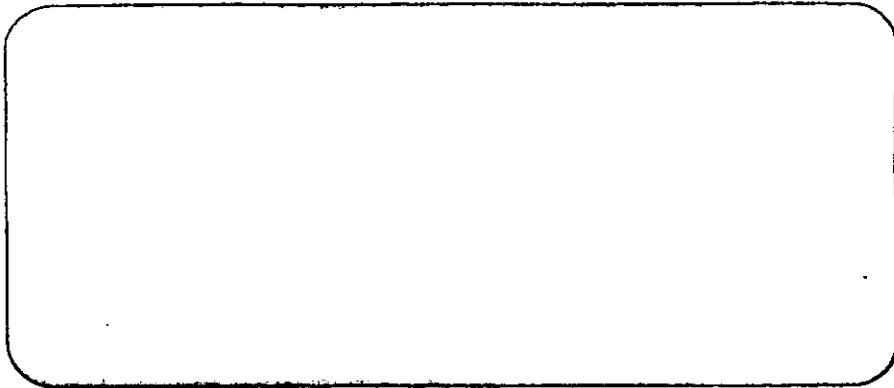


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DUCHY OF CORNWALL ENCLOSED FARMLAND PROJECT:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION

DARTMOOR INFILL AREAS

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DARTMOOR INFILL AREAS

Preface

This report deals with the archaeological monuments on Dunnabridge Common and on several small areas of enclosed Duchy land within E and Central Dartmoor (see Map overleaf). These areas lie outside the boundaries of the farms surveyed by RCHME between 1988 and 1990 for the ADAS farm management reports.

The monuments within these infill areas are divided into prehistoric and medieval and later. In the context of the Duchy estate the term prehistoric relates to monuments dated broadly between 2000 B.C. and A.D. 43. Results obtained from the few modern excavations of similar remains suggest that the majority fall within part of the Bronze Age, between 2000 B.C. and 1000 B.C. Medieval is traditionally ascribed to the period 1066 to 1485, though some activities, predominantly medieval in form, continued well beyond the 15th century.

The numbers in brackets in the text for each area refer to the monuments depicted on the accompanying map and described in the table. In the tables the monuments have been graded 1 to 3 in descending order of importance. Grading based solely on observable remains and unsupported by modern excavation techniques is a subjective exercise - a problem often exacerbated by deep peat cover, later damage and modifications.

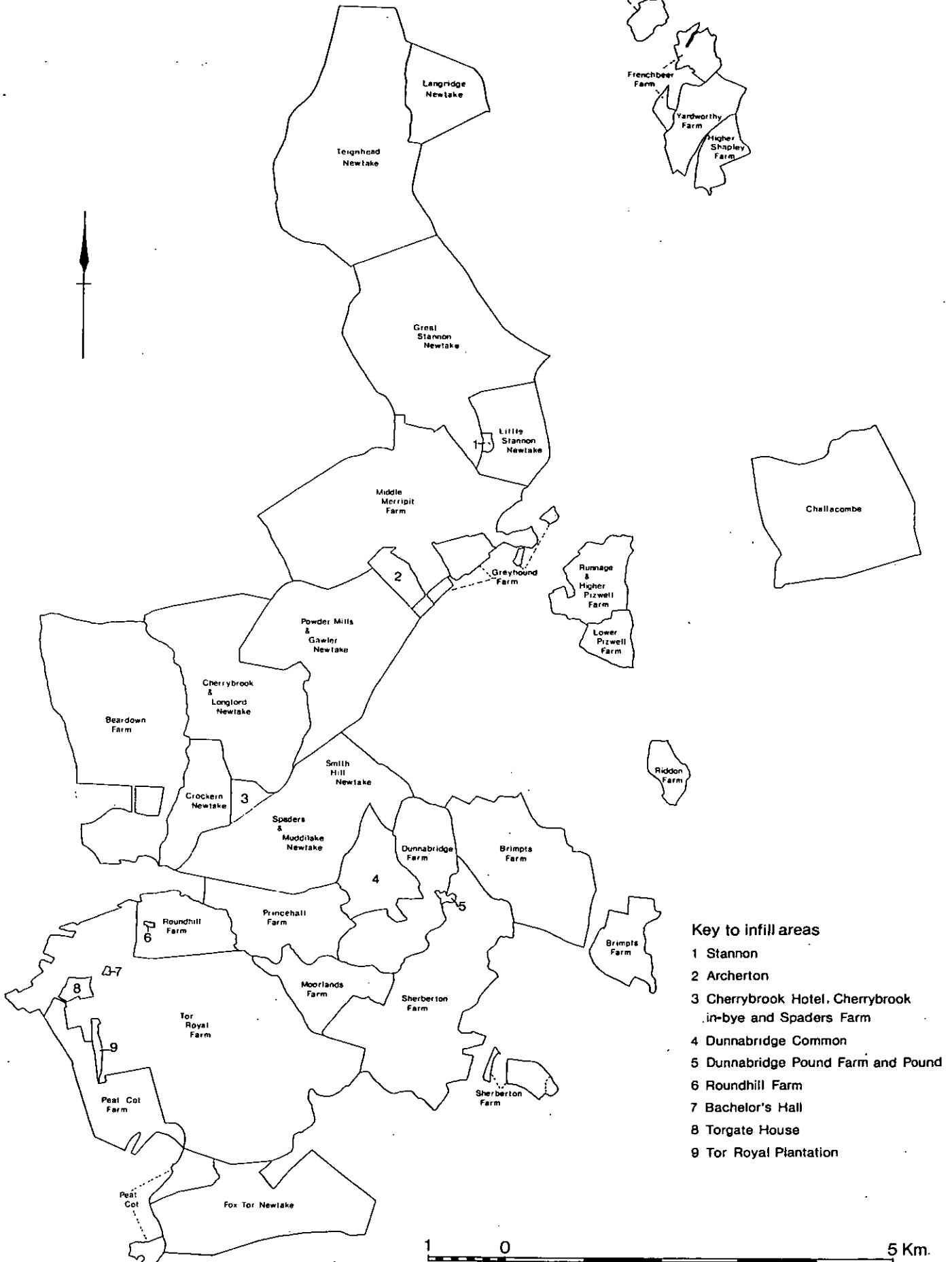
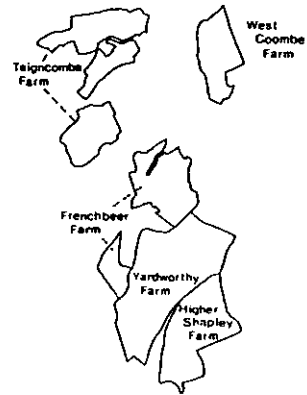
Further information

The detailed field accounts and plans which have been used to compile this report are held by the National Archaeological Record of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. Application to consult these records should be made to RCHME, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2JQ.

RCHME, Exeter Office
February 1991

DUCHY OF CORNWALL

Dartmoor farms selected for ADAS surveys (1988-90):
and infill areas



Key to infill areas

- 1 Stannon
- 2 Archerton
- 3 Cherrybrook Hotel, Cherrybrook in-bye and Spaders Farm
- 4 Dunnabridge Common
- 5 Dunnabridge Pound Farm and Pound
- 6 Roundhill Farm
- 7 Bachelor's Hall
- 8 Torgate House
- 9 Tor Royal Plantation

1 0 5 Km.

AREA 1

STANNON

Historic Farm Background and Structure

A smallholding of approximately 2.8 hectares (6.9 acres) situated on the W bank of the Stannon Brook, 500m SE of Stannon Tor. The enclosure of this area dates from 1807 when the Duchy of Cornwall granted 661 acres to Thomas Hullett with the proviso that a substantial farmhouse be erected within seven years. Hullett originally planned a mansion on the S slope of White Ridge, however, he was eventually forced to substitute it for a more modest cottage at Stannon. This was occupied by a succession of tin miners during the later 19th century and is now leased.

Archaeology

PREHISTORIC

Part of a reave (1) is visible in the NE corner of the holding. It is one element of the extensive Stannon reave system which is particularly well developed on Middle Merripit Farm. A reave system comprises a series of long, stony, parallel banks, often several kilometres in length, which with cross banks divide the moor up into large square and rectangular fields. They appear to belong to the Bronze Age.

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

There is no evidence of medieval occupation at Stannon. A former pot-water leat (2) leading from Stannon Brook supplied the cottage while an area of cultivation ridges (3) - which are too small to be depicted on the map - lie adjacent to the W boundary of the property. They give the ground surface a corrugated appearance. The cottage is of little architectural interest.

Archaeological Evaluation

The reave (1) is part of an important system of prehistoric land division.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION: TABLE

AREA 1

STANNON

NO. ON MAP	NAT. GRID REF.	DESCRIPTION	DOE SCHEDULE NO. OR LISTING	GRADING
PREHISTORIC				
1	SX 65028066	Part of a reave oriented roughly NE to SW. It consists of a stony bank measuring 1.4m wide and 0.5m high.		1
MEDIEVAL AND LATER				
2	SX 65028085	The Stannon pot-water leat enters the holding on the N and runs S towards the cottage.		3
3	SX 64998077	Five cultivation ridges representing a small plot measuring 9.0m N to S by 7.5m. On average the ridges are 1.6m wide and up to 0.2m high.		3

AREA 2

ARCHERTON

Historic Farm Background and Structure

A small estate of about 30 hectares (74.1 acres), consisting of woodland and rough pasture, cradled between Powder Mills and Gawler Newtake on the W and Middle Merripit Farm on the N and E. The house, a small mansion in the American Colonial style, was built by Mr J.N. Bennett of Plymouth in the middle of the 19th century.

Archaeology

PREHISTORIC

A cist (1), probably once covered by a cairn, is visible near the site of a former tennis court. A cist is a box-like burial chamber made of slabs and sealed by a coverstone. A severely mutilated enclosed settlement (2) is situated near Archerton's E boundary.

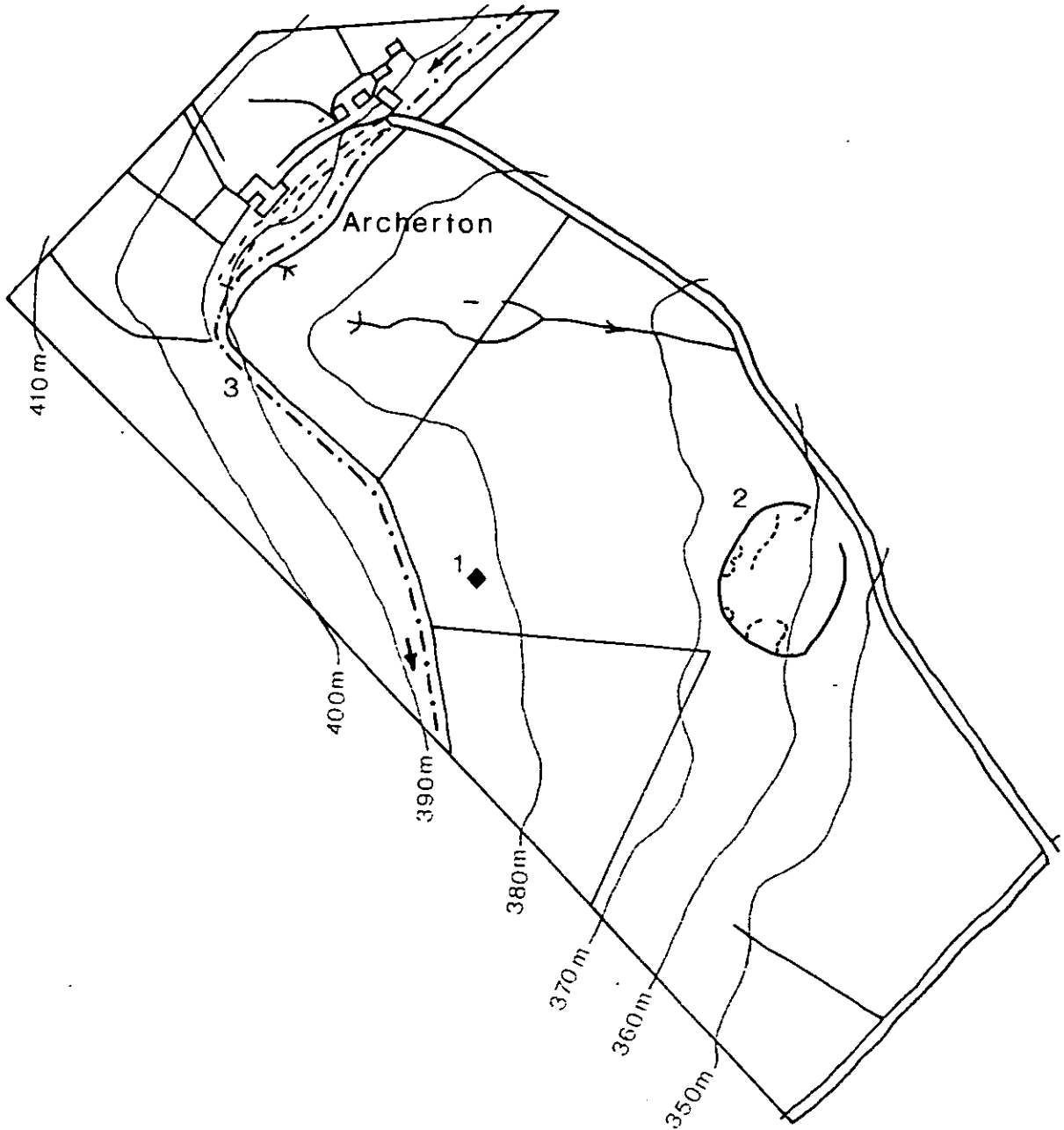
MEDIEVAL AND LATER

There is no evidence of medieval occupation at Archerton. A leat (3), which carried water to the 19th-century gunpowder works at Powder Mills, crosses the N and W parts of the estate.

Archaeological Evaluation

The cist (1) and enclosed settlement (2) are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The settlement is severely damaged and its deterioration is likely to continue following removal of fallen trees and any subsequent replanting. Powder Mills Leat (3) served an important gunpowder works and in Archerton Plantation fallen trees lie across it; care should be taken not to damage the leat when these are cleared.

AREA 2 ARCHERTON

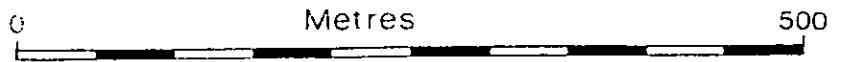


Key

◆ Cairn & cist

○ Enclosure & walling

— Leat



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION: TABLE

AREA 2

ARCHERTON

NO. ON MAP	NAT. GRID REF.	DESCRIPTION	DOE SCHEDULE NO. OR LISTING	GRADING
PREHISTORIC				
1	SX 63847886	A cist, oriented NNW to SSE, measures 1.15 by 0.86m and 0.45m deep; it is situated on a moderate E-facing slope. Four large slabs form its sides, three of which lean slightly inwards. A large flat slab, 1.4 by 1.1m and 0.2m thick, lying 0.5m to the NNE may be the displaced coverstone. Originally the cist may have been covered by a cairn although little now survives apart from the remains of a probable retaining kerb. A ruined wall, possibly part of a prehistoric field boundary, lies to the NE.	918	1
2	SX 64077886	Remains of an oval, enclosed settlement, c. 0.81 hectares in area, measuring 110m NNE to SSW by 90m. It is bounded by a much denuded, spread rubble bank, 4.0 to 8.0m wide and 0.9m high, which on the W, is overlain by a 19th-century wall. Within the enclosed area are several platforms and turf-covered stony scarps which seem to correspond with some of the huts and internal sub-divisions shown on a late 19th-century map. The site was already severely mutilated before trees blown down in the gales of January 1990 caused further damage.	919	1
MEDIEVAL AND LATER				
3	SX 63887929 to SX 63827873	Powder Mills Leat, now dry and silted, measures up to 3.0m wide and 1.0m deep. It has a stone revetted bank, 3.0m wide and 1.0m high, along its southern side. Near the S end of the leat, in Archerton Plantation, are the remains of a stone-built sluice channel which formerly had two gates.		2

AREA 3

CHERRYBROOK HOTEL, CHERRYBROOK IN-BYE AND SPADERS FARM

There are no recognisable archaeological remains and the buildings are of little architectural interest.

AREA 4

DUNNABRIDGE COMMON

Historic Farm Background and Structure

Dunnabridge Common covers 91 hectares (225 acres) of undulating moorland surrounded by Dunnabridge Farm, Prince Hall Farm, Spaders and Muddilake Newtake and Smith Hill Newtake. The area is crossed by a turnpike road, now the B3357, and the Cherry Brook flows S along the SW boundary of the Common.

Archaeology

PREHISTORIC

Prehistoric remains are visible on the northern and western parts of the Common where hut circles and fragmentary field walls form three groups (1-3). These are probably the surviving elements of what may have been a very extensive system of fields and settlements covering much of the area. Stone robbing and the accumulation of peat since the prehistoric period has doubtlessly caused the present fragmented pattern. A hut circle consists of the footings or remains of a prehistoric building which could have been used as a dwelling, for storage, or for animals.

The irregular shape and pattern of the fields indicates that they developed in a piecemeal manner. Some are only visible as cropmarks on air photographs and are shown by broken lines on the map. A cropmark is a vegetation mark caused by a buried feature and is only produced in certain conditions such as in periods of drought; the marks are seen most clearly from the air.

A cairn containing a cist (4) survives towards the N end of the Common. A cist is a box-like burial chamber made of slabs and sealed with a coverstone.

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

An abandoned field (5), containing ridge-and-furrow, lies in the SE part of the Common adjacent to Dunnabridge Farm. It may have been part of this farm because it seems to relate to its pattern of fields. It must have been redundant by the late 18th or beginning of the 19th century because it is cut by the turnpike road. Ridge-and-furrow is the name given to parallel ridges, separated by furrows, made by ploughing or digging. They give the ground surface a corrugated appearance.

Tin streamworks (6) lie on both sides of the Cherry Brook. They consist of dumps and channels created during the digging and washing of alluvial deposits. This method of tinworking started on Dartmoor during the Middle Ages at least and continued into later centuries overlapping with opencast and shaft mining. Tin pits (7) are visible near the eastern boundary of the Common.

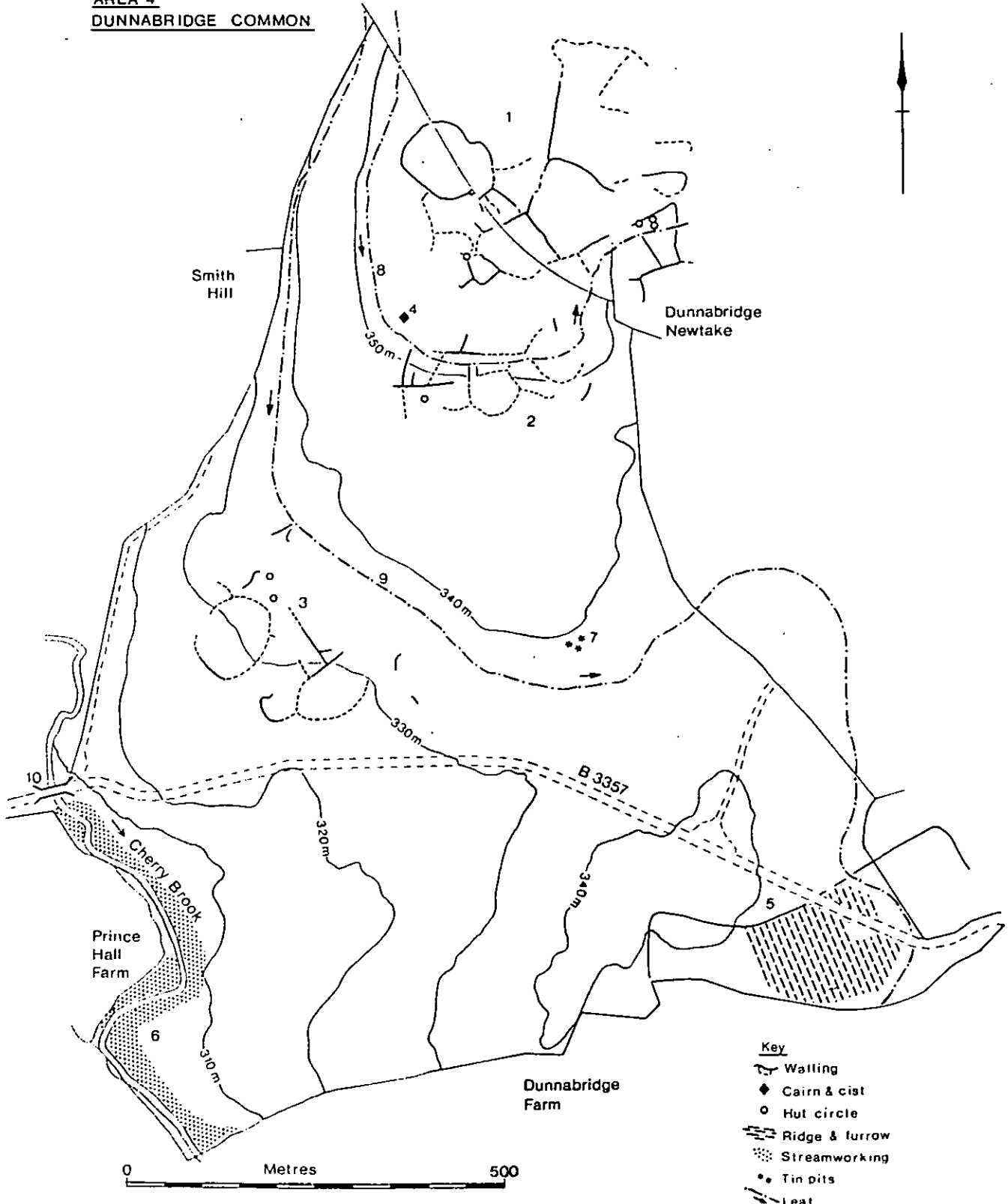
Two well-defined leats (8-9), which are no longer used, enter the Common from the N; they both drew water from the Cherry Brook. The higher of the two (8) is the Brimpts Mine Leat which supplied the water-wheels at Brimpts during the 1850's. The other (9) was probably a pot-water leat for Dunnabridge Farm.

The old turnpike road runs from Two Bridges to Dunnabridge. It was built by the Tavistock Trust in the late 18th or early 19th century and replaced an ancient route which utilised Royal Hill and the Swincombe valley. The bridge (10) crossing the Cherry Brook is part of the turnpike scheme.

Archaeological Evaluation

The prehistoric fields, hut circles and cairn (1-4) are elements of an important prehistoric landscape, much of which may be buried beneath the peat. The Brimpts Mine Leat (8) is a component of an important mine complex on Brimpts. The bridge (10) over the Cherry Brook is listed.

AREA 4
DUNNABRIDGE COMMON



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION: TABLE

AREA 4

DUNNABRIDGE COMMON

NO. ON MAP	NAT. GRID REF.	DESCRIPTION	DOE SCHEDULE NO. OR LISTING	GRADING
PREHISTORIC				
1	SX 63677554	The remains of two possible hut circles and a fragmentary system of irregularly-shaped fields at the N end of the Common. The possible huts are 7.8 and 4.7m in diameter respectively and have crude stony walls about 1.7m wide and up to 0.4m high. The field walls are visible as stony banks, 1.2 to 2.0m wide and up to 0.6m high. In places they are buried by peat but show up as cropmarks on air photographs. They are part of an extensive field system covering 8.0 hectares, which extends into both Dunnabridge Newtown and Spaders, Muddilake and Smith Hill Newtown.		1
2	SX 63677536	An enclosure and fragmentary field system covering approximately 3.0 hectares of a S-facing slope. The enclosure, which has been disturbed, may be a small pound or possibly a large hut. It measures overall 16 by 14m across with a ragged turf-covered earth and stone wall, 2.8m wide and up to 0.5m high. The fields are largely buried beneath the peat but cropmarks on air photographs indicate a series of small irregular contiguous plots.		1
3	SX 63427502	The remains of two hut circles and a series of scattered field walls lying just N of the B3357 road in the W half of the Common. The huts are 5.6 and 6.8m in diameter respectively and barely protrude through the peat which also obscures most of the field system. Some of the fields are oval in shape.		1
4	SX 63587546	An irregular cairn measuring between 6.7 and 8.4m across and 0.4m high contains a cist, 1.2m (N to S) by 0.4m and 0.4m deep; the coverstone is missing. Only one stone of a retaining circle or kerb recorded in 1939 is now visible.		1

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

5	SX 64127460	An abandoned field containing a block of ridge-and-furrow is approximately 3.2 hectares in area and lies immediately N of Dunnabridge Farm. It is enclosed by a bank, 2.5 to 3.2m wide and 0.4m high, with traces of an external ditch. The cultivation ridges measure on average 2.0m wide and 0.1m high and occupy the central part of the field.	2
6	SX 63277485	Streamworking remains covering approximately 3.2 hectares on both banks of the Cherry Brook. Several turf-covered stony mounds are interspersed with narrow water channels.	3
7	SX 63807502	Several tin pits on the N side of the B3357 road. The area has been disturbed by later road stone quarries and military trenches.	3
8	SX 63577546	An industrial leat, now dry, 1.2m wide and a maximum of 0.9m deep, with a substantial bank on its downslope side.	2
9	SX 63527511	A leat, now dry, 1.0m wide and about 0.8m deep, crosses the Common along the 338m contour.	3
10	SX 63117482	Lower Cherrybrook Bridge dates from the late 18th or early 19th century. It is built of dressed granite and has two-spans with round arches which have projecting keystones and a slightly cranked parapet.	1

II

AREA 5

DUNNABRIDGE POUND FARM AND POUND

Historic Farm Background and Structure

Dunnabridge Pound Farm may have originated during the medieval or early post-medieval period but there is, however, a dearth of early documentary material for this farm. Dunnabridge Pound is first documented in 1342.

Archaeology

PREHISTORIC

Remains of a hut circle and field walls (1) are visible inside Dunnabridge Pound (5). It is possible that the pound wall may utilise an earlier prehistoric enclosure.

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

The farmhouse (2) is a former longhouse. A longhouse is a building in which the living quarters and a byre are usually separated by, and entered from, a cross-passage. Other structures include a barn (3) and a stable or animal shelter (4). Dunnabridge Pound (5) is one of the most important drift pounds on Dartmoor.

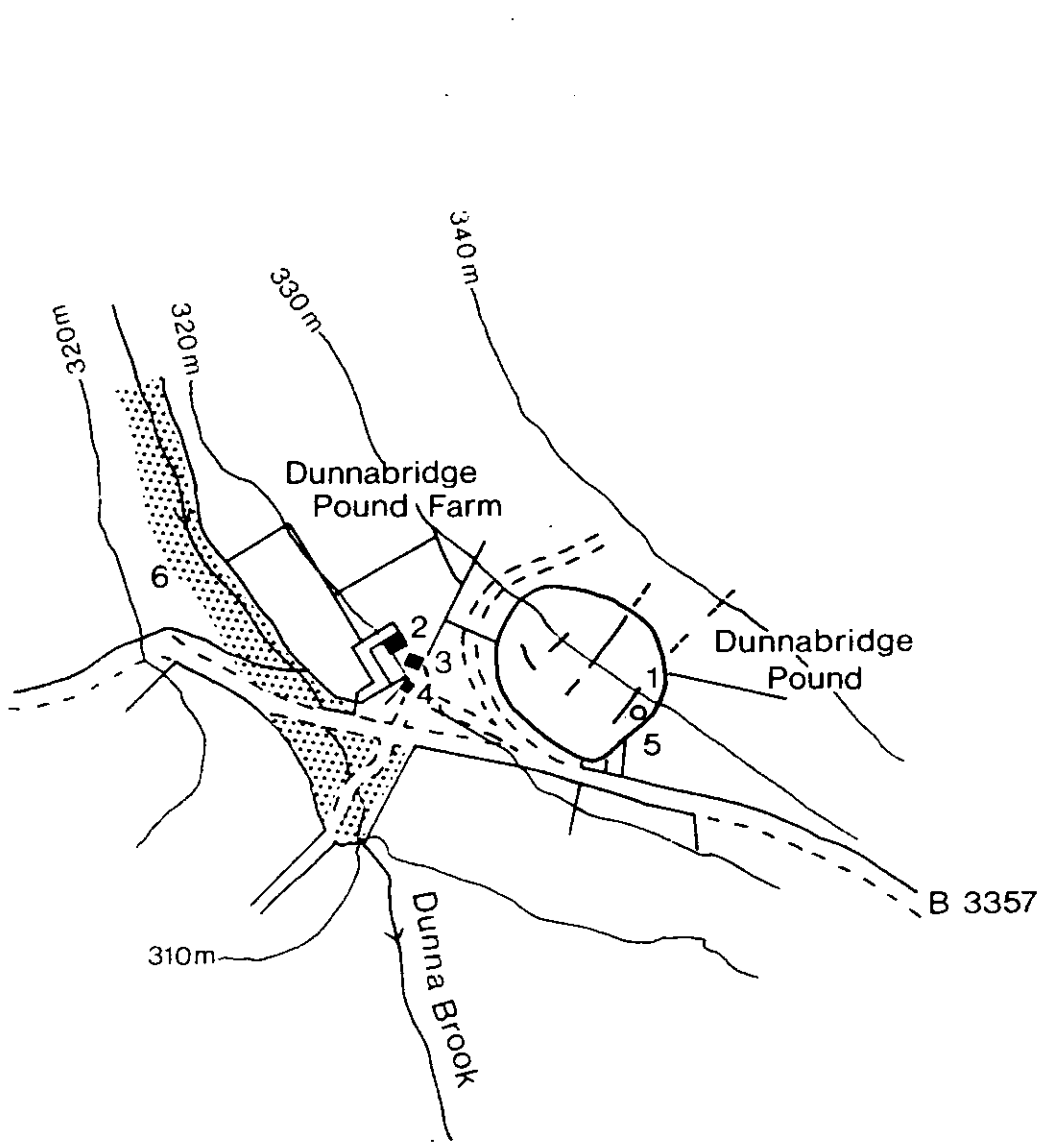
Streamworks (6) consisting of channels and dumps of stone and silt - left from the extraction of tin by the digging and washing of alluvial deposits - are present on both sides of the Dunna Brook. This method of tinworking had its origins in the Middle Ages at least and continued into the 17th century.

Archaeological Evaluation




The Pound (5), farmhouse (2), barn (3) and stable or animal shelter (4) are listed. The buildings constitute a traditional and largely unspoilt small moorland farm unit. The well-preserved pound (5) is important in the context of the moor and its ancient tenements; it appears to contain elements of a prehistoric landscape (1).

AREA 5

DUNNABRIDGE POUND FARM AND POUND.



Key

-  Walling
-  Hut circle
-  Streamworking



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION: TABLE

AREA 5

DUNNABRIDGE POUND FARM AND POUND

NO. ON MAP	NAT. GRID REF.	DESCRIPTION	DOE SCHEDULE NO. OR LISTING	GRADING
PREHISTORIC				
1	SX 64627462	One poorly-preserved hut circle, 4.2m in diameter, with no obvious entrance, together with traces of three field walls are visible within Dunnabridge Pound (5). Two slight platforms, previously thought to be huts, should be discounted. The field walls measure about 1.8m wide and up to 0.5m high.		1
MEDIEVAL AND LATER				
2	SX 64507464	Dunnabridge Pound farmhouse is a former longhouse of late 16th- or early 17th-century date with possible earlier origins. The shippon has been demolished and the former cross-passage reduced to a lean-to.	II	1
3	SX 64517463	A single storey barn, constructed of granite with several massive blocks in its lower courses, is probably of 17th-century date; it lies immediately SE of building (2). Internally it consists of a single rectangular room with a raised central area which may have been used for threshing.	II	1
4	SX 64517462	A single storey stable or animal shelter which may be of 18th-century origin. Internally it consists of a single rectangular room.	II	1
5	SX 64627462	Dunnabridge Pound, a medieval drift pound of 0.9 hectares in area, is circular in plan and enclosed by a drystone wall, 1.9m high and 1.0m wide at base. The single entrance is on the S where there is also a pound-keeper's shelter, built into the inner face of the wall W of the entrance.	II	1
6	SX 64417465	Tin streamworks extending well into Dunnabridge Farm are visible on both banks of the Dunna Brook.		3

AREA 6

ROUNDHILL FARM

The buildings at Roundhill Farm date from the late 19th or early 20th century and are of little architectural interest. They replaced a former farmhouse, situated 400m to the N, which is currently used as an outbuilding. The paddocks associated with this holding contain no identifiable archaeological remains.

AREA 7

BACHELOR'S HALL

A plain, partially rendered, stone building under a slate roof, now a Youth Hostel. It apparently dates from the late 18th or early 19th century and has served several functions over the years. The enclosed land associated with the hostel contains no identifiable archaeological features.

AREA 8

TORGATE HOUSE

Historic Farm Background and Archaeology

The principal monument on this holding is the remains of Bachelor's Hall Mine (1) which occupies some 5 hectares (12.3 acres) of rough pasture 700m due E of Princetown.

Tin was discovered in about 1794 during the construction of Devonport Leat (3) and Mr Thomas Gray was granted a licence to develop a mine here. He sunk a shaft and subsequently erected a stamping mill and smelting house nearby on the W bank of a tributary of the Blackbrook River. John Swete visited the mine by 1797 and recorded that sixteen men were employed 'two of whom worked the windlass over the shaft'. Mining operations ceased following a misunderstanding with Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt of Tor Royal who later proposed to work the mine himself, apparently with little success. The workings possessed a beam pumping engine. The mine is not shown on Shillibeer's map of the Princetown area which is dated 1805 to 1818 indicating, perhaps, that it was derelict. The site is also crossed by Foul Leat (2) which carried sewage from Princetown Prison when it was used to house French prisoners of war between 1809 and 1815. The northern section of this leat probably incorporates the course of an earlier leat serving the mine because Shillibeer labels this section 'Bachelor's Hall Mine Leat (1806)'.

During the mid 1840's a new company was formed to re-open the mine with the aim of extending the workings below the bottom of Engine Shaft. This scheme soon terminated due to lack of funds and bad management. Two further attempts to resume mining took place in 1853 and 1862. It is probably to this period that a plan and section of the mine belong. The plan depicts three named shafts - one with a whim, two dressing floors - each with stamps and a water-wheel, a main water-wheel powering pump rods for draining Engine Shaft, an adit called Shallow Adit and two parallel leats serving the wheels. The upper leat is labelled Prison Leat and is clearly re-using the northern end of the abandoned Foul Leat. The other is called Blackbrook Leat. In 1878 there was a complaint that the wheel pits and workings were in a dangerous condition. Although the mine has been demolished the remains of the principal elements are still clearly recognisable as earthworks on the ground.

Scattered among the remains of the mine are a number of hollows, some containing drill-split boulders, indicating that stone working was also taking place on the site. Some of this may have been connected with the mine or with the construction of Devonport Leat.

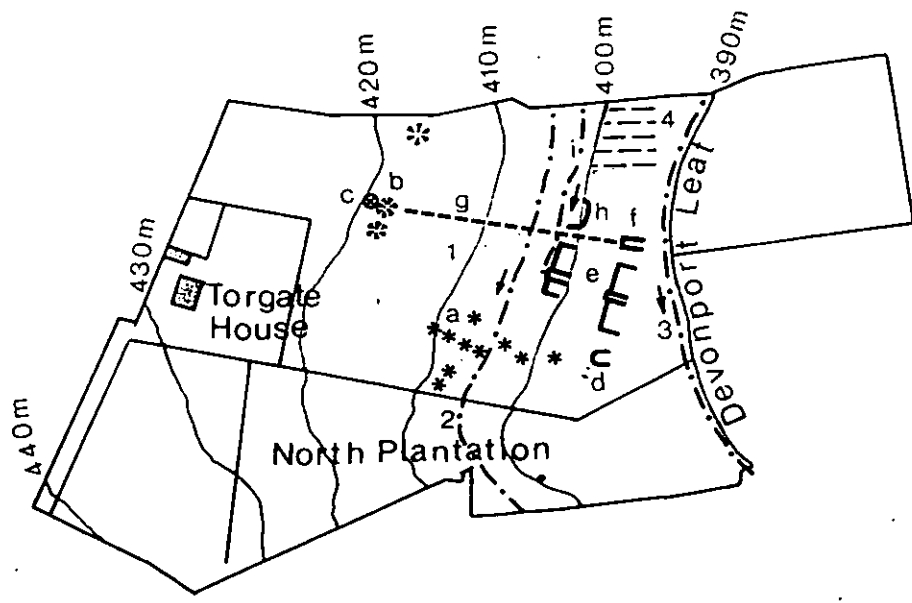
Traces of ridge-and-furrow (4) are visible at the N end of the holding on the W side of Devonport Leat. This method of cultivation has given the ground surface a slightly corrugated appearance.








Archaeological Evaluation

The remains of the mine form a compact group of relatively well-preserved earthworks which are important because they can be easily equated with the structures marked on a mid 19th-century plan of the mine.

AREA 8

TORGATE HOUSE.



- Key
-  Scarps & banks
 -  Ditch
 -  Shaft
 -  Whim
 -  Tin pits
 -  Leat
 -  Ridge & furrow



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION: TABLE

AREA 8

TORGATE HOUSE

NO. ON MAP	NAT. GRID REF.	DESCRIPTION	DOE SCHEDULE NO. OR LISTING	GRADING
1	SX 59827345	The remains of a tin mine, called Bachelor's Hall Mine, are situated on a gentle E-facing hillslope. The main elements comprise:-		1
a		A number of small tin pits concentrated chiefly towards the S side of the mine.		
b		Three shafts, following the main tin lode, aligned NNE to SSW. They were called (from N to S) Ann Shaft, Engine Shaft and Footway Shaft; all have collapsed and two are associated with pronounced linear hollows.		
c		A whim platform, 10m in internal diameter, on the W lip of Engine Shaft (b). It is enclosed by a bank, 3.0m wide and 0.6m high, with a gap on the SW.		
d		Shallow Adit, an adit situated at the southern end of the mine. Water flows from its mouth and air shafts, now largely filled up with debris, indicate its line. There were two other adits associated with this mine: Middle Adit opens just N of the farm buildings at Bachelor's Hall and the entrance to Deep Adit is situated near the Blackbrook River.		
e		Two dressing floors surviving as roughly rectangular platforms terraced into the slope; they measure c. 31 by 17m and 39 by 15m. Each has the remains of a wheel pit, visible as a marked linear depression oriented WNW to ESE, crossing the platforms. The wheels powered stamps which no longer survive. Walling is visible at the SW end of the lower E dressing floor and a ditch leading ESE away from this platform, with a bank on the S, is the remains of the tail race from the water-wheel. A series of smaller platforms below the W dressing floor are probably the sites of settling tanks.		

- f A wheel pit, visible as an elongated depression, measuring c. 20 by 8.0m with an open end at the E. A launder, represented by a short embankment, approaches it from the W. The water-wheel powered pump rods (g) which drained Engine Shaft (b).
- g A pump rod gully extending from the main water-wheel (f) to Engine Shaft (b). It measures about 114m long and up to 5.0m wide; much of its western section has a bank on each side.
- h A triangular area of hollows, perhaps the remains of small reservoirs and associated channels.
- i A leat, now dry, called Blackbrook Leat. It has a bank on the downslope side and measures c. 5.0m across overall. It was one of two leats which supplied the wheels and dressing floors with water.
- 2 SX 59817343 Foul Leat, an abandoned leat mostly constructed c. 1809 to convey sewage from Princetown Prison to Tor Royal Newtake, presumably to fertilize the moorland pasture on the slopes of Royal Hill. Its northern section probably incorporated an earlier leat which served Bachelor's Hall Mine. It crosses the holding in a NNE to SSW direction and its northern half is well preserved because this part was re-used to carry water to the mine sometime after it had ceased to convey sewage; here it measure c. 5.0m across overall with a bank on the downslope side. 1
- 3 SX 59907344 Devonport Leat, which is still in use, skirts the eastern edge of Bachelor's Hall Mine. It was constructed around 1794 to convey water to Devonport. 1
- 4 SX 59877352 Traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation just visible at the N end of the holding between Blackbrook Leat (1i) and Devonport Leat (3). 3

AREA 9

TOR ROYAL PLANTATION

There are no identifiable archaeological remains visible in this dense conifer plantation.