

SPOONERS EXMOOR

Results of a Walkover Survey



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Spooners, Exmoor

Results of a Walkover Survey

For

The Exmoor Mires Project

By



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Summary

South West Archaeology Ltd. was engaged by the Historic Environment Officer of the Exmoor Mire Project to undertake a non-intrusive walkover survey of the proposed mire restoration area on Spooners, Exmoor (NGR: SS 7771 3756). The results of this walkover survey will help to mitigate the threats that the proposed drainage-ditch blocking may pose to the historic environment. The survey also aimed to identify archaeological features which might require further mitigation work prior to the blocking of drainage ditches.

In total, 40 features were recorded during this walkover survey. This included: mineral extraction works, holloways, field boundaries, cairns, cists, mounds, stone settings and individual stones. A number of these were unknown prior to this survey and several are deserving of further recording prior to any ditch blocking activity.

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1.0 Introduction

Location: Spooners
Parish: Exmoor
Authority: Exmoor National Park (ENPA)
District: West Somerset
County: Somerset

1.1 Project Background

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was engaged by the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) of the Exmoor Mire Project (EMP), a project funded by South West Water (SWW), to undertake a non-intrusive walkover survey of the proposed mire restoration area on Spooners, Exmoor (NGR: SS7771.3756). The purpose of this walkover was to acquire as complete a picture possible of the historic environment and any visible archaeology within the areas to be affected by the restoration works. The walkover survey will help to mitigate the threats that the proposed drainage ditch blocking may pose to the historic environment. The survey also aimed to identify archaeological features which might require further mitigation work prior to drainage ditch blocking.

1.2 Site Description

Spooners is an area of open moorland in the parish of Exmoor, approximately 2.6km south-east of Simonsbath (see Figures 1 and 2). The area rises to a height of 427m and lies immediately to the south of Great Woolcombe Stream and south-west of the River Barle.

The underlying bedrock is comprised of the Morte Slate Formation (British Geological Survey 2012), overlain by peaty soils of the Wilcocks 2 Associations (SSEW 1983).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the walkover can be summarised in four main points:

1. To identify archaeological features within the mire restoration areas.
2. Artefact recovery from areas of erosion.
3. Identify any areas which may require further detailed surveying.
4. Make recommendations as to appropriate actions to mitigate the potential damage caused by drainage blocking to visible archaeological features.

1.4 Methodology

The walkover survey of the EMP restoration area on Spooners was undertaken by SWARCH personnel (Dr Bryn Morris, Dr. Samuel Walls and Lucy Blampied) over the course of several days in May 2012. The walkover was carried out to the standards laid out in the brief supplied by the EMP HEO (Appendix 3).

The walkover survey included surveying 5m transects along each side of the 18,000m of drainage ditch targeted for blocking. In addition the locations of potential peat cutting blocks were examined. Areas of high archaeological potential (as defined by the EMP HEO and shown

on Figure 2), covering 24ha, were surveyed by walking transects spaced 10m apart. Any monuments noted while walking between these areas were also recorded.

The course of tracks and other areas of peat erosion (either due to vehicular and animal traffic) within these areas were closely examined for artefacts, but none were recovered. The peat cuttings which cover much of the area were not recorded by the survey as the ENPA has adequate information derived from aerial photography and LiDAR analysis.

The data for each feature identified during the survey was recorded in the field and a photographic record made. The location of each feature was recorded using the Magellan GPS system provided by the EMP, though due to an unknown error the data for two of the features recorded was lost.

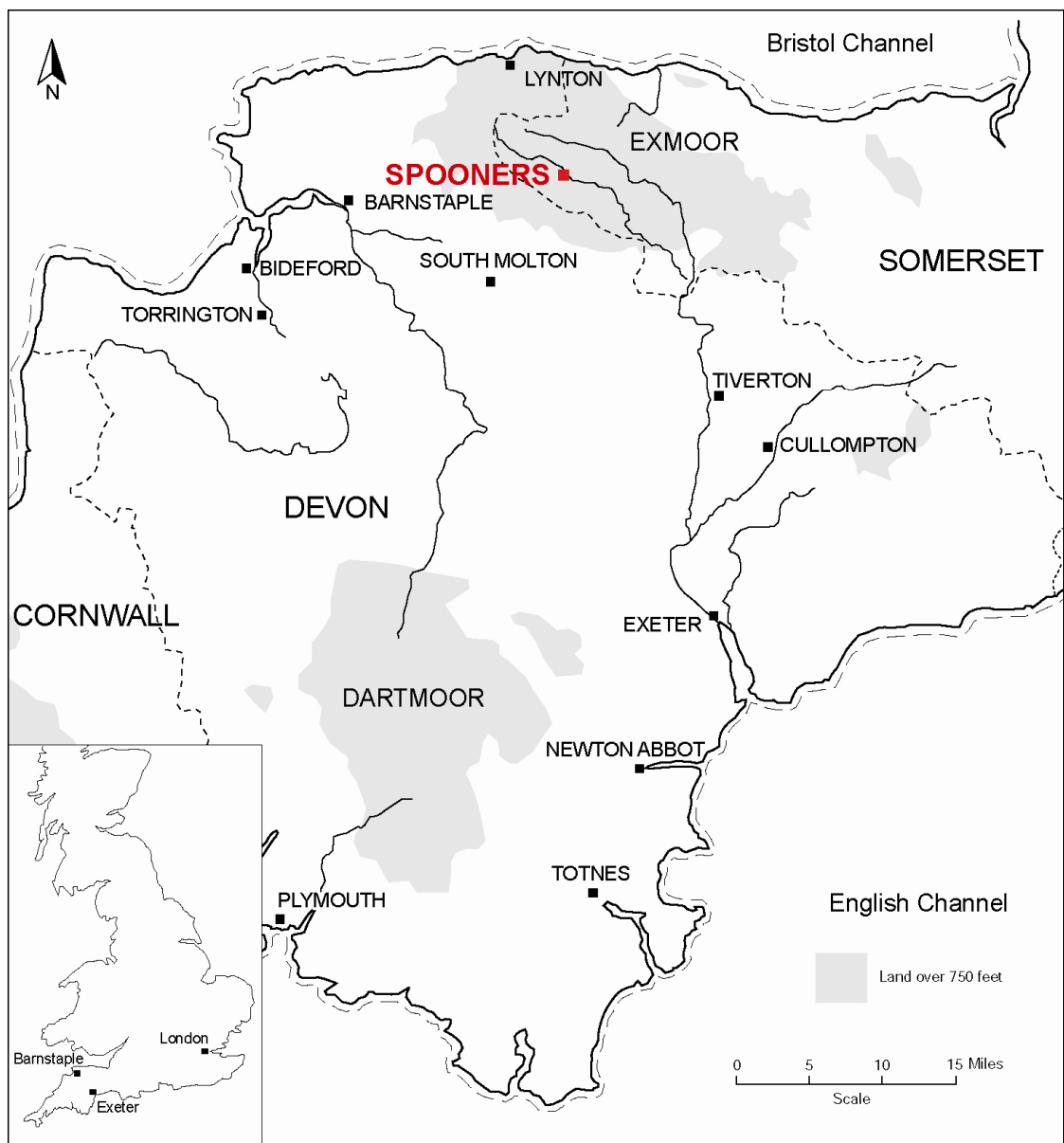


Figure 1: Site Location.

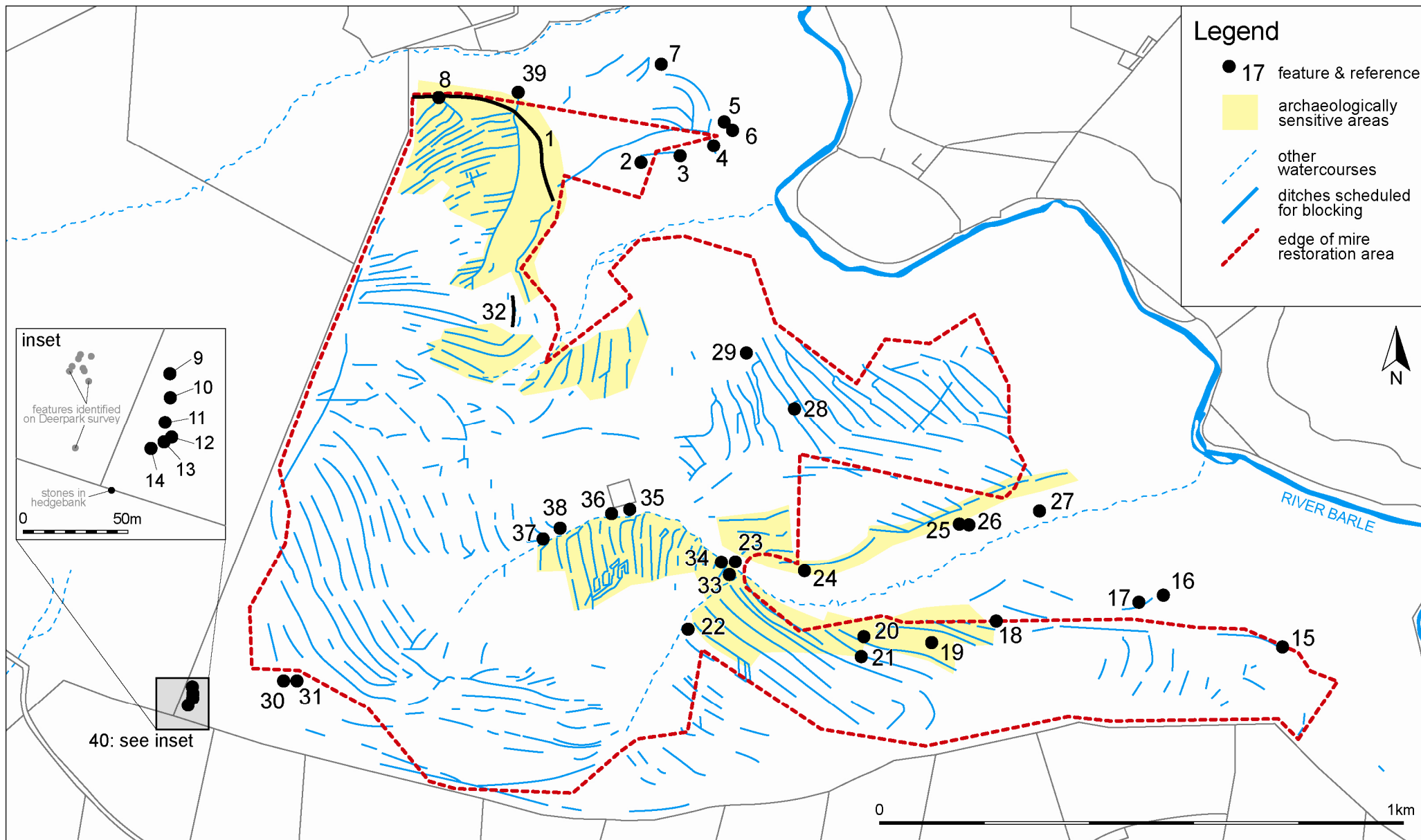


Figure 2: Site plan.

2.0 Results of the Walkover Survey

2.1 General Points

The walkover survey confirmed that the majority of the proposed ditches subject to blocking were drainage ditches, although a small number were other archaeological features, such as mineral exploration features or field boundaries. In several areas (e.g. NGR SS77760.37430) the proposed ditches actually formed parts of peat cuttings.

A high proportion of the area examined was covered by peat deposits, generally between 0.2m and 0.8m thick. These peat deposits meant that no archaeological features – with the obvious exception of peat cuttings and the drainage ditches themselves – were visible in these areas. It is highly likely these peat deposits conceal other archaeological features, although given the low density of archaeological features recorded in peat-free areas these may be limited in number.

2.2 Orthostats and Stone Settings

2.2.1 Large Stones/Orthostats

Individual stones (only those larger than 0.3m were recorded) made up the largest proportion of the recorded features identified in this survey. In total 15 stones were recorded, and while many of these stones may simply represent natural outcroppings, some could be the surviving visible elements of stone rows, hut circles, cairns or other features. Unusually for Exmoor, many of the stones (11 of the examples) were comprised primarily of quartz.

ESP12.7 (Figures 2 & 3) is one of the largest examples (1.2×1.4×0.6m), and lies within a *c.*3m diameter erosion hollow. This large stone is located north-west of the Little Halscombe Stone (MSO7081) and south-west of a known cairn (MSO7082).

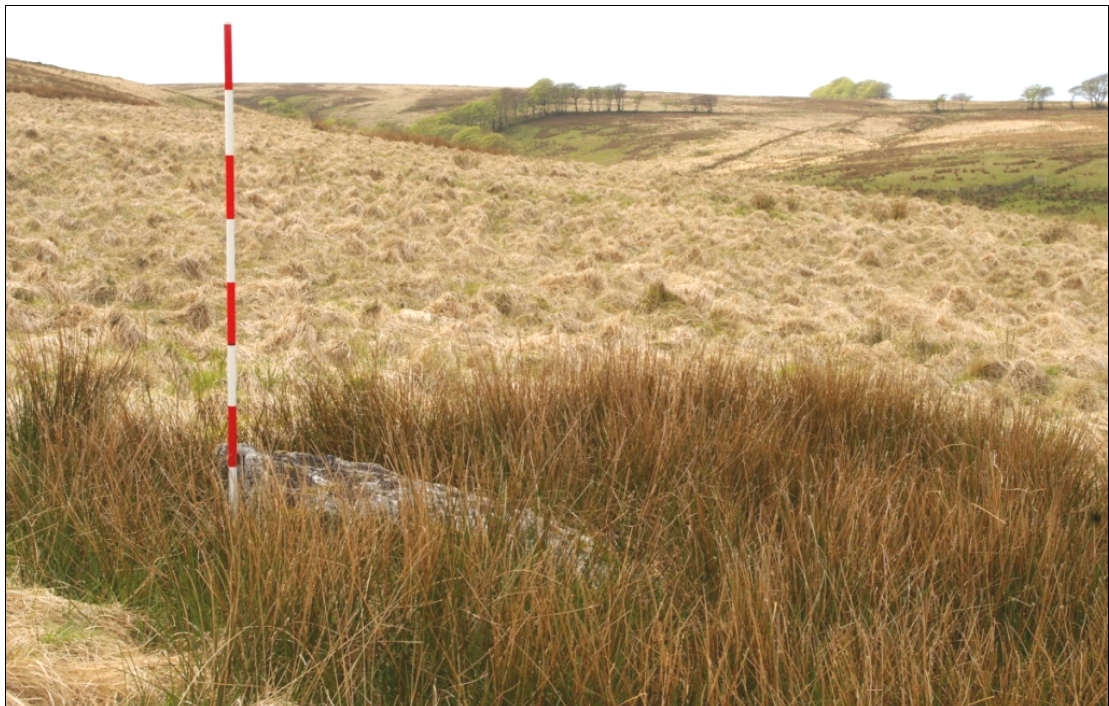


Figure 3: Large stone ESP12.7, viewed from the east (scale 2m).

2.2.2 Stone Settings

Four possible stone settings or groups (ESP12.5; ESP12.12; ESP12.27; ESP12.40) were identified during the survey, two of which are likely to be natural in origin (ESP12.5 and ESP12.27) while ESP12.12 forms part of a larger group ESP12.40.

ESP12.5 is a group of four very large (up to 1.8×1.6×0.8m) quartz-rich stones forming a square with at least eight other smaller stones within an area 10×20m around this primary group. While it seems likely to form part of a natural outcropping, it may well have been subject to modification as it is located in a highly visible position directly overlooking the striking Wheal Eliza hilltop (see Figure 4).

ESP12.12 is a setting of 4 large (up to 1.4×1.4×0.4m) quartz-rich stones, one of which appears to be *ex situ*, perhaps moved fairly recently from the path of the farm track directly to the east. ESP12.12 forms part of the larger group/setting ESP12.40.

ESP12.40 is comprised of five stones (ESP12.9; ESP12.10; ESP12.11; ESP12.13; ESP12.14) and setting ESP12.12. In addition, several large quartz-rich stones have been incorporated into the nearby hedgebank, suggesting that there were once at least four additional stones in this setting. ESP12.9-11 and ESP12.14 appear to describe the gentle arc of a wide circle. This group may also include eight stones (EDP12.1 and EDP12.3-9) identified by SWARCH during the survey carried out in adjoining Deer Park (see SWARCH 2012 report no. 120705).

ESP12.27 is a line of large contiguous slabby upright stones set in the back of a platform *c.*2m wide and *c.*5m long; the platform is bisected by a sheep track. These stones probably form part of a natural outcrop – and similar rocky outcrops are visible on this side of the combe – but its natural qualities appear to have been enhanced.

The prevalence of quartz-rich stones is unusual, and it is possible they represent simply the debris arising from later mineral extraction. However, they do form an unusually high proportion of the stones encountered on Spooners, and some may indeed be genuine Prehistoric monuments (e.g. note the unusual ‘quartz’ cairn MMO468/MSO7082 nearby).



Figure 4: Stone group ESP12.5 overlooking Wheal Eliza, viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).

2.3 Mounds/Cairns and Cist

2.3.1 Mounds/Cairns

Two small mounds were identified during the survey: ESP12.22 and ESP12.33 (Figures 2, 5 & 6). Both of these features are well-defined and discrete, and are likely to be Prehistoric cairns or burial mounds. They are 6m and 8m in diameter respectively, and both survive to a height of c.0.5m.

ESP12.22 is a low discrete mound with a rounded convex profile with no apparent sign of robbing; it is positioned to the east of a stream, close to its head (Figure 5). In contrast, ESP12.33 lies in a much less prominent location (i.e. lower and less visible), although it is close to the confluence of two streams (Figure 6).



Figure 5: Mound ESP12.22, viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).



Figure 6: Mound ESP12.33, viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).

2.3.2 Cist

A single possible cist (ESP12.25) was identified within the survey area (Figure 7). This monument is composed of a (probably partly natural) arrangement of large slabby stones set into the side of the combe. A very large stone (2×0.3×1m) is set into the upslope side, with two smaller stones (1×0.25×0.3m) set on edge 0.75m on the downslope side. Further stones set to the north and south define a clear rectangular space 2.1×0.8×1.2m.

A number of other large stones lie nearby (e.g. ESP12.26), but in immediate association (located only 2m to the south-west) are two large slabby stones, possibly capping stones for the cist. The larger of these ‘capping stones’ is the correct size to cover the surviving cist. It is important to note that other similar rocky outcrops were observed along this combe (e.g. ESP12.27), but this ‘cist’ does seem to have been modified for use, if only as a quarry.



Figure 7: Cist ESP12.25, viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).

2.4 Field Boundaries, Tracks and Fords

Two relict field boundaries were noted within the study area: ESP12.1 and ESP12.35. ESP12.1 is the longest of these, extending for *c.*400m, and standing up to 1.6m high with a 3m wide bank tapering to a 2m wide flat summit (see Coverplate). This bank is accompanied by a 2m wide wet ditch on its upslope side. This bank and ditch appear to follow the contour, extending from Deer Park to the west (EDP12.223-4, where it is much less substantial) and terminating at the head of a combe. This feature might represent part of the former pale of the John Knight’s deer park, but in structural terms it appears no different to other relict boundaries noted on the Moor. In addition, its abrupt termination at the head of a combe (and there is no evidence it

extends further to the east) may suggest that it was yet another Knight project that was never completed (Riley and Wilson-North 2001: 142).

ESP12.35 is a bank *c.*10m long *c.*2.5m wide and 0.5m high flanked by a dry ditch *c.*2.5m wide and 0.6m deep on the south-west side. ESP12.35 is at 90° to the slope and runs from the known sheepfold (MSO6921) to a stream (Figure 8). While it is highly likely it can be associated with the sheepfold, it is curious that it is not located adjacent to an entrance to the fold.



Figure 8: Relict boundary ESP12.35; viewed from the south-east; the trees demark the line of the sheepfold (MSO6921) (scale 2m).



Figure 9: Holloway ESP12.32, viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).

A single possible holloway was noted in the survey, running at 45° to slope for c.40m (ESP12.32). This holloway had a fairly gentle profile, and was cut into the slope by 0.4-0.8m (Figure 9). It probably continues the line of MMO2904.

A possible fording point noted for one of the streams draining the moor (ESP12.36), although it may simply be an area of animal erosion (Figure 10). Even so, this erosion has exposed several large quartz-rich stones 0.5m or larger in diameter and several large slabby siltstones.



Figure 10: Fording point, viewed from the north-west (scale 2m).

2.5 Mineral Exploitation

Thirteen features noted in the survey can be attributed to mineral exploration. In general, they are characterised by relatively deep, fairly regular pits or trenches accompanied by high, well-defined banks of spoil on one or more sides. They are very similar to known mineral prospection trenches/pits encountered elsewhere on Spooners, and indeed six of the identified features are already listed as such on the Exmoor HER (ESP12.18, ESP12.19, ESP12.20 and ESP12.21 probably form part of MMO2945; ESP12.28 and ESP12.29 are almost certainly associated with MSO7011), although they all appear to lie just outside the designated areas.

The features recorded include: seven linear mineral exploration trenches (ESP12.3; ESP12.4; ESP12.17; ESP12.19; ESP12.20; ESP12.28; ESP12.39) (e.g. Figure 13); five small sub-circular or sub-rectangular exploration pits (typically 6-10m diameter) (ESP12.6; ESP12.8; ESP12.15; ESP12.18 and ESP12.21) (including two double examples) (e.g. Figure 11) and a large (30×15m) sub-rectangular openwork (ESP12.29) (Figure 12).

The relationship between these and other features indicates they can be placed in a relative sequence. The spoil from exploration pit ESP12.8 abuts relict hedgebank ESP12.1 and fills its ditch, indicating it post-dated attempts to enclose or define the moor. Two of the exploration pits (ESP12.15 and ESP12.21), as well as the sub-rectangular openwork (ESP12.29) (Figure 12) cut, or their upcast partially infill, the post-medieval drainage ditches, indicating they post-

date attempts to drain the moor. In contrast linear exploration trench ESP12.3 is partially truncated by a drain, whilst linear exploration trench ESP12.17 appears to have been re-used or extended to function as a drainage ditch (both are scheduled for blocking).



Figure 11: Mineral exploration pit ESP12.15, viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).



Figure 12: Mineral exploration openwork ESP12.29, viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).

It is of note that several of the mineral exploration features (both linear works and pits) appear to have had two phases of use (ESP12.3; ESP12.6; ESP12.18 and ESP12.19). Linear mineral exploration trench ESP12.19, for example, is *c.*17m long and lies at 45° to the slope with a slightly irregular up-cast bank on its lower side; the spoil from the second phase partially obscures the base of the first excavation (Figure 13). The existence of two phases would suggest that either the failure of an initial investigation had been forgotten (with a change of ownership perhaps?), or the economic value of the deposits had changed.



Figure 13: Mineral exploration linear ESP12.19, viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).

2.6 Platforms

A single subtle platform cut into the slope was noted during the walkover survey (ESP12.2); it is *c.*8m diameter and cut into the slope by up to 1.4m. Further larger platforms were observed outside of the survey area to south-east, so it is likely to be a natural feature.

3.0 Discussion

The walkover survey undertaken at Spooners identified a number of previously unknown archaeological monuments, ranging from possible Prehistoric funerary monuments to post-medieval mineral exploration features (see Appendix 1). These monuments, particularly the Prehistoric examples, are generally small, unassuming and easily overlooked. Based on the results of the survey, a number of conclusions can be drawn and recommendations made:

1. Firstly, a wide variety of different features have been selected for blocking as part of the mire restoration work. For the most part, drainage ditches have been selected, but in a number of cases other archaeological features have been identified for blocking. For example, ESP12.1 is a substantial relict boundary with a wet ditch, but is very clearly not a drainage ditch.
2. In general, much of the area surveyed was concealed beneath a varying depth of peat (c.0.3-0.8m). Only peat cuttings, post-medieval drainage ditches, and probable post-medieval mineral exploration features were observed in these areas, and it is highly likely the peat conceals other, Prehistoric, archaeological features. However, the limited number of monuments identified in the peat-free areas suggests the apparent lack of archaeological features may be a fair reflection of the actual situation.
3. The known and recorded area of peat cutting was found to be more extensive than previously appreciated. MMO2932 should be extended to the north and east to include most of the level interfluvial areas although in some instances the peat cuttings are very subtle. In the northern part of the site, and to a lesser degree in the central area south of the sheepfold, the peat cuttings were larger and more regular than most known examples on Exmoor. A pattern of large (c.20×50m) rectangular cuttings set at 45° to the slope were noted, hinting at structured, even commercial, exploitation. It is possible this could be related to the mining activity around Wheal Eliza.
4. The relationships between the archaeological features identified allow some of them to be phased. Most of the peat cuttings appear to pre-date the drainage ditches. Most of the probable mineral exploration features block and therefore post-date the drainage ditches and the relict hedgebank ESP12.1. In addition, a number of the mineral exploration pits and trenches appear to have two phases of use, which should correspond with the mid 19th and early 20th century phases of investigation (see Orwin & Sellick 1969, 170-221). These extractive features should be examined in more detail to further clarify any phasing or typology, as the relationships with drainage ditches might indicate a pre-Knight phase of exploitation might be present. This should be seen as a priority for those features scheduled for blocking, or bisected by ditches scheduled for blocking (i.e. ESP12.3; ESP12.15; ESP12.21; ESP12.28; ESP12.29 and ESP12.39).
5. The fact that most of the large stones encountered on Spooners were partially or wholly comprised of quartz is somewhat unusual. Quartz-rich lithologies are not uncommon, and occur within mineralised lodes; such outcroppings would have been targeted during the 19th century phase of mineral exploration. However, not all the quartz-rich stones observed were near 19th century features, and some at least are probably genuine Prehistoric monuments.
6. The square enclosure noted on aerial photographs and thought to be a sheepfold (MMO600/MSO6934) could not be identified on the ground. Care should be taken when ditch-

blocking operations begin, as the precise location and nature of this feature could not be determined.

7. The possible Prehistoric stone setting in the south-west corner of the moor (ESP12.40) clearly extends onto the adjacent Deer Park moor, and other associated stones probably await discovery. As such, it is deserving of further recording; however, it lies outside the area scheduled for restoration works.
8. The final feature worthy of additional recording is the possible cist (ESP12.25). Only a very few such cists are known on Exmoor, and further works would be required to establish the true nature of this feature. Again, given its location this site is unlikely to be affected by the proposed works.

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Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

Appendix 1

Gazetteer of Sites

Feature Number	Grid Reference	Type	Period	Dimensions (L×W×H)	Description	Photo Reference	
ESP12.1	277302.70 to 277574.80	138324.00 to 138118.40	relict field boundary	Post-Medieval	400×5×1.6m	Substantial relict hedgebank c.400m long; follows the contour; extends from Deerpark where it is much less substantial; 3m wide at base tapering to flat 2m wide summit up to 1.6m high, heavily eroded in places; 2m wide wet ditch on upslope side; terminates at head of combe; partly SCHEDULED FOR BLOCKING	ESP12_1_ENE_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.2	277740.60	138188.10	platform	unknown	8×8m	Subtle platform cut into the slope; c.8m diameter; upslope side cut c.1.4m into the slope, although all slopes are gentle; further bigger platforms observed to north-east, so probably natural	ESP12_2_SE_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.3	277829.50	138217.50	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	20×15m	Short mineral exploration trench c.20m long with substantial up cast bank on north side; possibly two phases as discrete pit dug through southern up cast bank; cut by drainage ditch scheduled for blocking	ESP12_3_E_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.4	277878.70	138225.10	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	13×3.5m	Linear mineral exploration trench c.13m long; up cast bank 2m wide and 0.8m high; trench 1.5m wide and 0.6m deep	ESP12_4_NE_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.5	277904.20	138268.40	stone setting	Prehistoric	10×20m	Stone setting; primary group of four very large quartz-rich stones forming a square; largest stone 1.8×1.6×0.8m; erosion surfaces around these larger stones; probably part of a natural outcrop; at least 8 other smaller stones within an area 10×20m around primary group; directly overlooks Wheal Eliza hilltop in valley below	ESP12_5_NE_14.05.12_SWARCH

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ESP12.6	277914.51	138252.08	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	6×8m	Mining exploration; two adjacent 'entrances' cut c.1.8m deep into the slope, with a single mound of spoil c.1.4m high on the down-slope side blocking the northern entrance; total area 6×8m; possibly two phases	ESP12_6_NE_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.7	277782.60	138375.10	stone	Prehistoric	1.2×1.4×0.6m	Large quartz-rich stone; sits in 3m diameter erosion hollow	ESP12_7_W_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.8	277351.80	138317.10	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	8×8m	Mineral exploration hollow; sub-circular pit 5m in diameter; up cast spoil on down-slope sides, bank 1-2.5m wide and up to 1m high; spoil abuts hedgebank ESP12.1 and thus post-dates it; hollow is 1.4m deep and holds water	ESP12_8_SE_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.9	276882.90	137184.50	stone	Prehistoric	0.65×0.65×0.45m	Quartz-rich stone	ESP12_9_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.10	276882.80	137172.60	stone	Prehistoric	1.2×0.5×0.3m	Large quartz-rich stone	ESP12_10_E_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.11	276880.30	137160.70	stone	Prehistoric	1.4×1.2×0.3m	Large quartz-rich stone	ESP12_11_W_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.12	276883.10	137153.40	stone setting	Prehistoric		Setting of 4 large quartz-rich stones; primarily stone is 1.4×1.4×0.4m surmounted by a second large stone 1.2×0.7×0.5 (probably <i>ex situ</i> , as immediately adjacent to farm track); two other smaller stones to the NE (0.8×0.6×0.1m) and SW (0.8×0.6×0.45m). NOTE further large quartz-rich stones observed in north face of hedgebank to south-west near gateway into Deerpark	ESP12_12_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.13	276879.70	137151.30	stone	Prehistoric	0.45×0.1×0.45m	Stone; slabby siltstone, as seen in base of farm track adjacent and probably in up cast from excavation of track	ESP12_12_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.14	276873.80	137148.20	stone	Prehistoric	0.8×0.8×0.7m	Large quartz-rich stone; possibly <i>ex situ</i> as adjacent to farm track	ESP12_14_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.15	278970.10	137258.70	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	10×10m	Mineral exploration hollow; sub-rectangular pit 4×2.5m; up cast bank on down-slope side up to 4m wide and 1.4m high on down-slope side; total area of earthworks c.10×10m; up cast spoil blocks drainage ditch scheduled for blocking	ESP12_15_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.16	278739.70	137360.20	stone	Prehistoric	0.6×0.6×0.5m	Quartz-rich stone; sits in 2.2m diameter erosion hollow	ESP12_16_S_17.05.12_SWARCH

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ESP12.17	278689.80	137342.30	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	15×3.5m	Length of drainage ditch of exaggerated size c.15m long with up cast bank on north ditch is c.1.8m wide & 0.6m deep; bank is c.1.6m wide and 0.3m high; suggesting it was exploited as a mineral exploration trench	ESP12_17_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.18	278420.90	137314.80	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	12×8m	Pair of mineral exploration pits, each c.6m diameter; two phases, lower pit partly infilled by spoil from upper pit; substantial up cast banks on down-slope sides; probably forms part of MMO2945 but GIS is unclear	ESP12_18_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.19	278275.00	137272.00	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	17×10m	Linear mineral exploration trench c.17m long; at 45° to slope; slightly irregular up cast bank on down-slope side; irregular base of trench suggests two phases; NOT on GPS as data somehow "lost" ; probably forms part of MMO2945 but GIS is unclear	ESP12_19_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.20	278171.60	137287.70	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	20×5m	Linear mineral exploration trench c.20m long; at 90° to slope; trench c.2m wide and 0.5m deep; bank c.2.5m across and up to 0.5m high; probably forms part of MMO2945 but GIS is unclear	ESP12_20_N_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.21	278166.60	137242.20	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	6×3m	Mineral exploration pit; sub-circular hollow 2×1.5m across and cut 1.4m into slope; discrete up cast mound on down-slope side 3.5×2.5m by 1.2m high; probably forms part of MMO2945 but GIS is unclear; upcast spoil blocks drainage ditch scheduled for blocking	ESP12_21_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.22	277830.30	137299.70	cairn	Prehistoric	6×6×0.5m	Probable cairn; low discrete mound with a rounded convex profile; no apparent sign of robbing	ESP12_22_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.23	277924.40	137417.70	stone	Prehistoric	0.7×0.5×0.4m	Quartz-rich stone in base of streambed; NOTE other similar stones observed in base of stream here, one wrenched out of position during insertion of flume tank	ESP12_23_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.24	278051.90	137407.10	stone	Prehistoric	0.75×0.5×0.35m	Quartz-rich stone; leans to north-east; erosion hollow c.2m diameter, though now vegetated	ESP12_24_NW_17.05.12_SWARCH

Spooners, Exmoor

ESP12.25	278352.40	137497.20	cist	Prehistoric	2×1×1m	Possible cist; arrangement of large slabby stones, probably exploiting or creating a quarried rock outcrop; very large stone (2×0.3×1m) set into upslope side (probably natural) with other large stones tumbled nearby; associated and located 2m to the south-west are two further large slabby stones, possibly capping stones for cist; NOTE other outcrops of rock similar in scale observed along this combe	ESP12_25a_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH H ESP12_25b_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH H ESP12_25c_N_17.05.12_SWARCH ESP12_25d_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH H ESP12_25e_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH H
ESP12.26	278368.50	137493.80	stone	Prehistoric	1.2×0.7×0.1m	Large slabby stone located down-slope of ESP12.25; a second large slabby stone nearby	ESP12_26_W_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.27	278502.20	137518.60	stone setting	unknown	3.5×2×1.2m	Stone setting; line of large slabby stones set upright with slight platform in front c.2m wide; sheep track runs past/through arrangement; probably natural outcrop modified for use	ESP12_27_NNE_17.05.12_SWARCH H
ESP12.28	278034.90	137708.60	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	30×6m	Linear mineral exploration trench c.30m long; up cast banks on both sides but primarily on west side; trench is c.2m wide and 0.5m deep; bank on west side is c.2.4m wide and up to 0.5m high; probably intended to form part of MSO7011 but falling outside it; SCHEDULED FOR BLOCKING	ESP12_28_NW_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.29	277941.40	137825.30	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	30×15m	Mineral exploration area; irregular openwork: sub-rectangular basin at 45° to slope; c.30m long by 15m wide; cuts into slope c.1m with irregular up cast bank on down-slope side appearing to partially enclose the area; access via hollow way to south; probably intended to form part of MSO7011 but falling outside it; area cuts and blocks drainage ditch scheduled for blocking	ESP12_29_NW_17.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.30	277062.60	137196.30	stone	Prehistoric	1×0.9×0.7m	Large quartz-rich stone; within area of known mining disturbance MSO6937 and probably <i>ex situ</i>	ESP12_30_N_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.31	277082.20	137198.40	stone	Prehistoric	1.2×0.5×0.3m	Large quartz-rich stone; within area of known mining disturbance MSO6937 and probably <i>ex situ</i>	ESP12_31_NE_21.05.12_SWARCH

Spooners, Exmoor

ESP12.32	277494.80 to 277504.20	137937.00 to 137892.60	hollow way	Post-Medieval	40×2m	Probable hollow way running at 45° to slope; traced for c.40m; fairly gentle profile; c.2m wide; cut into slope c.0.4-0.8m	ESP12_32_NW_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.33	277914.80	137400.50	mound	Prehistoric	8×8×0.5m	Mound; c.8m diameter and up to 0.5m high on upslope side; near confluence of two streams in unlikely position for burial mound	ESP12_33_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.34	277906.80	137409.90	stone	Prehistoric	1×0.4×0.2m	Large quartz-rich stone	ESP12_34_E_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.35	277723.30 to 277721.20	137525.40 to 137534.90	relict field boundary	Post-Medieval	10×5m	Substantial relict hedgebank c.10m long; at 90° to slope and runs from sheepfold MSO6921 down-slope to stream; bank c.2.5m wide and 0.5m high; ditch on south-west side c.2.5m wide and 0.6m deep; presumably associated with the sheepfold but not located adjacent to a entrance to the fold	ESP12_35_NW_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.36	277688.30	137512.40	possible ford	unknown	4×4m	Possible fording point for the stream; peat erosion on both banks exposing several large quartz-rich stones 0.5m or larger in diameter & several large slabby siltstones	ESP12_36_SE_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.37	277553.40	137466.50	stone	Prehistoric	0.4×0.34m	Stone; recumbent, situated on edge of stream gully	ESP12_37_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.38	277592.10	137487.10	stone	Prehistoric	1.4×0.9×0.2m	Large slabby stone; recumbent; situated on edge of stream gully; note 5p piece glued to upper surface	ESP12_38a_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH ESP12_38b_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.39	277505.90	138323.40	mineral exploration	Post-Medieval	15×7m	Lower part of ditch marked for blocking; total area c.15m long by up to 7m wide; widens at this point with up cast spoil primarily on west side; spoil also present in base of ditch on down-slope side; suggesting it was exploited as a mineral exploration trench; NOT on GPS as data somehow "lost"; drainage ditch marked for blocking	ESP12_39_SE_14.05.12_SWARCH
ESP12.40	276876.00	137164.00	GROUP	Prehistoric		Concentration of large quartz-rich stones in south-west corner of site; probable setting; note this matches similar stones noted on Deerpark site, and may represent a damaged stone setting or possibly a stone circle	

Appendix 2

List of Jpegs on CD to the rear of the report

<i>Photo Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Scale</i>
ESP12_1_ENE_14.05.12_SWARCH	Relict Field Boundary (Deer park pale?)	ENE	2m
ESP12_2_SE_14.05.12_SWARCH	Subtle platform cut into the slope	SE	2m
ESP12_3_E_14.05.12_SWARCH	Short mineral exploration trench	E	2m
ESP12_3_E_14.05.12_SWARCH	Linear mineral exploration trench	NE	2m
ESP12_5_NE_14.05.12_SWARCH	Stone Setting, probably natural	NE	2m
ESP12_6_NE_14.05.12_SWARCH	Two phases of mineral exploration	NE	2m
ESP12_7_W_14.05.12_SWARCH	Large quartz-rich stone in erosion hollow	W	2m
ESP12_8_SW_14.05.12_SWARCH	Mineral exploration hollow	SW	2m
ESP12_9_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Quartz rich stone	SW	0.5m
ESP12_10_E_17.05.12_SWARCH	Large quartz-rich stone	E	0.5m
ESP12_11_W_17.05.12_SWARCH	Large quartz-rich stone	W	0.5m
ESP12_12_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH	Setting of 4 large quartz-rich stones	NE	2m
ESP12_13_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Stone, probably upcast from track	SW	0.5m
ESP12_14_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH	Large quartz-rich stone	NE	0.5m
ESP12_15_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH	Mineral exploration hollow	NE	2m
ESP12_16_S_17.05.12_SWARCH	Quartz-rich stone in hollow	S	0.5m
ESP12_17_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH	Length of drainage ditch of exaggerated size, possible mineral exploration	NE	2m
ESP12_18_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH	Pair of mineral exploration pits, two phases	NE	2m
ESP12_19_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Linear mineral exploration trench, possibly two phases	SW	2m
ESP12_20_N_17.05.12_SWARCH	Linear mineral exploration trench	N	2m
ESP12_21_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Mineral exploration pit	SW	2m
ESP12_22_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Probable cairn	SW	2m
ESP12_23_NE_17.05.12_SWARCH	Quartz-rich stone in base of streambed	NE	0.5m
ESP12_24_NW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Quartz-rich stone in erosion hollow	NW	0.5m
ESP12_25a_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Possible cist	SW	2m
ESP12_25b_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	As above, showing detail	SW	0.5m
ESP12_25c_N_17.05.12_SWARCH	As above, showing tumble	N	2m
ESP12_25d_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	As above, possible capstone	SW	2m
ESP12_25e_SW_17.05.12_SWARCH	As above, showing on a slight platform	SW	0.5m
ESP12_26_W_17.05.12_SWARCH	Large slabby stone near ESP12_25	W	2m
ESP12_27_NNE_17.05.12_SWARCH	Stone setting, probably natural	NNE	2m
ESP12_28_NW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Linear mineral exploration trench	NW	2m
ESP12_29_NW_17.05.12_SWARCH	Mineral exploration area	NW	2m
ESP12_30_N_21.05.12_SWARCH	Large quartz-rich stone, near mining waste	N	0.5m
ESP12_31_NE_21.05.12_SWARCH	Large quartz-rich stone, near mining waste	NE	0.5m
ESP12_32_NW_21.05.12_SWARCH	Probable hollow way	NW	2m
ESP12_33_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH	Mound, possible cairn	SW	2m
ESP12_34_E_21.05.12_SWARCH	Large quartz-rich stone	E	0.5m
ESP12_35_NW_21.05.12_SWARCH	Short length of substantial relict hedgebank	NW	2m
ESP12_36_SE_21.05.12_SWARCH	Possible ford across stream	SE	2m
ESP12_37_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH	Recumbent stone by stream gully	SW	0.5m
ESP12_38a_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH	Large slabby stone by stream gully	SW	0.5m
ESP12_38b_SW_21.05.12_SWARCH	As above, 5p coin	SW	0.5m
ESP12_39_SE_21.05.12_SWARCH	Length of drainage ditch of exaggerated size, possible mineral exploration	SE	2m

Appendix 3

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY AT SPOONERS, 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 principal aim of the work described by this document is to characterize, quantify and locate known and unknown heritage assets within the area defined (see attached map) using non-intrusive walkover survey according to the methodology outlined below.

2.0: Background

- 2.1: The aim of the Exmoor Mires Project is to restore to healthy condition many of the mires of Exmoor's moorlands by blocking drainage ditches that have been dug as part of programmes of agricultural improvement in the past. In many ways this will be beneficial to the historic environment, preserving important palaeo-environmental resources and maintaining the ability of the mires to preserve other archaeological material. However, the work of drain blocking also has the potential to damage, destroy or obscure archaeological features either directly or indirectly. In order to mitigate this threat it is necessary to acquire as complete a picture of the historic environment on any given site as possible. Walkover survey will provide an overall view of the visible archaeology within each area affected by restoration.
- 2.2: The moorland terrain of Exmoor is often difficult to traverse which, combined with the region's unpredictable weather, can often result in unforeseen delays to work in this environment. It is thus advisable to account for this when planning work and quotes for the work described here must allow an appropriate contingency which will be released at the discretion of the HEO.
- 2.3: ENPA 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 map) according to the methodology described here. The site will be described using the abbreviated site code; ESP12. All field notes, finds labelling, reports, communications and other material must contain this code.
- 3.2: A standard data set describing each feature identified by the survey will be captured in the field and is described in Appendix 1 of this brief. This includes the recording of data using a GPS system with an accuracy of 1-3m. A suitable device can be supplied by EMP for this purpose for the duration of the survey subject to the contractor's signature of an appropriate loan agreement document.
- 3.3: Survey coverage within the restoration area will include:
 - A 5m zone on each side of each drainage ditch. The accurate location of each ditch will be provided by the EMP HEO as part of the GPS data set supplied prior to the survey. A total of 18,000m of drainage ditch is targeted for survey.
 - The locations of potential peat cutting blocks are marked on the attached maps. These should also be included in the walkover survey.
 - Areas defined as sensitive by the HEO in which survey should not be restricted to ditches but should cover the defined area fully. These defined on the attached map and total 24 ha.
 - Site traffic routes. The complexity of the ditch pattern at Spooners mitigates against pre-defining site traffic routes. Instead, contractors are expected to record any features observed when in transit between ditches or sensitive areas. On the basis of experience on other sites, an additional survey area of 6 ha has been allowed for this.
 - Within these areas tracks and areas of erosion due to vehicle and animal traffic should be examined for artefacts. Any such artefacts should be collected, bagged and labelled appropriately and their location recorded.
- 3.4: The HEO will be available for site visits during the survey work to advise on the proposed site works.
- 3.5: Any variation from this methodology should be agreed in writing with the HEO.
- 3.6: Work should be undertaken as soon as possible before 31st May 2012 and the HEO informed of the dates of commencement and completion.
- 3.8: Quotes for this work should include a breakdown of resource and budget allocation and a Gantt chart detailing the anticipated timescale for the work, taking into account possible sources of slippage in the schedule.
- 3.9: Quotes for the work must include short CVs demonstrating expertise and experience in survey of upland environments for those undertaking the survey. These personnel should remain consistent for the duration of the work.
- 3.10: Appendix 3 presents the HER data for Spooners.

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.
- 4.3: A draft digital copy, in MS Word format, of an appropriately illustrated report on the work should be provided to the HEO within 1 month of completion of the survey. The report will be structured as laid out in appendix 2 of this brief.
- 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 standardized format. Accordingly the report should be structured according to the scheme described in Appendix 2 of this brief.
- 4.6: Following any necessary revisions, an unbound hard copy, as well as 3 bound hard copies of the final report will be delivered to the HEO within three weeks of the return of the draft copy (4.4 above), in addition to a digital copy and a PDF version.
- 4.7: The digital photographic archive will be delivered on a CD included in the back of the final report. The file name of each image should be in the following format:
Site&Feature_Identifier_ImageOrientation_Date_ContractorName
- 4.8: Any finds should be delivered to the HEO on conclusion of the survey.
- 4.9: The archaeological consultant shall complete an online OASIS form describing the survey, including a digital copy of the report before completion of this contract. The report will also contain the appropriate OASIS number.

5.0: Health and Safety at Work

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

6.0: Insurance

- 6.1: The contractor shall satisfy ENPA that he (the contractor) during the whole period of this Contract has an insurance policy with an Insurance Company of good repute covering himself and all persons deriving right from him against claims by the owners, his officers and employees and by third parties. This is in respect of any claim for damages caused by accident or negligence arising out of this Contract, it being understood that the amount of the insurance shall not in any way limit the liability of the contractors to the owners. The contractors shall on request produce for inspection by ENPA the policy and premium receipts.

7.0: Termination

- 7.1: In the event of a breach of any of the conditions of this Agreement, ENPA may terminate the Agreement on seven days notice in writing and may by other means carry out or complete the 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 EH Thesaurus

Period: follow EH guidelines

Dimensions

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

Description and interpretation: to include dimensions and heights of feature

Sketch: for complex features

References: list file names of all survey photographs

Appendix 2**Required Outline Report Structure**

1.0: *Introduction*

2.0: *Objectives*

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

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

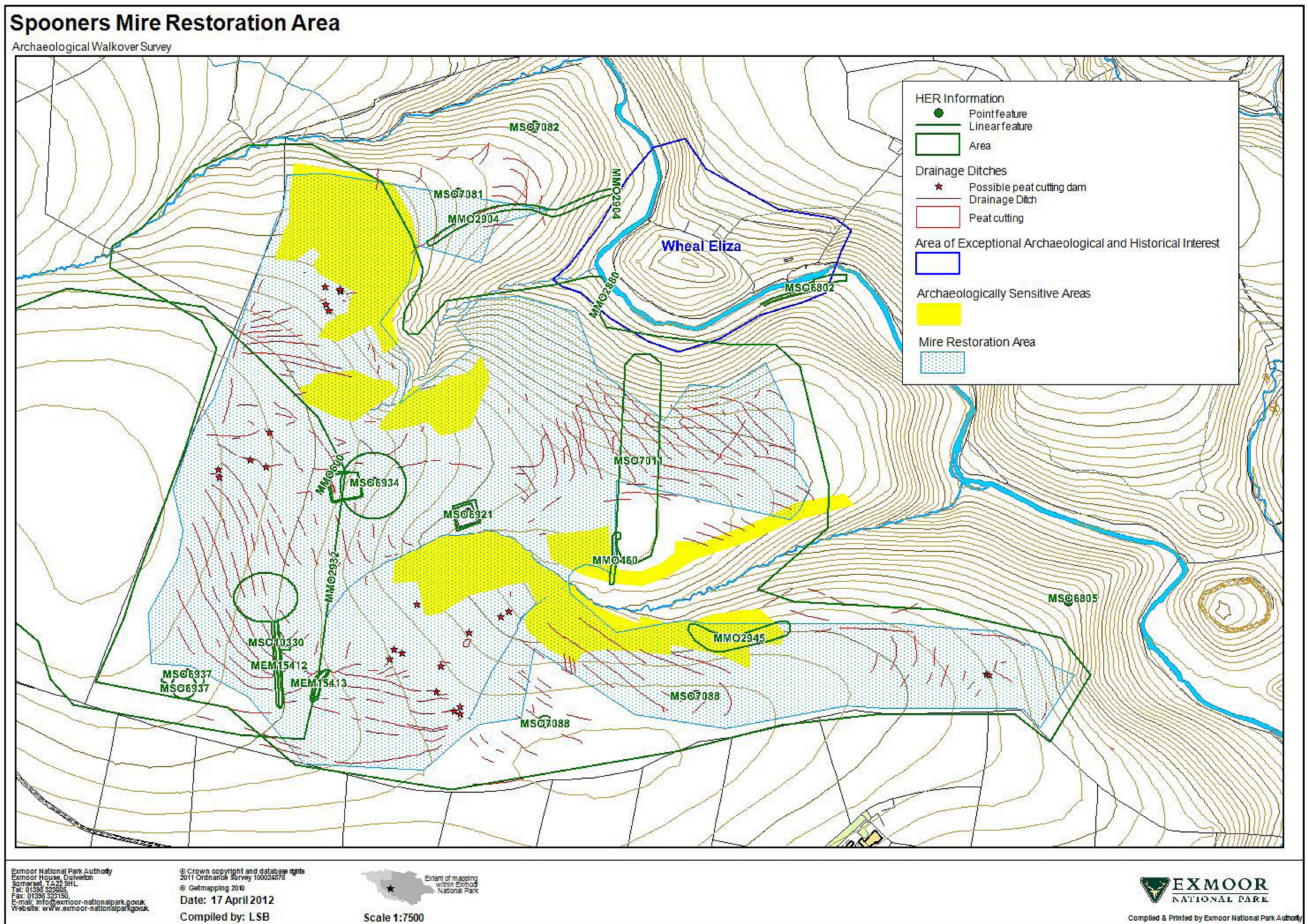
5.0: *Discussion*, including an overall quantification of the results of the survey and a basic assessment of their significance.

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

Table of HER information

Appendix 3 HER Number	Grid Reference	Description	Designation
MEM15412/MMO2925/ MSO10330	SS 7728 3723	A linear openwork, up to 3m wide and trending north-south for 186m. At its northern end a short section runs east-west for 30m. An area of disturbed ground is visible at the openwork's northern end. The feature is best interpreted as a prospecting trench dug to identify the eastward extent of the iron deposits at Blue Gate which were mined for a short period in the mid 19th and early 20th century. The working is most likely of mid 19th century date.	HER
MEM15413/MMO2926	SS 7737 3718	A linear openwork, probably dating to the mid 19th century, orientated roughly north-south and approximately 65m long. The feature is best interpreted as a prospecting trench dug to identify the eastward extent of the iron deposits at Blue Gate which were mined for a short period in the mid 19th and early 20th century.	HER
MMO460/MSO7011	SS 7804 3745	A steep-sided sub-circular hollow 2.5m deep and 4.5m by 7m across with a flat-topped bank, 0.5m high with a parallel ditch running to the south. The feature is most likely a prospecting trench associated with mining in the area. The hollow may be a collapsed shaft. See also MSO7011.	HER

MMO468/MSO7082	SS 7786 3843	Remains of a prehistoric cairn measuring 7.8m east-west by 9m with a maximum height of 7m. It is mostly turf-covered and is composed of large quartz blocks which appear to utilize a natural outcrop. The topographic location of the feature and the method of construction are unusual.	HER
MMO600/MSO6934	SS 7743 3761	A square enclosure visible on aerial photographs as a low earthwork. It is of similar size and alignment to the sheepfold 280m to the south-east (MSO6921) and may represent a precursor to the latter.	HER
MMO2880	SS 7799 3766	An area of regular post-medieval drainage ditches on Great Woolcombe, covering an area of c. 175ha. Some of the ditches follow contours and may, in fact be leats, while others cut across them. They are probably part of the Knight family attempts to improve the moorland during the 19th century.	HER
MMO2904	SS 7782 3822	A probable medieval or post-medieval trackway or packhorse road on the eastern edge of Little Halscombe. It runs for c.430m and roughly follows the course of the Exford to Barnstaple road shown on the 1816 map of Exmoor Forest.	HER
MMO2932	SS 7680 3755	Large area of peat cutting probably of post-medieval date. It is visible as numerous small pits and earthworks covering an area of c.81 ha. on Deer Park and Spooners.	HER





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