

Type: FIELD SYSTEM

Period: Bronze Age (2000 – 700 BC)

Description and interpretation: a fragmentary field system which underlies a probable medieval field system on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. The remains are visible on recent ENPA Lidar images and on the 1946-48 RAF and ENPA 2010 APs; on the NE edge the field boundary survives as a substantial lynchet up to 1m high. The Lidar image shows part of a long, narrow field 250m long and 40m wide, indicating that this may be the remains of a co-axial field system.

Reference: HOL_(HOL4)_N_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 13

Name: Probable Bronze Age field system on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 74812 44031

Type: FIELD SYSTEM

Period: Bronze Age (2000 – 700 BC)

Description and interpretation: Fragments of banks to the north and east of the hut platforms on the west side of Cheriton Ridge, visible on the ENPA Lidar image, are on a different alignment to the possible coaxial field system HOL 4 but could also be prehistoric.

Exmoor HER: 6985

Name: Hoar Oak tree

Location: SS 7476 4301

Type: NAMED TREE

Period: Medieval and post-medieval 1066-1900 AD

Reference: HOL_6985_NE_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2638

Name: Trackways on east slopes of Furzehill Common

Location: SS 7413 4430

Type: TRACKWAYS

Period: Medieval (1066-1540)

Description and interpretation: Several hollows run across the east side of Furzehill Common down to Hoar Oak Water. One of these hollows, which is up to 3m deep and 2.5m wide, is used as the north boundary of the Hoar Oak holding, indicating that the hollow is older than this part of the Hoar Oak enclosures.

Reference: HOL_2638a_W_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2638b_E_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2638c_NW_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 10209

The 'Linton Road' and gateway, Exe Plain

Location: SS 7495 4256

Type: TRACKWAYS

Period: Medieval and post-medieval (1066-1900 AD)

A track, known as 'The Linton Road' in the early 19th century' crosses Exe Plain. It appears as a substantial bank, 2m wide, 1m high, with flanking ditches, 1m wide, 1m deep. At SS 74901 42664 the feature divides into two. The south track runs in the direction of Hoar Oak, the north leads to the north of a way through the 19th century boundary bank which is marked by two stone gateposts.

Reference: HOL_10209a_NW_11JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_10209b_NW_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2199

Name: Deserted medieval settlement on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 7472 4389

Type: DESERTED SETTLEMENT

Period: Medieval (1066-1540)

Description and interpretation: Four rectangular or sub-rectangular platforms lie above the track to the ford below Hoar Oak Cottage on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. A platform at SS 74728 43898 is 8.2m long by 4.6m wide and is terraced into the hillside 1.2m (HOL 7); a second at SS 74726 43884 is 7.6m long and 4.3m wide and is terraced into the slope by up to 1m (HOL 8); a third at SS 74713 43889 is 7.5m long, 3.5m wide and terraced into the hillside by 1m (HOL 9); a fourth at SS 74704 43873 is 7.5m long,

5m wide and terraced into the slope by 0.8m (HOL 10). These are the remains of a small medieval settlement of perhaps two farmsteads, with associated field system to the north and south (12856; 20820). There are no known documentary references to a settlement here and a date c 1200-1400 AD is suggested by similar sites on Exmoor such as Ley Hill.

Reference: HOL_2199a_E_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2199b_N_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2199c_NW_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_2199d_N_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 12856

Name: Medieval field system on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 744 442

Type: FIELD SYSTEM

Period: Medieval and post-medieval (1066-1900)

Description and interpretation: A regular, rectangular block of fields lies to the north of the deserted medieval settlement (2199) on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. It is divided into five or six smaller fields, and a single bank extends the field system for a further 400m to the north. The field boundaries are substantial banks; the top or east boundary is made up of rather spread bank, 2m wide, 0.7m high, with an outer ditch, 2m wide and 0.9m deep and some of the internal boundaries also have ditches.

Reference: HOL_12856a_NE_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_12856b_NE_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 20820

Name: Medieval field system on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 745 435

Type: FIELD SYSTEM

Period: Medieval and post-medieval (1066-1900)

Description and interpretation: A regular block of four fields, 150-200m square, with a rectangular enclosure 150m by 50m on the east side, lies to the south of the deserted medieval settlement on the west side of Cheriton Ridge. The field boundaries are banks, 1.5-2m wide and no more than 0.5m high, often with a ditch, 1m wide and 0.5m deep on the outer side. The banks are quite spread, a result of their age, but also because of later ploughing. This is evident on the ENPA Lidar image of the area and the ENPA 2010 air photographs and probably represents periodic cultivation of an arable crop – generally rye – in the 16th to 18th centuries AD.

Reference: HOL_20820_NE_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 1311

Name: Four clearance cairns on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 7477 4333

Type: CLEARANCE CAIRN

Period: Medieval and post-medieval (1066-1900)

Four small stony mounds lie at the south end of the medieval field system on the west side of Cheriton Ridge (20820). They are clearance cairns and date from the medieval period when the fields were first enclosed, or from the post-medieval period when some of the fields were periodically cultivated for an arable crop

Reference: HOL_1311_W_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 6

Name: Field system at Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 742 435

Type: FIELD SYSTEM

Period: 19th century (1800-1899)

Description and interpretation: Block of fields around Hoar Oak Cottage, enclosed in the late 18th or early 19th centuries and abandoned by 1958. The holding enclosed the east side of Hoar Oak Common and Furzehill Common from Benjamy to the boundary stones between Warcombe Water and Hoar Oak Water

Reference: HOL_(HOL6a)_W_06JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_(HOL6b)_N_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 12831

Name: Stone gate post north of Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 7404 4395

Type: GATE PIER

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Reference: HOL_12831_N_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: new site HOL 3

Name: Sheep fold south of Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 74224 43526

Type: SHEEP FOLD

Period: Late 19th to early 20th century (1890-1904)

Description and interpretation: A rectangular platform 14.5m long, 4.2m wide and terraced into the hillside by 1.2m, 30m south of Hoar Oak Cottage, is the remains of a sheep fold, built between 1889 and 1904 when Hoar Oak Cottage was the home of the shepherd of the Exmoor Estate's Hoar Oak herding.

Reference: HOL_(HOL3)_NW_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 6989

Name: Hoar Oak Hill sheepfold

Location: SS 7456 4313

Type: SHEEP FOLD

Period: 19th century (1800-1899)

Reference: HOL_6989_SE_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2633

Name: Water meadow, east of Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 7423 4358

Type: WATER MEADOW

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Reference: HOL_2633_S_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 6988

Name: Ruined building and enclosure at end of Long Chains Combe in Hoar Oak Valley

Location: SS 7468 4232

Type: HOUSE

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Reference: HOL_6988a_W_11JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_6988b_E_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2639

Name: Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 7420 4356

Type: BARN

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Description and interpretation: A scarp 7.5m long and 1.4m wide lies behind the west gable end of Hoar Oak Cottage. It is the remains of a building platform. On the tithe map of 1840 a rectangular building is shown at this location; it had been demolished by 1890 (OS 1st edition)

Reference: HOL_2639_N_18SEP13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 7123

Name: Stone working site, east of Hoar Oak Water

Location: SS 7474 4264

Type: STONEWORKING SITE

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Description and interpretation: The large rectangular hollow at the stone working site could be a linear prospecting site for iron; a similar feature lies to the south (2193).

Reference: HOL_7123_NE_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2193

Name: Prospecting trench, Hoar Oak Valley

Location: SS 7484 4215

Type: EXTRACTIVE PIT

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Description and interpretation: A rectangular trench, 15m NS by 2m EW cut into the hillside to a depth of 2m, with a bank of spoil on the west (downslope) edge is probably a prospecting trench for iron and dates from the 1850s when Scheidner and Hannay, agents for Frederic Knight, were looking for iron in the Hoar Oak Valley.

Reference: HOL_2193_S_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 6982

Name: Trial pit overlooking Hoar Oak Water

Location: SS 7494 4285

Type: EXTRACTIVE PIT

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Reference: HOL_6982_N_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 7124

Name: Trial pit overlooking Hoar Oak Water

Location: SS 7490 4235

Type: EXTRACTIVE PIT

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Reference: HOL_7124_W_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2201

Name: Trial pit south of Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 7437 4324

Type: EXTRACTIVE PIT

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Reference: Air photograph EH NMR 27653/008

Exmoor HER: 2628

Name: Trial pit south of Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 7397 4325

Type: EXTRACTIVE PIT

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Description and interpretation: Four smaller trial pits can be seen to the north and east

of the largest pit

Reference: Air photograph EH NMR 27653/008

Exmoor HER: 7125

Name: Ironstone workings, SW of Gammon's Corner

Location: SS 7435 4307

Type: IRONSTONE WORKINGS

Period: 19th century (1800-1899 AD)

Description and interpretation: At least seven lode back pits lie to the NE of the northern adit.

Reference: HOL_7125a_W_11JUN13_HRILEY; HOL_7125b_W_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 11685

Name: Post-medieval leat on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 7404 4509

Type: LEAT

Period: 19th century (1800-1899)

Description and interpretation: The leat runs from just north of the Forest boundary, where the remains of a collapsed stone bridge or sluice at the take off point can be seen at SS74830. The northern end of the leat, where it leaves the common, has not been established, but the channel is substantial and takes water from several streams which flow into Hoar Oak Water, suggesting it may have been built in the late 19th century to power farm machinery at farms in Cheriton.

Reference: HOL_11685_N_11JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 2161

Name: Peat cutting on Furzehill Common

Location: SS 7360 4453

Type: PEAT CUTTING

Period: Post-medieval to 20th century (1540-1999 AD)

Exmoor HER: 2173

Name: Peat cutting on Cheriton Ridge

Location: SS 7502 4378

Type: PEAT CUTTING

Period: Post-medieval to 20th century (1540-1999 AD)

Exmoor HER: 2632

Name: Peat cutting west of Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 7384 4365

Type: PEAT CUTTING

Period: Post-medieval to 20th century (1540-1999 AD)

Reference: HOL_2632_S_06JUN13_HRILEY

Exmoor HER: 12857

Name: Peat cutting east of Hoar Oak Cottage

Location: SS 7437 4356

Type: PEAT CUTTING

Period: Post-medieval to 20th century (1540-1999 AD)

Description and interpretation: A small field to the east of Hoar Oak Cottage, known as 'Moor' on the tithe apportionment, has been cut for turf. The remains of turf pits can be seen over most of the field

Reference: HOL_12857_NW_06JUN13_HRILEY

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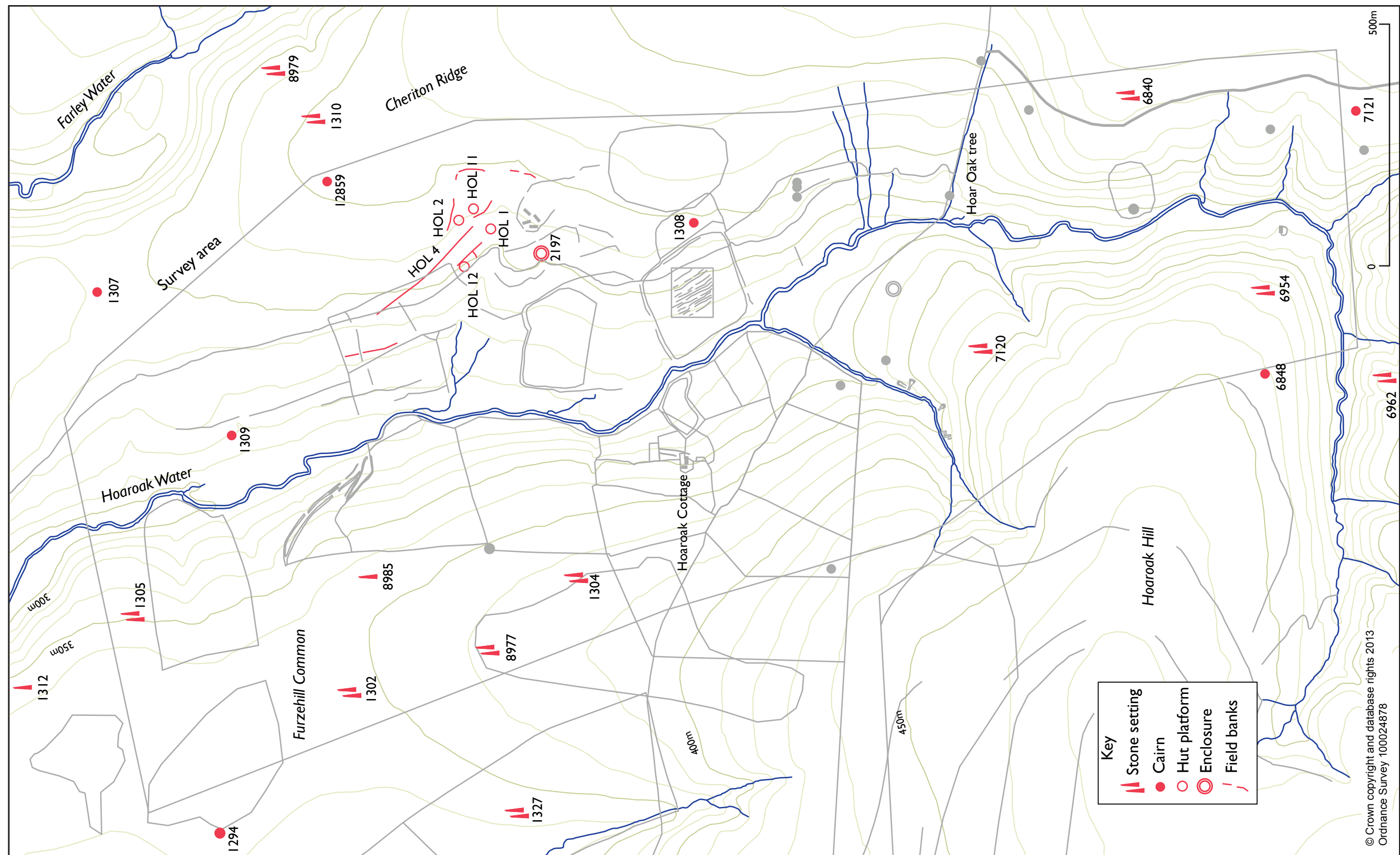


Fig 6 The prehistoric archaeology of the upper Hoarok Valley

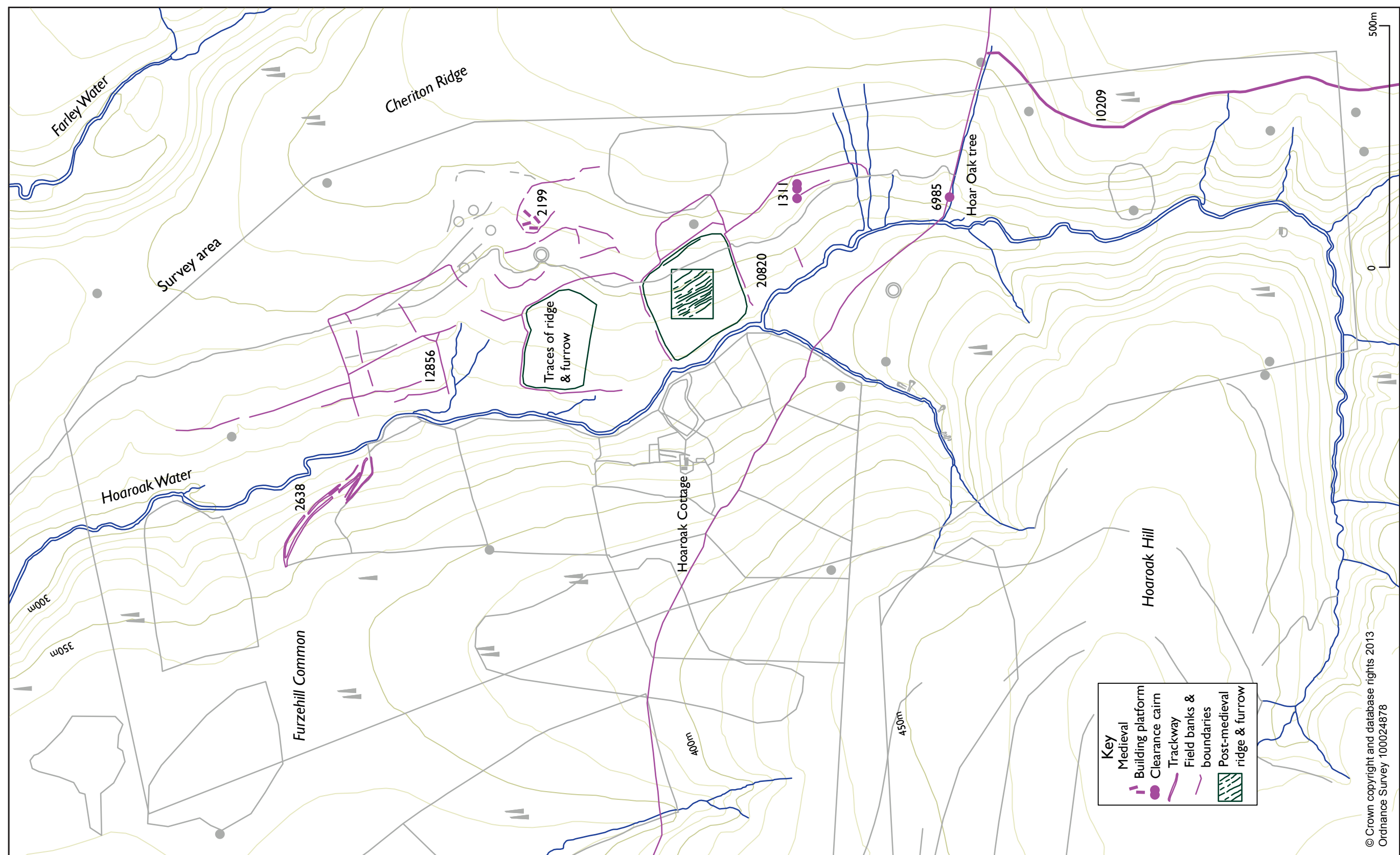


Fig 17 Medieval and post-medieval features in the upper Hoar Oak Valley

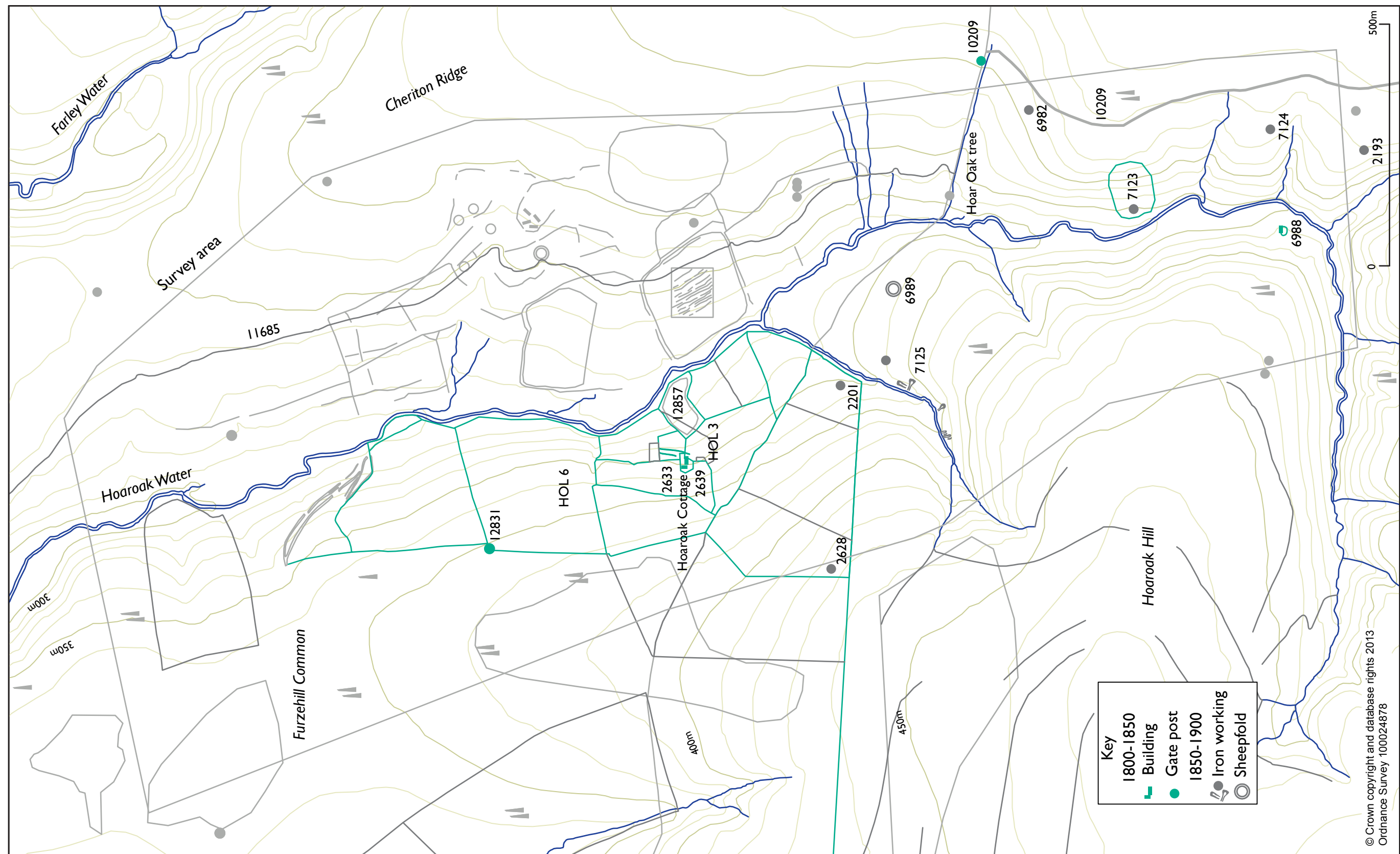


Fig 26 Nineteenth-century features in the upper Hoar Oak Valley

