

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY: HORSEN,
EXMOOR
Exmoor Mires Project EHF16
PROJECT REPORT

By Hazel Riley



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EXMOOR

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OASIS PROJECT NO 243173

ABBREVIATIONS

EH English Heritage

EMP Exmoor Mires Project

ENPA Exmoor National Park Authority

GPS Global Positioning System

HE Historic England

HER Historic Environment Record

NMP National Mapping Programme

NMR National Monuments Record

RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Staff from ENPA provided background material and facilitated access for the survey work.

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 A walkover survey of land on Horsen Hill, Horsen Farm, Exmoor, was carried out in January and February 2016 in advance of mire restoration to be carried out by the Exmoor Mires Project. The work was carried out in order to characterise, quantify and locate known and unknown heritage assets within the defined survey area. Several previously unrecorded heritage assets were located, including a Bronze Age cairn and a large area of early medieval hollow ways.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological walkover survey at Horsen Hill, Horsen Farm, Exmoor, in advance of work to restore mires carried out by the Exmoor Mires Project (Ferraby 2015).

2.2 Horsen Hill is a ridge of open moorland rising to over 440m, close to the SE boundary of Exmoor Forest, centred at SS 7900 3560 (Figs 1 and 2). The hill occupies land between tributary streams of Sherdon Water and the River Barle, and borders the enclosed land of Sherdon Farm to the SE, Horsen Farm to the north with the moorland of Long Holcombe to the west. The survey area lies within an area of partially reclaimed moorland, with poorly drained, peaty soils supporting rough grazing interspersed with areas of reeds (Front cover). The underlying geology of Horsen Hill consists of Devonian rocks – sandstones of the Pickwell Down Formation. To the north the enclosures of Horsen Farm lie on slates of the Devonian Morte Slates Formation (bgs.ac.uk).

2.3 Each archaeological feature has been given a unique number with the prefix EHF16, and these numbers are used throughout this report: EHF160001 to EHF160024. These numbers are cross referenced to known sites in the Exmoor HER where appropriate.



Fig 1 Location map

2.4 The RCHME carried out archaeological fieldwork across the area in the early 1990s (Riley and Wilson-North 2001; HE NMR records) and the EH NMP project for Exmoor mapped the archaeological and historic landscape features of the whole of the National Park from air photographs (Hegarty and Toms 2009; Hegarty and Wilson-North 2014). The NMP transcription recorded the two drainage systems on the north and west sides of Horsen Hill (EHFI60003; EHFI60013); the trackways (EHFI60009) and one of the post-medieval extractive pits (EHFI60016). The peat cuttings on the summit of Horsen Hill (EHFI60024) were transcribed to give an indication of distribution and form.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The principal aim of the survey work was to characterise, quantify and locate known and unknown heritage assets within the defined survey area (Fig 3).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A rapid walkover survey was undertaken across the whole of the survey area (Figure 3).

4.2 Intensive walkover survey was carried out over the areas shown in Figure 3), including the summit of Horsen Hill and the access routes for EMP work.

4.3 All of the peat cuttings identified for blocking on the summit of Horsen Hill were located and examined.

4.4 All of the drainage ditches identified for blocking were located and examined. Where possible, the drainage ditches were walked but the silted up nature of the features and the very wet ground made this difficult in some places, in particular to the NE of the ditches EHFI60003 (Figure 3).

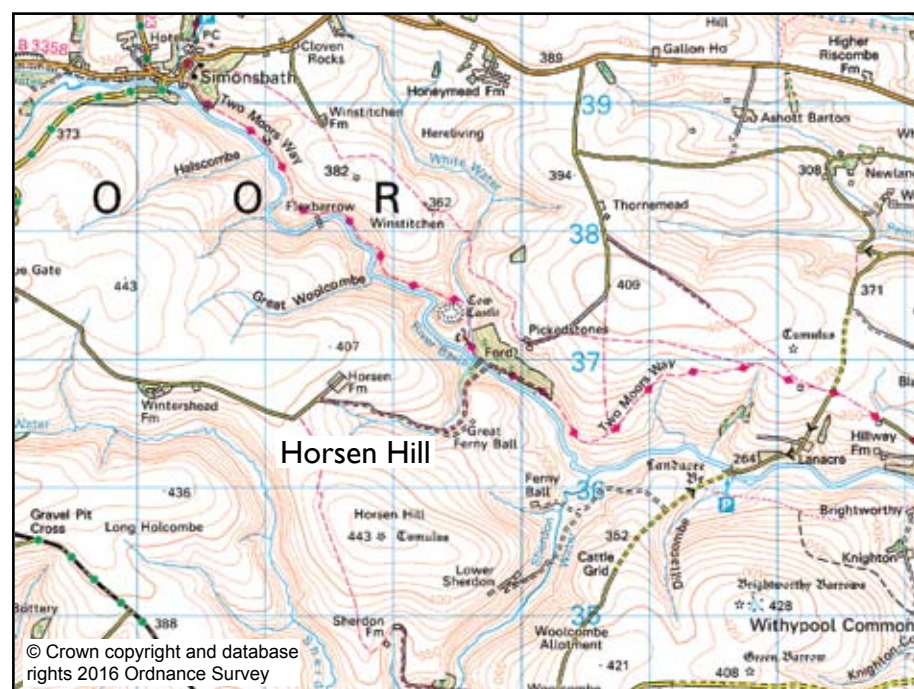


Fig 2 Survey location and topography

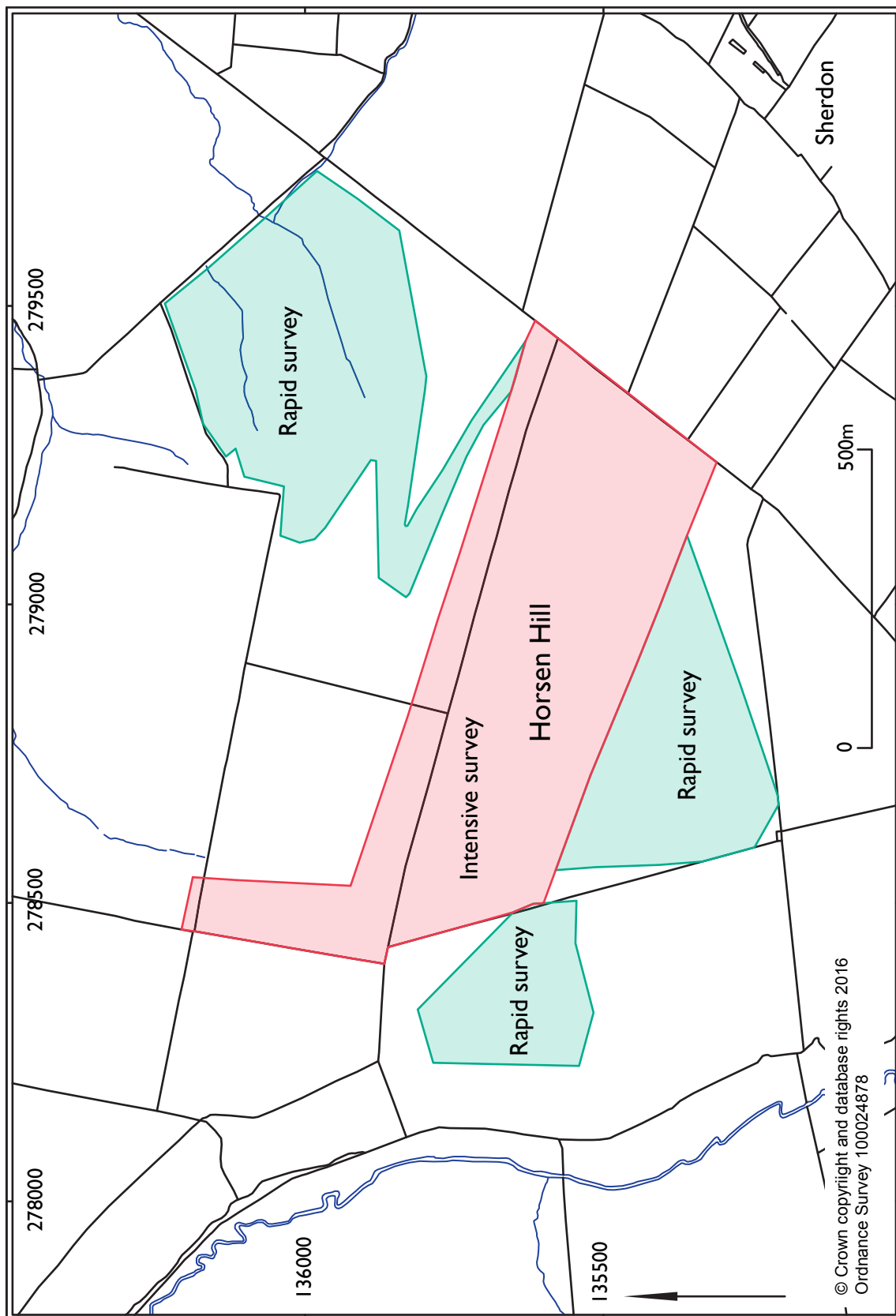


Fig 3 The survey area

4.5 Areas of erosion and animal activity were examined for artefacts. The main areas were numerous mole-hills centred at 278420 and erosion by the gateway at 279420 135580. No artefacts were found during the course of the survey.

4.6 The fieldwork was carried out during January and February 2016. All of the features recorded in the Exmoor HER were located, photographed and recorded. Several new features were located during the course of the survey and these were recorded in the same way. These detailed descriptions and photographs make up the Site Gazetteer (below, 5.2). The locations of the features were obtained using the EMP hand held GPS. The extent of larger features was also recorded with the GPS, giving an indication of the direct spatial relationship between the blocking sites and the extant heritage assets.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 The detailed results of the walkover survey are set out in the Site Gazetteer (below, 5.2) and the location of each site is shown in Figure 4. Twenty-four sites were recorded during the course of the survey, of these 10 were already recorded in the Exmoor HER. The chronology of the remains in the survey area ranges from prehistoric funerary monuments of the 2nd millennium BC to the remains of agricultural improvement and mineral prospection and extraction carried out in the 19th century when the area was part of the Knight's Exmoor estate.



Fig 5 (above) EHFI60001 Stone

5.2 Site Gazetteer

EHFI60001 LOCATION 278910 135736

TYPE NATURAL FEATURE

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A slab of local sandstone with quartz veins lies in a prominent position in the area to be used as an access track for the EMP work. The stone measures 0.6m x 0.53m and is 0.3m thick. This is a naturally occurring stone but is included here to avoid confusion as it is visible on the access route (Fig 5).

REFERENCES EHF0001_NW_19JAN16_HRILEY



EHFI60002 LOCATION 279421 135565

TYPE EXTRACTIVE PIT

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

A linear trench, with banks of spoil on both sides, is 12.5m NE/SW, 8m NW/SE and up to 1.5m deep. This may be a prospecting trench for ironstone or a quarry for stone for the nearby enclosure banks (Fig 6).

REFERENCES EHFI60002_NE_19JAN16_HRILEY

Fig 6 (left) EHFI60002 Quarry

EHFI60003 EXMOOR HER MMO 2884

LOCATION 279340 135850

TYPE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

An extensive drainage system lies to the NE of Horsen Hill. The ditches run along the contours to drain into a larger channel which itself flows into a tributary stream of the River Barle. A curving ditch runs from SE/NW across the slope above the ditches and flows into the main drainage channel of the system. The upper section of this contour or head

drain is silted up, mostly obscured by reeds, and is visible intermittently as a scarp 0.6m wide and 0.75m high. The lower section of this contour ditch survives as a reed filled hollow some 2m wide and 0.6m deep. The drainage ditches to the west are mostly silted up and obscured by reeds; where they can be seen the ditches are shallow channels 0.5m wide and less than 0.25m deep. The drainage ditches to the east are also mostly silted up and obscured by reeds, but the lowest drainage ditch which runs NE/SW along the contours is clearly visible and is 1m wide and up to 1m deep. The stream which takes the water from the ditches has been artificially deepened (see EHFI60012) (Fig 7).

REFERENCES EHFI60003a_NE_02FEB16_HRILEY; EHFI60003b_NE_19JAN16_HRILEY



Fig 7 EHFI6003 Drainage system

EHFI60004

LOCATION 278656 135725

TYPE ENCLOSURE

PERIOD MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A

sub-rectangular enclosure on the western side of Horsen Hill is 18m E/W and 13.5m N/S. It

is formed by scarps up to 0.8m high on the north, west and south sides; the west side is formed by a bank 0.9m high and 3.5m high.

The interior has a slightly raised or domed appearance. The area to the east of the feature is rather disturbed with hollows which may be the remains of vehicle or other access tracks;

the south side is used by agricultural vehicles (quad bike). This feature could be a small enclosure dating from the medieval or post-medieval period, perhaps connected with stock management or peat storage (see EHFI60007). It could, however, represent the remains of shallow mineral working or prospection (Fig 8).

REFERENCES EHFI60004_W_20_JAN16_HRILEY



Fig 8 EHFI60004 Possible enclosure



Fig 9 EHFI60005 Barrow

EHFI60005 EXMOOR HER MSO 6798
 LOCATION 278910 135608
 TYPE BARROW
 PERIOD BRONZE AGE
 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A large, circular mound 25m in diameter and 1.3m high lies on the summit of Horsen Hill. Slight traces of a ditch are visible to the north of the mound. This is a reed filled hollow, 4m wide and less than 0.25m deep. This is one of three Bronze Age funerary monuments on the summit of Horsen Hill. A rectangular trench cut into the western side of the barrow is the remains of an unrecorded excavation (Fig 9).
 REFERENCES EHFI60005_E_20JAN16_HRILEY



Fig 10 EHFI60006 Cairn

EHFI60006 EXMOOR HER MSO 7051
 LOCATION 278986 135627
 TYPE CAIRN PERIOD BRONZE AGE
 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A low, very stony mound, 16m N/S, 14m E/W and up to 0.4m high lies some 90m to the NE of the barrow (EHFI60005) on the summit of Horsen Hill. This is one of three Bronze Age funerary monuments on the summit of Horsen Hill. The top of the mound is irregular and two mounds on its south edge may be the result of later disturbance or unrecorded excavations (Fig 10).
 REFERENCES EHFI60006a_N_20JAN16_HRILEY; EHFI60006b_E_20JAN16_HRILEY

Fig 11 EHFI60007 Peat stacks



EHFI60007 EXMOOR HER MEM 23333
 LOCATION 279263 135525
 TYPE PEAT STAND
 PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL
 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION Two peaty mounds lie to the east of a round barrow (EHFI60008) on the east side of Horsen Hill. They are both sub-circular and 1m high. The one to the west is 7m N/S and 6m E/W. A sharp ditch, 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep, encircles both mounds. These are the remains of decayed turf stacks (Fig 11).
 REFERENCES EHFI60007_NW_20JAN16_HRILEY

EHFI60008 EXMOOR HER MSO 6799

LOCATION 279221 135545

TYPE BARROW

PERIOD BRONZE AGE

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

A flat-topped circular mound some 16m in diameter and up to 0.6m high lies on the east side of Horsen Hill. This is one of the three Bronze Age funerary monuments on the summit of Horsen Hill. A reed-filled hollow in the top of the mound is probably the remains of an unrecorded excavation (Fig 12).

REFERENCES EHFI60008_NW_20JAN16_HRILEY



Fig 12 EHFI60008 Barrow

EHFI60009 EXMOOR HER MMO 2911

LOCATION 278527 135855

TYPE TRACKWAY

PERIOD MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

The earthwork remains of a trackway run along the SE and west sides of Horsen Hill. On the SE side of the hill the trackway can be seen as a substantial earthwork formed by a scarp 0.75m high and a track some 2m wide. On the west side of the hill the track is used by agricultural vehicles. Traces of the track can be seen in the enclosed, improved field to the north of Horsen Hill in the form of a single scarp, 35m long and up to 1m high at 278526 135856 and a hollow 25m long, 5m wide and 0.5m deep at 278433 135856 (Fig 13).

REFERENCES EHFI60009a_SW_03FEB16_HRILEY EHFI60009b_N_20JAN16_HRILEY EHFI60009c_N_02FEB16_HRILEY EHFI60009d_NW_02FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 13 EHFI60009 Trackway

EHFI60010 LOCATION 278878 135687

TYPE PEAT STAND

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

A small peaty oval mound, 3.7m N/S, 2.5m E/W and 0.5m high, on the edge of a peat cutting on the summit of Horsen Hill, is probably the remains of a decayed turf stack (Fig 14).

REFERENCES EHFI60010_N_20JAN16_HRILEY



Fig 14 EHFI60010 Peat stack



Fig 15 EHF160011 Hollow way

EHF160011 LOCATION 279350 136150

TYPE HOLLOW WAY

PERIOD MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

An area of well preserved, braided hollow ways lies adjacent to the drainage system EHF160003 to the north of Horsen Hill. The earthworks occupy an area 400m SW/NE and 100m NW/SE. A typical example, centred at 279414 136130 is 15m long, 4m wide and up to 1.5m deep. The hollow ways continue in fields to the north and east. These are the remains of routes giving access to the main areas of summer grazing in the former Royal

Forest and may well date from the early medieval period. By the early 19th century, this route was mapped on the Inclosure map for Exmoor as 'No 12 Public Bridle Road' which ran from North Molton Common, to Wintershead, across Ferny Ball, to a crossing of the Barle, and on to Withypool Common (SRO Q\Rde 140) (Fig 15).

REFERENCES EHF160011_SW_02FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 17 EHF160012 Drainage channel

Fig 18 EHF160013 Drainage system

EHF160012 EXMOOR HER MMO 2884

LOCATION 279582 135994

TYPE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Part of a tributary stream of the River Barle has been deepened to aid the efficacy of the network of drainage ditches which discharge into it. The channel is 110m long, 4m wide and some 2m deep with steep sides and intermittent banks of spoil on the sides (Fig 16).

REFERENCES EHF160012_NE_02FEB16_HRILEY



EHF160013 EXMOOR HER MMO 2887

LOCATION 278380 135650

TYPE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

A drainage system lies on the west edge of Horsen Hill. The ditches are now mostly silted up and obscured by reeds; they survive as narrow channels, 0.5m wide and up to 0.4m deep (Fig 17).

REFERENCES EHF160013_N_03FEB16_HRILEY

EHFI60014

LOCATION 278327 135758

TYPE PEAT CUTTING

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION An area of peat cutting, approximately 50m N/S and 50m E/W, lies on the northern edge of the drainage system EHFI60013. The cuttings are up to 1m deep (Fig 18).

REFERENCES EHFI60014_NW_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 18 EHFI60014 Peat cutting

EHFI60015

LOCATION 278367 135757

TYPE PEAT STAND

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A small peaty mound, 3.5m N/S, 2.3m E/W and 0.6m high on the edge of the peat cuttings EHFI60014 is probably the remains of a decayed peat stack (Fig 19).

REFERENCES EHFI60015_NW_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 19 EHFI60015 Peat stack

EHFI60016 EXMOOR HER MMO 2939

LOCATION 278678 135311

TYPE QUARRY

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A hollow, 11m N/S, 9.5m E/W and up to 1.2m deep, with banks of spoil to the west and east, is the remains of a small stone quarry (Fig 20).

REFERENCES EHFI60016_W_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 20 EHFI60016 Quarry

EHFI60017 EXMOOR HER MMO 2963

LOCATION 278902 135350

TYPE CAIRN PERIOD PREHISTORIC

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A low, stony mound, 8m N/S, 7.5m E/W and up to 0.3m high lies on the south side of Sherdon Hill. Ridge and furrow ploughing (EHFI60018) runs across the mound. This is probably a Bronze Age platform cairn, comparable to EHFI60006 on the summit of Horsen Hill (Fig 21).

REFERENCES EHFI60017_W_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 21 EHF160017 & EHF160018 Cairn and ridge and furrow ploughing

EHF160018

LOCATION 278903 135341

TYPE FIELD SYSTEM

PERIOD MEDIEVAL, POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Ridge and furrow ploughing is visible in an area of grass amongst large patches of reeds on the south side of Horsen Hill. The visible area is 30m N/S, 20m E/W and the ridges are 1.4m apart. This may be the remains of a larger field system, traces of which are just discernible on Lidar images of the area, which show banks running NW/SE across the south side of Horsen Hill (Fig 21).

REFERENCES EHF160018_W_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 22 EHF160019 Drainage ditch

EHF160019

LOCATION 278801 135259

TYPE DRAINAGE DITCH

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Two ditches on the south side of Horsen Hill, centred at 278801 135259 and 278611 135275 are 2m wide, 0.7m deep and 43m long, and 2m wide, 0.7m deep and 11m long. These are drainage ditches, cut to help runoff from the trackway EHF160009 (Fig 22).

REFERENCES EHF160019_SW_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 23 EHF160020 Extractive pit

EHF160020

LOCATION 278396 135839

TYPE EXTRACTIVE PIT

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Two small hollows lie on the western side of Horsen Hill at 278396 135839 and 278411 135838. The western hollow is circular, 3m in diameter and 0.8m deep; the eastern hollow is sub-rectangular, 4m N/S, 5.4m E/W and up to 1m deep. These are prospecting pits for minerals, probably ironstone (Fig 23).

REFERENCES EHF160020_W_03FEB16_HRILEY

EHFI60021

LOCATION 278363 135842

TYPE EXTRACTIVE PIT

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION Two hollows lie on the western side of Horsen Hill at 278363 135842 and 278370 135841. The western hollow is a linear trench, 4.6m N/S, 10m E/W and up to 1.4m deep. The eastern hollow is circular, 2.6m in diameter and up to 0.9m deep. These are prospecting pits for minerals, probably ironstone (Fig 24).

REFERENCES EHFI60021_W_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 24 EHFI60021 Mineral prospecting pit

EHFI60022

LOCATION 278293 135840

TYPE HOLLOW WAY

PERIOD MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION Several hollow ways are visible on the west side of Horsen Hill on Lidar images. A typical example is 3.5m wide and 0.5m deep, and is in use as a farm access track (Fig 25).

REFERENCES EHFI60022_NW_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 25 EHFI60022 Mineral prospecting pit

EHFI60023

LOCATION 278294 135840

TYPE EXTRACTIVE PIT

PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION A large, sub-rectangular hollow on the western side of Horsen Hill is 10m N/S, 25m E/W and up to 2m deep. Banks of spoil lie to the north and west. This may be a stone quarry but the presence of the prospecting pits EHFI60021 and EHFI60022 to the east suggest that it could be the remains of extraction of, or prospecting for, ironstone (Fig 26).

REFERENCES EHFI60023_E_03FEB16_HRILEY



Fig 26 EHFI60023 Extractive pit



EHFI60024 EXMOOR HER MMO 2930
 LOCATION 279250 135580
 TYPE PEAT CUTTING
 PERIOD POST-MEDIEVAL
 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION The remains of peat cutting cover an area 700m E/W by 150m N/S on the summit of Horsen Hill. The remains comprise numerous irregular and sub-rectangular hollows up to 0.5m deep (Fig 27).
 REFERENCES EHFI60024_N_28JAN16_HRILEY

Fig 27 EHFI600224 Peat cutting

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Before this survey was carried out there were 10 known heritage assets identified in the Exmoor HER for the survey area. This survey has recorded a total of 23 heritage assets (and one natural feature) within the survey area, increasing the number of sites by over 100%.

6.2 One natural feature, a sandstone slab in a prominent position close to the EMP access area (EHFI60001), was recorded to avoid confusion.

6.3 The summit of Horsen Hill is occupied by two Bronze Age barrows (EHFI60005;0008) and a low, stone cairn (EHFI60006). A second cairn (EHFI60017), identified on air photographs as a possible Bronze Age barrow, has been located in the field and identified as a Bronze Age platform cairn which has been ploughed over (below, 6.10). The group of prehistoric funerary monuments on the summit of Horsen Hill is significant: the form of the low, platform cairn is unusual on Exmoor. It lies some 90m to the NE of the large barrow on the summit of the hill. Similar pairings identified on the Quantock Hills were interpreted as sites which performed different functions, with the large barrows containing the interment of the cremated body and the low cairns being raised over the site of the cremation pyre (Riley 2006, ??). The discovery of a second low cairn on the southern side of the hill highlights the potential for the discovery of further, unrecorded prehistoric sites on Exmoor's moorlands.

6.4 The blocking of the following peat cuttings on the summit of Horsen Hill will have an adverse impact on the Bronze Age funerary monuments on the summit:

B15 close to the barrow EHFI60005

B16 some 3-4m away from the ditch of barrow EHFI60005 (Fig 28).

The blocking of some of the peat cuttings on the summit of Horsen Hill may also have an adverse affect on the landscape setting of the prehistoric monuments, for example the low, stony cairn EHFI60006, would be obscured if the blocking materials formed 'earthwork' features in the landscape. These are B14a&b;15;16;18;19;20;21;22;23;24;35;38;39.

6.5 The location of Horsen Hill, close to the SE boundary of the former Royal Forest, is reflected in the discovery of two areas of hollow ways during the course of the survey. The hollow ways on the west side of Horsen Hill (EHFI60022) are mostly obscured by reeds but have been transcribed from Lidar images (Fig 4). The large area of previously unrecorded braided hollow ways to the north of Horsen Hill represents the survival of routeways to access summer grazing areas in the former Royal Forest and may well have their origins in the early medieval period (Riley 2015). In the later medieval and post-medieval periods the routes across the Royal Forest provided access on foot, horseback and for packhorses to the coastal towns and ports to the north from the hinterland to the south, west and east. The Inclosure Map for Exmoor mapped many of these routes and the hollow ways north of Horsen Hill were recorded as 'No 12 Public Bridle Road' which ran from North Molton Common, to Wintershead, across Ferny Ball, to a crossing of the Barle, and on to Withypool Common (SRO Q\Rde 140) (Fig 29).

Fig 28 (below) Peat cutting blocking site B16 by the Bronze Age barrow EHFI60005



Fig 29 (right) Extract from the Exmoor Inclosure map 1818 (SRO Q\Rde 140) (Somerset Archives and Local Studies Service, South West Heritage Trust)



6.6 The blocking of the drainage ditches close to the large area of hollow ways would have an adverse effect on the visibility and survival of these features in the landscape.

6.7 The possible enclosure on the western side of the hill (EHFI60004) may be associated with stock control onto the summer pasture in the former Royal Forest.

6.8 Access routes should be diverted away from this feature

6.9 The two areas of peat cutting on Horsen Hill (EHFI60014; EHFI60024) represent the remains of the exploitation of the hill for domestic fuel. The two areas are quite different in appearance and may represent different periods of turf cutting. The cutting of turf in the former Royal Forest was permitted for the payment of a fee by the late 16th century (Riley 2014, 8-9). The shallow, irregular cuttings on the summit of the hill may well represent pre-Inclosure turbary, while the more distinct, deeper cuttings on the west side of the hill are probably later in date and could date from the 19th century, when the Knight farms were established. The survival of several decayed peat stacks associated with the turbary is important as this is evidence for the way the turf cutting was carried out to fit in with the rest of the agricultural year. The turf was cut in the late spring, then left in stacks of varying sizes to dry before carting back to the farms and villages later on in the summer after haymaking was finished (Riley 2014, 19-28).

6.10 The remains of cultivation on Horsen Hill have been recorded for the first time during the course of this survey (EHFI60018). The Lidar images show at least seven regularly spaced linear features crossing the hill from NE to SW (Fig 4); the identification of these on the ground was difficult due to the vegetation cover, but traces of ridge and furrow ploughing, with ridges about 1.4m apart, on a similar alignment were visible in areas clear of reeds (Fig 21). This evidence indicates the presence of narrow ridge and furrow cultivation across Horsen Hill, which is similar to the remains between Landacre Gate and Landacre Bridge, some 1km to the east. This sort of cultivation probably dates from the 15th-17th centuries and represents the periodic cultivation of moorland for an arable crop, usually rye (Riley 2006, 127-131; 2015, 29).

6.11 The earthwork trackways on the south and west of Horsen Hill may well be associated with this phase of cultivation.

6.12 The remains of extraction and prospection pits for minerals and for stone occur to the west, east and south of Horsen Hill. The circular pits and related features on the west side of Horsen Hill certainly have the appearance of ironstone prospection features, and follow the orientation of the mineral lodes mapped on Deer Park and Spooners to the north of the survey area (Bray 2015, fig 4.9). These features are most likely to date from the later part of the 19th century, after Frederic Knight took over the management of the Exmoor estates from his father.

6.13 The drainage systems to the west and north of Horsen Hill probably also date from the later part of the 19th century, when livestock grazing had taken over from experiments with arable cultivation of the former Royal Forest.

7.0 REFERENCES

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Hegarty, C and Toms, K 2009 *Exmoor National Park NMP Management and Survey Report*
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Riley, H 2006 *The Historic Landscape of the Quantock Hills*
Riley, H 2014 *Turf Cutting on Exmoor: An Archaeological and Historical Study*
Riley, H 2015 *Exmoor's Ancient Routeways History, Archaeology and Historic Landscape Analysis Exmoor Mires Project (Draft)*
Riley, H and Wilson-North, R 2001 *The Field Archaeology of Exmoor*
SRO Q\Rde 140 Inclosure map and award for Exmoor Forest 1818

8.0 APPENDICES

- 8.1 Summary of heritage assets
- 8.2 Photographic archive index
- 8.3 Project brief

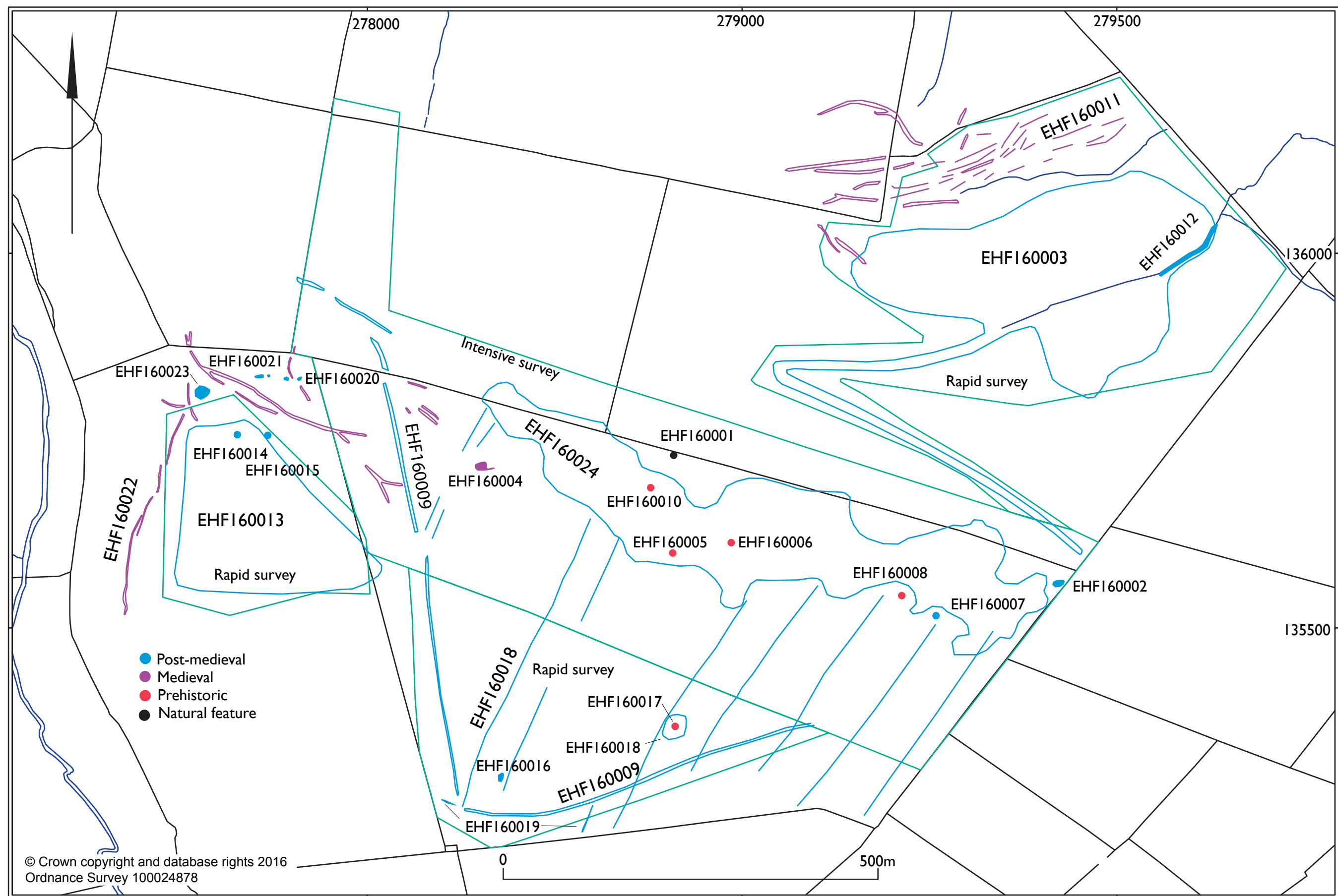


Fig 6 Horsen walkover survey plan with EHF16 site reference numbers (1:5000)

8.1 EHF16 Summary of Heritage Assets						
EHF16 reference	HER reference	Eastings	Northings	Site type	Date	Description
EHF160001		278910	135736	NATURAL FEATURE	NATURAL FEATURE	Sandstone slab on access route recorded to avoid confusion
EHF160002		279421	135565	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST-MEDIEVAL	Trench resulting from stone extraction or iron prospection
EHF160003	MMO 2884	279340	135850	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	POST-MEDIEVAL	Drainage ditches NE of Horsen Hill
EHF160004		278656	135725	ENCLOSURE	MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL	Small, sub-rectangular enclosure on NW of Horsen Hill
EHF160005	MSO 6798	278910	135608	BARROW	BRONZE AGE	Large barrow on summit of Horsen Hill
EHF160006	MSO 7051	278986	135627	CAIRN	BRONZE AGE	Low, flat-topped cairn on summit of Horsen Hill
EHF160007	MEM 23333	279263	135525	PEAT STAND	POST-MEDIEVAL	Remains of two peat stacks on Horsen Hill
EHF160008	MSO 6799	279221	135545	BARROW	BRONZE AGE	Barrow on summit of Horsen Hill
EHF160009	MMO 2911	278527	135855	TRACKWAY	MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL	Trackways on south, north and west of Horsen Hill
EHF160010		278878	135687	PEAT STAND	POST-MEDIEVAL	Small mound between peat cuttings on Horsen Hill
EHF160011		279350	136150	HOLLOW WAY	MEDIEVAL	Large area of braided hollow ways adjoining MMO 2884
EHF160012	MMO 2884	279582	135994	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	POST-MEDIEVAL	Part of main drain for MMO 2884
EHF160013	MMO 2887	278380	135650	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	POST-MEDIEVAL	Drainage ditches on west of Horsen Hill
EHF160014		278327	135758	PEAT CUTTING	POST-MEDIEVAL	Peat cutting on north edge of MMO 2887
EHF160015		278367	135757	PEAT STAND	POST-MEDIEVAL	Small mound on edge of peat cutting on west of Horsen Hill
EHF160016	MMO 2939	278678	135311	QUARRY	POST-MEDIEVAL	Small stone quarry on SW edge of Horsen Hill
EHF160017	MMO 2963	278902	135350	CAIRN	BRONZE AGE	Low, stony mound on south of Horsen Hill
EHF160018		278903	135341	FIELD SYSTEM	MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL	Ridge and furrow ploughing on south side of Horsen Hill
EHF160019		278801	135259	DRAINAGE DITCH	POST-MEDIEVAL	Two ditches on south side of Horsen Hill
EHF160020		278396	135839	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST-MEDIEVAL	Two circular pits probable iron prospection
EHF160021		278363	135842	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST-MEDIEVAL	Circular pit and trench probable iron prospection
EHF160022		278293	135840	HOLLOW WAY	MEDIEVAL	Braided hollow ways on west side of Horsen Hill
EHF160023		278294	135840	EXTRACTIVE PIT	POST-MEDIEVAL	Large pit with spoil heaps probable iron extraction
EHF160024	MMO 2930	279250	135580	PEAT CUTTING	POST-MEDIEVAL	Peat cutting on summit of Horsen Hill

8.2 EHF16 Photographic archive index					
Photo reference number	Date taken	EHF16 reference	HER reference	Description	Scale
EHF0001_NW_19JAN16_HRILEY	19/01/2016	EHF160001		Naturally occurring stone slab close to the EMP access area	1m
EHF0002_NE_19JAN16_HRILEY	19/01/2016	EHF160002		Quarry or prospecting trench in NE corner of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF0003a_NE_19JAN16_HRILEY	19/01/2016	EHF160003	MMO 2884	Contour ditch above the drainage ditches south of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF0003b_NE_19JAN16_HRILEY	19/01/2016	EHF160003	MMO 2884	Drainage ditch on NW edge of the drainage system	1m
EHF0004_W_20JAN16_HRILEY	19/01/2016	EHF160004		Western side of possible enclosure on Horsen Hill	1m
EHF0005_E_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160005	MSO 6798	Excavation trench in eastern side of the barrow	1m
EHF0006a_N_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160006	MSO 7051	Cairn on Horsen Hill	1m
EHF0006b_E_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160006	MSO 7051	Detail of the south side of the cairn	1m
EHF0007_NW_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160007	MEM 23333	Peat stacks with the barrows on the summit in background	1m
EHF0008_NW_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160008	MSO 6799	Barrow on Horsen Hill	1m
EHF0009a_SW_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160009	MMO 2911	Trackway on south side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF0009b_N_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160009	MMO 2911	Trackway used for farm access on east side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF0009c_N_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160009	MMO 2911	Remains of hollow way in access area for EMP	1m
EHF0009d_NW_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160009	MMO 2911	Remains of hollow way in access area for EMP	1m
EHF160010_N_20JAN16_HRILEY	20/01/2016	EHF160010		Peat stack on Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160011_SW_02FEB16_HRILEY	02/02/2016	EHF160011		One of the numerous hollow ways north of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160012_NE_02FEB16_HRILEY	02/02/2016	EHF160012	MMO 2884	Artificially deepened stream bed forming main drain	1m
EHF160013_N_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160013	MMO 2887	One of the drainage ditches on western side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160014_NW_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160014		Peat cutting on NW side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160015_NW_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160015		Peat stack on NW side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160016_W_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160016		Quarry on SW side of Horsen Hill	
EHF160017_W_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160017		Low cairn on south side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160018_W_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160018		Ridge and furrow ploughing overlies cairn	1m
EHF160019_SW_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160019		Drainage ditch on SW corner of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160020_W_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160020		Prospecting pits for ironstone on western side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160021_W_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160021		Prospecting pits for ironstone on western side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160022_NW_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160022		Hollow way on NW side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160023_E_03FEB16_HRILEY	03/02/2016	EHF160023		Large extraction pit on western side of Horsen Hill	1m
EHF160024_N_28JAN16_HRILEY	28/01/2016	EHF160024		Remains of peat cutting on Horsen Hill	1m

Brief for Archaeological Walkover Survey: Horsen, Exmoor

1.0 Aim

- 1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) for the Exmoor Mires Project (EMP) on behalf of Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA).
- 1.2 The principle aim of the work described in this document is to characterise, quantify and locate known and unknown heritage assets at Horsen Farm, Exmoor (NGR SS 7900 3560), within the area defined (see attached maps).
- 1.3 Quotations to be submitted to Rose Ferraby, Historic Environment Officer (Exmoor Mires Project) either by email to rferraby@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or in writing to Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9HL. The deadline for submissions is **9am, 11th January 2016**. The project is on a tight timetable.

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, mostly by blocking drainage ditches dug as part of programmes of agricultural improvements in the past. However, other features, such as peat cuttings may also be altered, either to slow drainage or to take advantage of opportunities to improve retention of water in the peat. This has a number of benefits for the historic environment, preserving important palaeo-environmental resources and maintaining the ability of the mires to preserve other archaeological material. However, restoration work 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 view as possible of the historic environment of any given site. Walkover survey will provide an overall view of the visible archaeology within each area affected by restoration before it is undertaken, thus informing subsequent mitigation decisions.
- 2.2 The archaeological landscape of Horsen (specifically Horsen Hill, Horsen Hill West and Sherdon) is characterised by Bronze Age barrows, Medieval/post-Medieval trackways and drainage ditches, post-Medieval peat cutting and associated peat stacks.
- 2.3 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. As a result, it is advisable to account for this when planning work. Quotes for the work described here must allow an appropriate contingency which will be released at the discretion of the HEO.

- 2.4 Exmoor National Park Authority is not obliged to accept the cheapest, or indeed any, submitted quotation for the works described in this brief.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 Walkover survey will be undertaken within an area defined by the HEO (see attached maps) according to the methodology described here. The site will be described using the abbreviated site code **EHF16**. 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 Two maps are attached to this document. The first shows the overall area for work as '*Horsen: Areas and Foci for Mires Restoration*'. The second '*Horsen: Archaeological Walkover Survey*', shows details of the archaeological survey required. Survey coverage within the restoration area will include:
- A rapid walkover survey of the entirety of all three areas (Horsen Hill, Horsen Hill West and Sherdon, totalling c. **65ha**). These are shown on the map as '*Horsen: Areas and Foci for Mires Restoration*'.
 - An intensive 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. A total of c. **800 meters** of drainage ditch is targeted for the survey.
 - An intensive walkover survey of the main access route to the Mires Restoration Sites (c. **4ha**)
 - Large areas of the works at this site are peat cuttings (**c.10ha**), where ditch blocking is proposed to improve the retention of water. These locations should be inspected and any archaeological features in their immediate vicinity recorded. It should be noted if ditch blocking may be inappropriate for any of these features.
 - Areas defined as requiring intensive survey by the HEO. These are indicated in the accompanying map and total **35ha**. Survey in these areas should not be restricted to the vicinity of the ditches or peat cuttings, but should cover the defined area fully.
 - Tracks and areas of erosion due to vehicle and animal traffic within the areas defined above should be examined closely for artefacts. And such artefacts should be collected, bagged and labelled appropriately and their location recorded.
 - If applicable, the surveyors should identify any areas where they consider further detailed survey would be beneficial and make appropriate recommendations.

- Peat cuttings should not be recorded by the survey as these are very numerous and ENPA has adequate information on their extent derived from Aerial Photography and LiDAR analysis.

- 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 Fieldwork should be completed by **5th February 2016** and the HEO informed of the dates of commencement and completion.
- 3.7 It should be noted that the survey area is relatively remote and this should be accounted for in quotations. Access can be gained using the public path that leads south from the private road to Horsen Farm (SS 7823 3655).
- 3.8 Quotes for this work should include a breakdown of resource and budget allocation and a Gantt chart detailing the anticipated timescale of the work, taking into account possible sources of slippage in the schedule. It should be noted that excepting adverse weather, the deadlines of this project cannot allow for other delays.
- 3.9 Quotes must include short CV's demonstrating the expertise and experience in survey of upland environments (with preferably experience of Exmoor) for those undertaking the survey. These personnel should remain consistent for the duration of the work
- 3.10 The HEO will assess quotations based on a balance between cost, quality and ability to meet the deadlines set.
- 3.11 Appendix 3 presents a summary of the HER data for the Horsen survey area. More detail is available on the online version of the Exmoor HER at www.exmoorher.co.uk. The successful applicant will be provided with full up to date data from the HER.
- 3.12 The project schedule is summarised in Table 1:

Quote deadline	9am, 11th January 2016
Successful applicant notified	13th January
Completion of survey	5th February 2016
Spreadsheet of heritage assets to HEO	12th February 2016
Draft Report	19th February 2016
Final Report	18th March 2016

Table 1: Project schedule

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 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 1 week after the completion of the survey (**12th February 2016**).
- 4.3 A draft digital copy, in MS Word format, of an appropriately illustrated report of the work should be provided to the HEO by **19th February 2016**.
- 4.4 The HEO will return the draft report within two weeks of receipt with appropriate comments.
- 4.5 It is important that the archaeological survey reports commissioned by EMP are produced in a standardised format. Accordingly, the report should be structured in line with the scheme described in Appendix 2 of this brief.
- 4.6 Following any necessary revisions, an unbound hard copy, as well as 2 bound hard copies of the final report will be delivered to the HEO by **18th March 2016**, in addition to digital copies in pdf and MS Word format. Copies of the final report will be produced in a bound, double-sided A4 format. In addition to copies required by the HEO, two hard copies of the report will be supplied to Exmoor National Park on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the Historic Environment Record (HER). The digital copies will be provided with the understanding that it may in the future be available to researchers via a web-based version of the HER. An ENPHER form must be completed and provided with the reports.
- 4.7 The digital photographic archive will be delivered on a CD included in the back of the final report. The name of each image should be in the following format:

Site&FeatureIdentifier_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 the completion of this contract. The report will also contain the appropriate OASIS number.

5.0 Health and Safety at Work

- 5.1 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 Historic Environment 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 her 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 emphasised 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 work 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

Location: representative 10 figure National Grid reference

Type : follow Historic England Thesaurus

Period: follow Historic England 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: *Executive Summary*

2.0: *Introduction*

3.0: *Objectives*

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

5.0: *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

6.0: *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.

Copyright: Copyright statement. All images used MUST have appropriate copyright statements and any permissions required given. This is particularly relevant for Ordnance Survey data and images gained from archives such as records offices.

Appendix 3

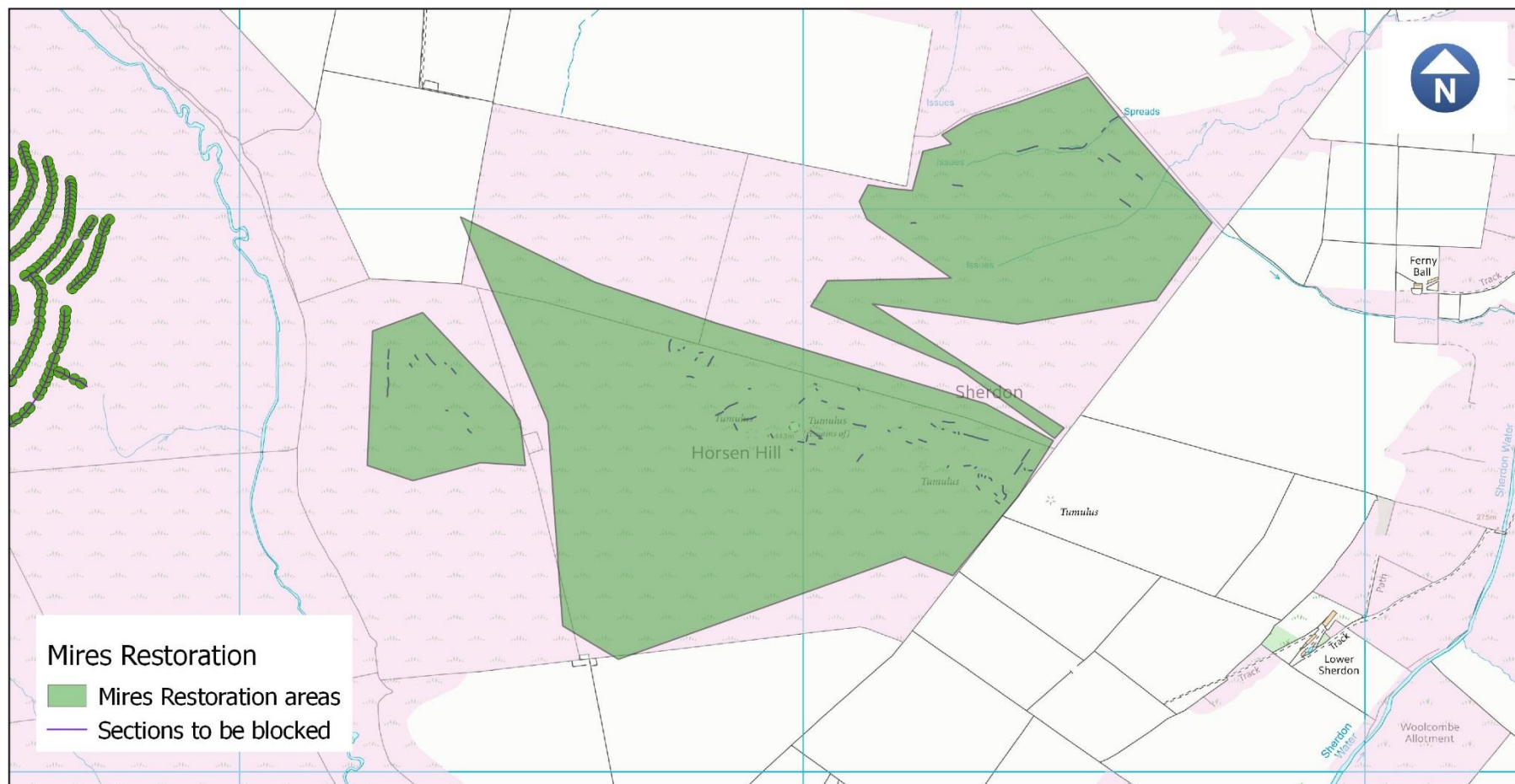
HER Data Summary: Horsen

HER Number	Grid Reference	Description	Designation
MMO2884	SS 7934 3585	Post-medieval drainage ditches are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1996 as earthworks. They were most probably cut during the mid 19th Century as part of the Knight family's attempt at agricultural improvement in this area.	HER
MMO2887	SS 7838 3565	Post-medieval drainage ditches are visible as earthworks. The ditches are arranged in "herringbone" pattern, and were apparently designed to channel water from the marshy summit of Horsen Hill towards Kinsford Water.	HER
MMO2911	SS 7892 3560	Three narrow medieval or post-medieval trackways are visible on aerial photographs as earthworks. These were likely abandoned prior to 1889. At least one of the tracks has been levelled by land improvement techniques.	HER
MMO2930	SS 7925 3558	A large area of peat cuttings on Horsen Hill. It is not clear whether the peat was extracted for domestic fuel, or for turfing enclosure walls. The cuttings were most likely abandoned in the late 19th or 20th Century.	HER
MMO2939	7868 3528	Two small irregularly shaped pits or quarries are visible on aerial photographs as earthworks. There is no indication as to what material was extracted. The features are likely medieval or post-medieval and were abandoned prior to 1890.	HER
MMO2942	SS 7845 3625	A small circular pit is visible on aerial photographs. It appears to be a post-medieval quarry and may have been used to provide building stone for Horsen Farm and its field boundaries.	HER
MMO2943	SS 7916 3614	A likely post-medieval linear depression or pit is visible on aerial photographs. It	HER

		is depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map and annotated gravel pit, suggesting it was still in use when the map was published in 1890.	
MMO2963	SS 7891 3537	A low circular mound which resembles Bronze Age barrows to the north. However, it is also located near to an area of peat cutting and may be associated with this activity.	HER
MSO6798	SS 7891 3560	A Bronze Age bowl barrow is visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs taken in 1964. The monument has been damaged by excavation and stone robbing, and eroded by sheep scrapes.	HER
MSO6799	SS 7932 3551	Two Bronze Age bowl barrows and two adjoining post-medieval mounds, these may be associated with peat extraction, but this is under debate.	HER
MSO7051	SS 7898 3561	The remains of a Bronze Age round barrow are visible as a low stony area on aerial photographs taken in 1964. The barrow has been extensively robbed for stone and possibly disturbed by peat cutting.	HER

Exmoor National Park Authority

Horsen: Areas and Foci for Mires Restoration



Scale 1:10,000

Compiled by rferraby
on 17/12/2015

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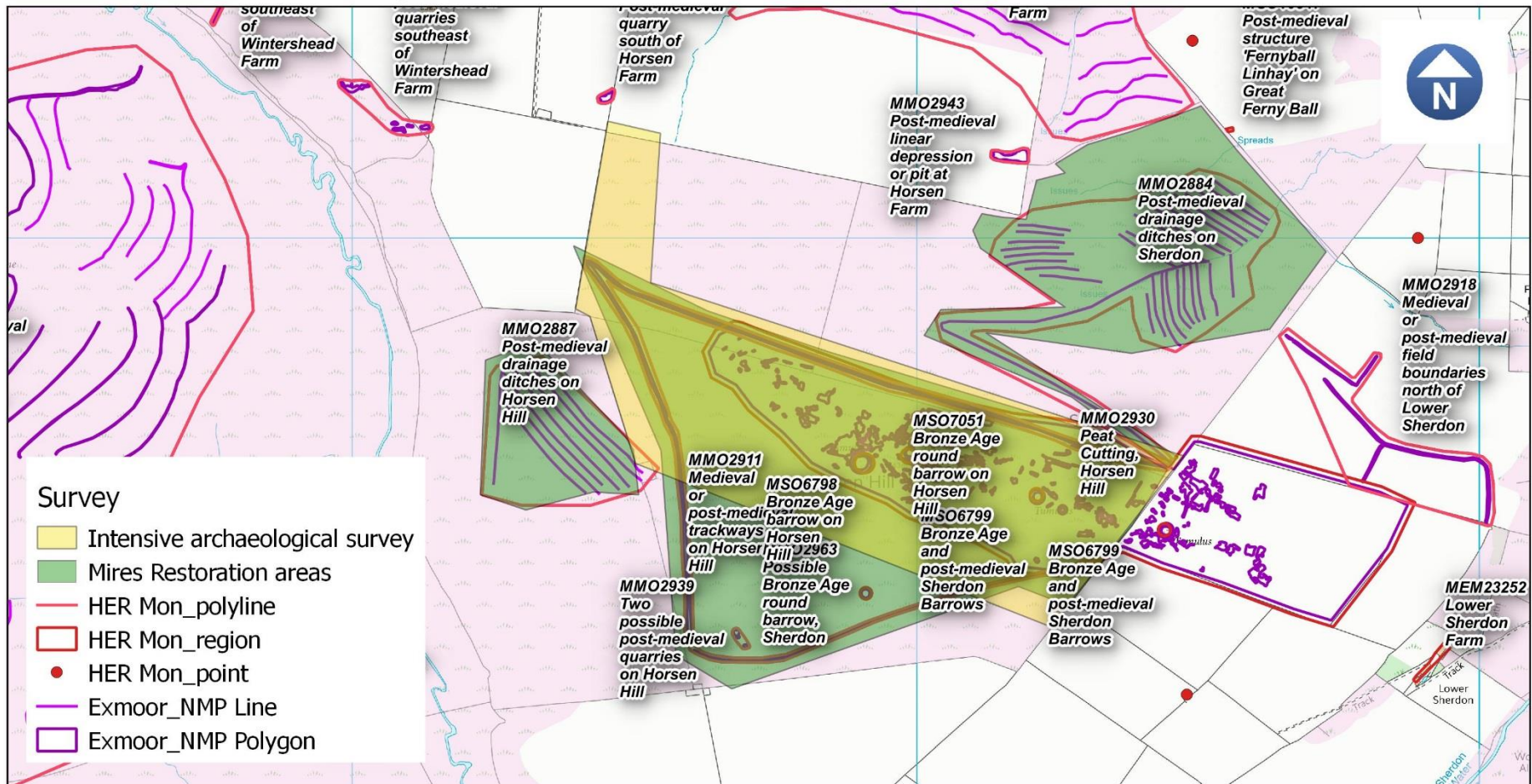
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Horsen Archaeological Walkover Survey



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