

DUNSTER DEER PARK PART OF THE DUNSTER CASTLE RPG DUNSTER SOMERSET

Archaeological and Historic Landscape Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. Report no.210614



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Dunster Deer Park, comprising part of the Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden Archaeological and Historic Landscape Survey

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Report Version FINAL

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SUMMARY

This archaeological and historic landscape survey of Dunster Deer Park, which comprises part of the Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden, was commissioned by Nicholas Pearson Partnership as part of a Parkland Management Plan commissioned by Natural England as part of an application for a Countryside Stewardship Feasibility Study. A range of sources including historic documents, maps, aerial photographs and LiDAR data was consulted and a walkover survey was carried out.

The report documents archaeological features identified within the survey area of the Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden and makes recommendations for their future management. The area comprises a mix of woodland/plantation and open heathland. This report has determined that the surviving archaeological remains within the survey area date from the prehistoric to post medieval periods although features recorded in this survey and not already recorded in the Exmoor National Park HER largely date from the post medieval to modern periods.

The walkover survey was impeded in some areas with significant ground vegetation coverage and areas of fallen deadwood and it is therefore not possible to consider this survey to have been exhaustive. Recommendations for further archaeological work and future management have been made.



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CONTENTS

<i>SUMMARY</i>	2
<i>CONTENTS</i>	3
<i>LIST OF FIGURES</i>	4
<i>LIST OF APPENDICES</i>	5
<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</i>	5
<i>PROJECT CREDITS</i>	5
1.0 INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	6
1.2 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	6
1.3 METHODOLOGY	6
1.4 OWNERSHIP AND BOUNDARIES.....	7
1.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH.....	8
1.6 DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND.....	11
2.0 SUMMARY TABLE	12
3.0 THE SITE	14
3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	14
3.2 VEGETATION AND LAND USE.....	14
3.3 CURRENT PROTECTION AND SCHEDULING	14
4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	16
4.1 PREHISTORIC, ROMANO-BRITISH AND SAXON	16
4.2 MEDIEVAL.....	16
4.3 POST MEDIEVAL.....	17
4.4 THE NINETEENTH CENTURY	17
4.5 THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.....	23
4.6 HISTORIC PATH AND BOUNDARY PHASING.....	25
4.7 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIDAR DATA	27
5.0 WALKOVER SURVEY	34
5.1 LOWER PARK	35
5.2 LOWER SLOPES	47
5.3 HILLTOP AND UPPER SLOPES.....	49
5.4 SUMMARY.....	59
6.0 BOUNDARIES AND PATHS	60
6.1 ASSESSMENT OF SURVIVAL OF HISTORIC BOUNDARIES AND PATHS	60
6.2 PHASING OF EXTANT BOUNDARIES.....	60
6.3 PHASING OF EXTANT PATHS AND TRACKS	61
7.0 CONCLUSIONS	63
8.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	65
9.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	66
9.1 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.....	66
9.2 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK	70
9.3 INTERPRETATION AND ACCESS.....	71
10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	73
11.0 APPENDICES	74

LIST OF FIGURES

COVER PLATE: THE NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SURVEY AREA WITH DUNSTER CASTLE IN THE BACKGROUND

FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF THE SITE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT 2021. THE SURVEY AREA IS INDICATED IN RED.	7
FIGURE 2: SITES RECORDED IN THE EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK HER WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA (ENPHER)	11
FIGURE 3: MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE SITES IDENTIFIED THROUGH LIDAR ANALYSIS AND WALKOVER SURVEY.	12
FIGURE 4: MAP SHOWING LEGAL DESIGNATIONS WITHIN AND AROUND THE SURVEY AREA.	15
FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1802 ORDNANCE SURVEYORS DRAFT MAP (BL). THE BOUNDARY OF THE SURVEY AREA IS INDICATED.	18
FIGURE 6: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY FIRST SERIES MAP PUBLISHED 1809 (VOB).....	19
FIGURE 7: EXTRACT FROM THE TITHE MAPS FOR THE SURVEY AREA C.1840 (TNA)	20
FIGURE 8: MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA BY CULTIVATION TYPE AT THE DATE OF THE TITHE SURVEY.	22
FIGURE 9: FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA. SURVEYED 1887(NLS)	23
FIGURE 10: SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA. SURVEYED 1902 (NLS)	24
FIGURE 11: SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA. SURVEYED 1928 (NLS)	25
FIGURE 12: PHASING OF BOUNDARIES WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA FROM HISTORIC MAPPING.	26
FIGURE 13: PHASING OF THE PLANTING OF PATHS AND TRACKWAYS ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA BASED ON HISTORIC MAPPING.	27
FIGURE 14: 2001 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE SURVEY AREA OUTLINED IN RED. © 2021 INFOTERRA LTD AND BLUESKY	28
FIGURE 15: 2019 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE SURVEY AREA OUTLINED IN RED. © GOOGLE 2021	29
FIGURE 16: 50CM AND 1M DSM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 HILLSHADE 315_35_1.....	30
FIGURE 17: 50CM AND 1M DTM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 HILLSHADE 315_35_1.....	31
FIGURE 18: 50CM AND 1M DSM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 SLOPE Z2.	32
FIGURE 19: 50CM AND 1M DTM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 SLOPE Z2. © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	33
FIGURE 20: BOUNDARIES OF AREAS SURVEYED AS PART OF THE WALKOVER SURVEY. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.	34
FIGURE 21: QUARRY IN THE SOUTH EAST OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).	35
FIGURE 22: FRONT EDGE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST BUILDING SHOWN ON HISTORIC MAPPING, FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).....	36
FIGURE 23: POND TO THE WEST OF THE STRUCTURES SHOWN ON HISTORIC MAPPING; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).	37
FIGURE 24: SLIGHT LINEAR, WITH TREE GROWING PART WAY ALONG; FROM THE NORTH EAST (NO SCALE).	37
FIGURE 25: PROBABLE HISTORIC QUARRY; FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).....	38
FIGURE 26: A DEPRESSION CORRESPONDS WITH THE LOCATION OF A HISTORIC POND; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).	39
FIGURE 27: POSSIBLE LYNCHET ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE NORTH WEST (NO SCALE).	40
FIGURE 28: POSSIBLE HISTORIC BOUNDARY; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).....	40
FIGURE 29: THE HORSE POND WITHIN DUNSTER DEER PARK; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE)>	41
FIGURE 30: POSSIBLE LYNCHET IN THE WESTERN PART OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).....	42
FIGURE 31: QUARRYING AT THE NORTH WEST OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).	43
FIGURE 32: SLIGHT CURVING LINEAR IN SOUTH EAST OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE NORTH EAST (1M SCALE).....	43
FIGURE 33: EXTREMELY DENSE AREA OF ANT HILLS PREVENTED IDENTIFICATION OF ANY RIDGE AND FURROW; FROM THE NORTH EAST.	46
FIGURE 34: SHORT SECTION OF HISTORIC BOUNDARY; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).	47
FIGURE 35: POSSIBLE LYNCHETS TO THE EAST OF BLACK BALL CAMP; FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).	49
FIGURE 36: AREA OF SLIGHT RIDGING TO THE NORTH OF WITHCOMBE HILL GATE; FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).	50
FIGURE 37: POSSIBLE MOUND; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).....	51
FIGURE 38: SECTION OF SLIGHT LINEAR POSSIBLY FORMING PART OF A PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM EXTENDING FROM WITHCOMBE HILL... ..	52
FIGURE 39: COMPARISON OF LINEARS MAPPED NORTH OF WITHCOMBE BRAKE BY NMP (YELLOW); AND FROM 2006 LIDAR DATA (BLUE).....	52
FIGURE 40: POSSIBLE LINEAR TO THE NORTH OF BAT'S CASTLE; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).	54
FIGURE 41: EXTENSION OF PACKHORSE/HOLLOW WAYS TO THE EAST OF BAT'S CASTLE; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).	54
FIGURE 42: SHORT SECTION OF CONCRETE BLOCK WALL IN BACKGROUND; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).	55
FIGURE 43: AREA OF STONEY RUBBLE 'BANKS' OUTSIDE THE DEER PARK BOUNDARY; FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).	56
FIGURE 44: DETAIL OF STONE AND EARTH LINEARS/'BANKS' LOCATED OUTSIDE THE DEER PARK BOUNDARY GATE; FROM THE SOUTH.	56
FIGURE 45: QUARRY MARKED OLD GRAVEL PITS ON HISTORIC MAPPING; FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).	57
FIGURE 46: OLD QUARRY AND PATH, SHOWN ON FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP; FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).	58
FIGURE 47: QUARRY; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).	58
FIGURE 48: EXTANT HISTORIC BOUNDARIES ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.....	61
FIGURE 49: EXTANT HISTORIC PATHS AND TRACKS ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021	62
FIGURE 50: BIKE TRACK OBSERVED ALONGSIDE AND CROSSING OVER DEER PARK BOUNDARY	67
FIGURE 51: MEMORIAL BENCH LOCATED CLOSE TO THE RAMPART OF BAT'S CASTLE WITH SOME EROSION VISIBLE.	69
FIGURE 52: INTERPRETATION BOARD FIXED TO DEER PARK BOUNDARY FENCE.	72
FIGURE 53: MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF FEATURES DETERMINED NOT TO BE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORIGIN.....	74
FIGURE 54: MAP SHOWING ALL IDENTIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA	78

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: FEATURES DETERMINED NOT TO BE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORIGIN	74
APPENDIX 2: MAP SHOWING FEATURES ALREADY IDENTIFIED ON THE ENPHER AND FEATURES IDENTIFIED BY THIS SURVEY.....	77

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	DUNSTER DEER PARK; DUNSTER CASTLE REGISTERED PARK AND GARDEN
PARISHES:	DUNSTER; CARHAMPTON; WITHYCOMBE
COUNTY:	SOMERSET
CENTROID NGR:	SS 9900 4250
SWARCH REF.	DDP21

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Dunster Deer Park is located to the south of Dunster Castle and the settlement of Dunster. It comprises part of the Grade II* Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden (RPG). A detailed archaeological and historic landscape survey of this area of the estate is required as part of a Parkland Management Plan being carried out for the Deer Park, which is in private ownership, as part of an application for a Countryside Stewardship Feasibility Study. This archaeological and historic landscape survey was carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of Nicholas Pearson Partnership, undertaken in accordance with a proposal issued by Nicholas Pearson Partnership from a brief issued by Natural England.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This report was undertaken to enhance understanding of the historic landscape within the Dunster Deer Park and provide the necessary information to inform conservation and interpretation of its historic environment. The report attempts to determine the nature and significance of the archaeological remains identified across the survey area. The report is intended to provide information and advice to enable management priorities to be established and inform future research and conservation policies within this area of the Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden as part of an ongoing restoration project. It makes reference to *A Survey of the Historic Landscape* (Kate Felus and Debois Landscape Survey Group, 2004), *Historical, Archaeological & Landscape Assessment* (Colson Stone Partnership 2011) and prior research carried out into this area. No assessment of sites or monuments already recorded in the Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record (ENPHER) has been carried out, with the exception of the two scheduled monuments within the survey area.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The format of this report is in line with a proposal issued by Nicholas Pearson Partnership in response to a brief issued by Natural England. The survey was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Revised 2020) and Field Evaluation (Revised 2020). Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic at the time this report was undertaken it relies largely on secondary source material although all historic maps which are available online or through other secondary source material (e.g. Conservation Statements) have been consulted. No archives have been visited during the course of this study as a result of temporary closures. As this report forms part of a larger Parkland Management Plan carried out by Nicholas Pearson Partnership the documentary (desk based) assessment element has been carried out by them and forms part of the main report. The historical background part of this report signposts findings from other reports, including those detailed below. The Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record was consulted. Monument records held in ENPHER have been taken in their current form with no ground truthing or further assessment of the features made although where features extend beyond the polygon shown on the HER record this has been recorded.

Historic aerial photographs and LiDAR data have been utilised in this survey. Aerial photographs were obtained from freely available internet sources. LiDAR images are derived from LiDAR data with a 50cm and 1m sampling interval which was obtained from the Environment Agency, through the Open Government License (OGL v.3).



FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF THE SITE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT 2021. THE SURVEY AREA IS INDICATED IN RED.

A walkover survey of the survey area was undertaken on 24th May, 26th May and 9th June 2021, following on from documentary and cartographic research. The walkover survey investigated and recorded those features identified by the analysis of the LiDAR images, as well as those features not previously identified. New archaeological features observed were recorded and plotted onto a map (see Figure 3). Digital colour photography was used throughout the survey and photographs of relevant features are included in this report.

1.4 OWNERSHIP AND BOUNDARIES

Dunster Deer Park has recently passed into private ownership. It was acquired by The Crown Estate in 1954 along with the entire Dunster Castle Estate although the Castle and some of the land around it is now in the ownership of the National Trust. The Crown Estate utilised Dunster Deer Park for commercial forestry purposes and as a result the historic Deer Park boundary has suffered almost 80 years of neglect. The Dunster Castle Estate was owned by the Luttrell family from the end of the 14th century until 1944. The boundary of the survey area follows the extent of the

Registered Park and Garden (RPG) on its east, west and southern sides and cuts across the RPG on its north eastern side (Figure 2). The area of this survey comprises predominately woodland and scrub with small areas of pasture.

1.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Dunster Deer Park has been the focus of some previous historical and archaeological research. The most recent research is that undertaken by Nicholas Pearson Partnership as part of the Dunster Deer Park Parkland Management Plan, of which this report forms part. A *Historical, Archaeological & Landscape Assessment* was undertaken by Colson Stone Partnership in 2011 and *A Survey of the Historic Landscape* was carried out by Debois Landscape Survey Group in 2004. No recent archaeological investigation appears to have taken place within the survey area, but there are 75 entries in and around the survey area listed in the Exmoor National Park HER (ENPHER) (Figure 2). There are no Listed Buildings and two Scheduled Monuments within the survey area (Figure 4).

Scheduled Monuments within the survey area:

- Bat's Castle: a small multivallate hillfort and associated outwork 1007667. Currently on the Heritage at Risk Register. Scheduled Monument Condition Survey carried out in 2015 (Archaeia 2015)
- Black Ball Camp: a later prehistoric defended settlement on Gallox Hill 1007668 Currently on the Heritage at Risk Register. Scheduled Monument Condition Survey carried out in 2015 (Archaeia 2015)

Sites identified on the Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record within the survey area are:

TABLE 1: SITES WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA RECORDED IN THE ENPHER (SOURCE: ENPHER)

Mon ID	Name	Summary
MEM22104	Post-medieval wall at Dunster Deer Park	A junction of wall for a road gate across Park Lane.
MEM22105	Medieval field boundary at Dunster Deer Park	A break of slope, possibly a former field boundary before emparkment, is visible on aerial photographs from the 1940s.
MEM22106	Post-medieval gravel pit at Dunster Deer Park	A gravel pit is marked on historic mapping. It most likely related to the construction of the park wall.
MEM22107	Post-medieval walls at Dunster Deer Park	The walls follow a trackway and appear to formalise the route.
MEM22108	Medieval field boundary at Dunster Deer Park	A low stony bank may be the remains of a former field boundary.
MEM22109	Medieval boundary bank at Dunster Deer Park	A low bank is possibly medieval in date and may relate to land division before emparkment.
MEM22110	Medieval boundary bank on south side of Dunster Deer Park	A break of slope is probably medieval and may relate to a former land division before emparkment.
MEM22111	Post-medieval quarry on west side of Dunster Deer Park	A stone quarry may be post-medieval in date and most probably relates to the construction of the park wall.
MEM22112	Post-medieval quarry northwest of Bat's Castle	A stone quarry within the park boundary is depicted on historic mapping.
MEM22113	Post-medieval structure south of Bonniton Gate	A small square stone walled enclosure on the outside edge of the park wall may have served as a small keepers cottage or hunting hide.
MEM22114	Post-medieval or modern fence line in Gallox Wood	A section of previous fence line, defined by large stakes and wire fencing.
MEM22115	Post-medieval quarry south of Park Gate	A large quarry may relate to the construction of the park wall.
MEM24684	Post-medieval quarry east of Bonniton Lane	The quarry is shown on historic mapping.
MEM24685	Post-medieval quarry on Black Ball	The quarry is shown on historic mapping.
MEM24688	Post-medieval gravel pit east of Longcombe Alders	A gravel pit is marked on historic mapping.
MEM25003	Post-medieval quarry at Carhampton	The quarry is shown on historic mapping.

DUNSTER DEER PARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE SURVEY

	Gate	
MEM25004	Post-medieval sheds in Dunster Deer Park	A group of sheds are shown on historic mapping.
MEM25005	Post-medieval shooting boxes in Dunster Park	A series of shooting boxes are shown on historic mapping.
MEM25006	Post-medieval gravel pit southwest of Black Ball Camp	The gravel pit is shown on historic mapping.
MEM25007	Post-medieval gravel pit southwest of Horse Road	The gravel pit is shown on historic mapping.
MEM25008	Post-medieval gravel pit in Barn Plantation	The gravel pit is shown on historic mapping.
MEM25009	Post-medieval gravel pit west of Horse Pond	The gravel pit is shown on historic mapping.
MEM25010	Post-medieval quarry southwest of Horse Pond	The quarry is shown on historic mapping.
MEM25011	Post-medieval quarry in Barn Plantation	The quarry is shown on historic mapping.
MMO2578	Medieval or post-medieval quarry west of Black Ball Camp	A medieval or post-medieval quarry is visible on aerial photographs as an earthwork. It probably predates the creation of Dunster park and garden in the mid 18th Century.
MMO2579	Medieval or post-medieval pit or quarry on Black Ball	A small pit or quarry is visible on aerial photographs as an earthwork on Black Ball, Dunster. It probably predates the creation of Dunster park and garden in the mid-18th Century.
MMO2580	Post-medieval and 20th Century gravel pits on southern edge of Black Ball	Post-medieval and 20th Century gravel pits are visible on historic mapping and aerial photographs as earthworks.
MMO2580	Post-medieval and 20th Century gravel pits on southern edge of Black Ball	Post-medieval and 20th Century gravel pits are visible on historic mapping and aerial photographs as earthworks.
MMO2581	Possible medieval or post-medieval gravel pit east of Bat's Castle	A large oval depression is visible on aerial photographs as an earthwork. It appears to be a backfilled gravel pit, presumably dating to the medieval or post-medieval periods and abandoned before Dunster Park was formed.
MMO2648	Post-medieval cultivation marks in Dunster Park	Cultivation marks are visible on aerial photographs as very slight earthworks in Dunster Park, south of Henstey Wood, Carhampton. They most likely date to the post-medieval period and the creation of the landscape park and gardens.
MSO11140	Medieval and post-medieval coach road in Dunster Park	The road led east from south of Gallox Bridge towards Carhampton.
MSO11142	Medieval road in Dunster Park	The road ran from Park Gate to meet the road between Minehead and Carhampton to the northeast of Skewer Cliff Wood. It fell out of use when the Deer Park was created.
MSO11236	Gallox Well	The well is depicted on historic and modern mapping.
MSO11238	Undated circular enclosure at eastern end of Gallox Hill	A circular enclosure was noted on aerial photographs as either a cropmark or earthwork. It was not visible on the ground during a later site visit.
MSO12193	Undated rectilinear enclosure south of Dunster Castle	A possible rectilinear enclosure noted on aerial photographs has been suggested to be a Roman fort, or a medieval or post-medieval landscape feature relating to Dunster Park.
MSO12261	Late prehistoric field banks north of Black Ball Camp	Stretches of low, indistinct field banks were noted as earthworks. The earth and rubble banks average 4.5 metres wide and are up to 0.5 metres high. They may be remnants of a prehistoric field system contemporary with the enclosure.
MSO12262	Late prehistoric linear earthwork in Dunster Deer Park	The remains of a substantial linear earthwork comprise a rampart and a counterscarp bank, with an entrance gap. It is most likely to be a later prehistoric earthwork, but has also been suggested to represent a hunting butt.
MSO8633	Prehistoric settlement and field system on Withycombe Hill	A multi-phase site including a hut circle settlement and possibly late prehistoric field system is visible on aerial photographs and has been subject to field survey.
MSO9082	Bat's Castle, in Dunster Park	An Iron Age univallate hillfort in Dunster Park, comprising a subrectangular enclosure, 140 metres by 100 metres, enclosed by a rampart and ditch with a strong counterscarp bank.
MSO9083	Iron Age crossridge outwork and field banks southeast of Bat's Castle	An outwork to the Iron Age hillfort of Bat's Castle, comprising a zig-zag bank and ditch 150 metres southeast of the hillfort.
MSO9084	Roman finds in Dunster Park	In about 1863, some small copper coins of Constantine were

DUNSTER DEER PARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE SURVEY

		found concealed under a stone in a gully in Dunster Park.
MSO9085	Medieval or post-medieval hollow ways or packhorse ways near Bat's Castle	A series of hollow ways or packhorse ways visible as earthworks near Bat's Castle in Dunster Park. They appear to pre-date the Deer Park and probably went out of use with the emparking in 1755. They average 3 metres wide and 0.8 metres deep.
MSO9086	Dunster Old Park	A medieval Deer Park at Dunster Castle. It was documented in 1279 and disparked during the early 18th Century and became part of the landscape gardens. Part of the boundary wall survives behind houses in High Street.
MSO9088	Dunster Park	Deer Park containing woodland and plantations, created in 1755 by the Luttrells. Deer were moved to the site from Marshwood Deer Park.
MSO9089	Prehistoric or medieval field boundary east of the outwork of Bat's Castle	A rectangular soil mark close to the outwork of Bat's Castle, noted on aerial photographs, appears to show the location of a field boundary predating Dunster Park, and possibly the medieval Deer Park.
MSO9091	Late prehistoric burial cairn near Bat's Castle	A cairn containing a grave with a human skeleton was found in the vicinity of Bat's Castle some years before 1840. It may refer to one of three cairns shown on Croydon Hill on historic mapping, or be sited at Bat's Castle in Dunster Park.
MSO9092	Possible late prehistoric finds at Bat's Castle	A hammerstone and slingstones were found in the vicinity of Bat's Castle in Dunster Park.
MSO9113	Late prehistoric or medieval field system north of Withies Brake	Originally thought to be a square enclosure, earthworks at this site now appear to show a field system made up of field boundaries and / or lynchets, which may be of medieval or late prehistoric date.
MSO9410	Black Ball Camp, Gallox Hill	An Iron Age univallate hillslope enclosure on Gallox Hill in Dunster Park. It measures 100 metres by 80 metres, and is defined by a prominent bank with an external ditch, and a slight external counterscarp bank.
MSO9424	Neolithic lithic tools found west of Withycombe Hill Gate	A leaf shaped arrowhead and two end scrapers were found in 1949 in Dunster Park.
MSO9433	Mesolithic or Neolithic hammerstone on Gallox Hill	A hammerstone fragment was found on Gallox Hill.
MSO9461	Medieval Town of Dunster	The medieval borough of Dunster was first recorded in 1197. It is considered to be one of the finest examples of a medieval settlement in the country.

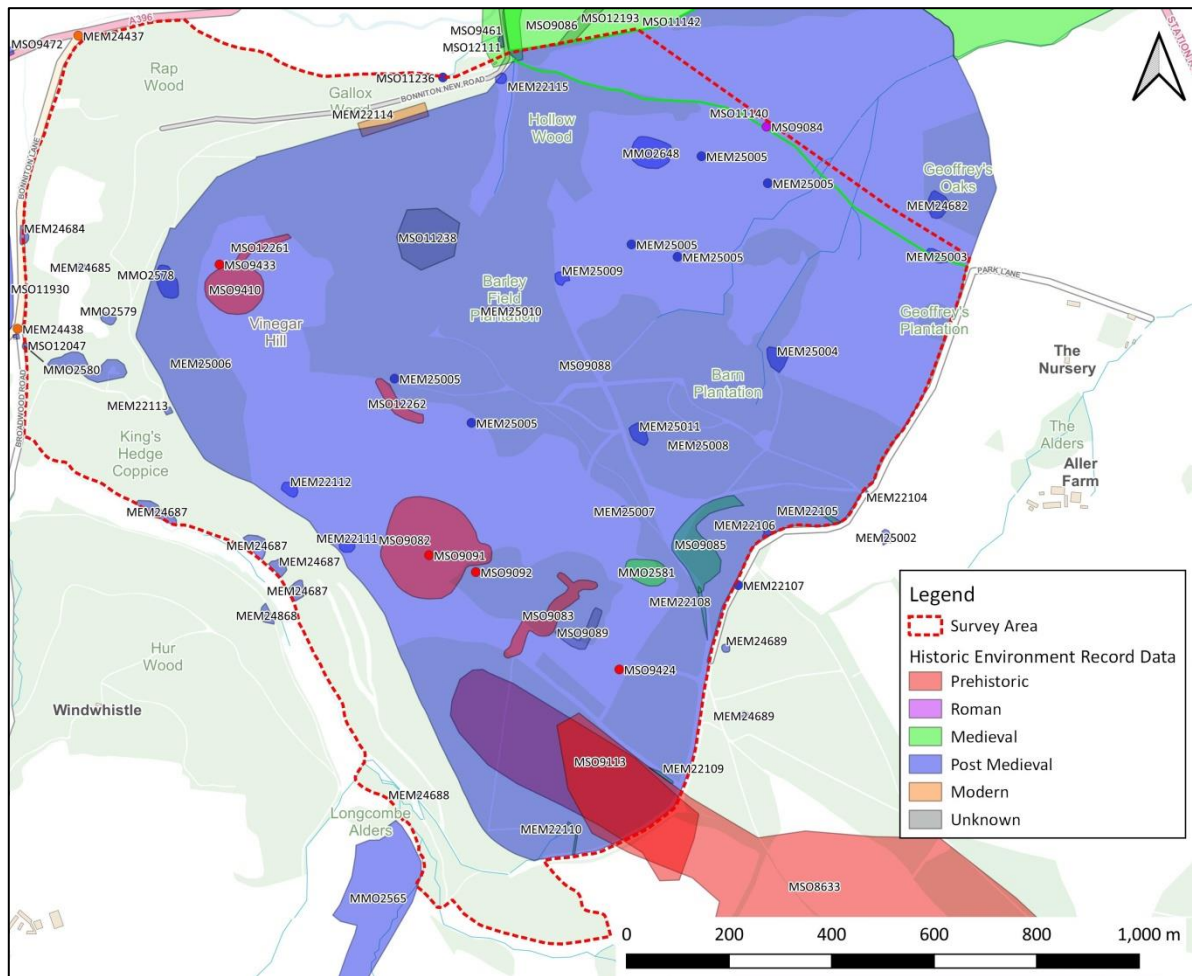


FIGURE 2: SITES RECORDED IN THE EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK HER WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA (ENPHER) © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021

1.6 DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND

The documentary background to the Dunster Deer Park is summarised in the Dunster Deer Park Parkland Management Plan, of which this report forms part. To avoid duplication it has not been replicated here.

2.0 SUMMARY TABLE

The locations of the archaeological sites identified by this survey are listed below and shown on Figure 3. They are described in more detail in Section 5.

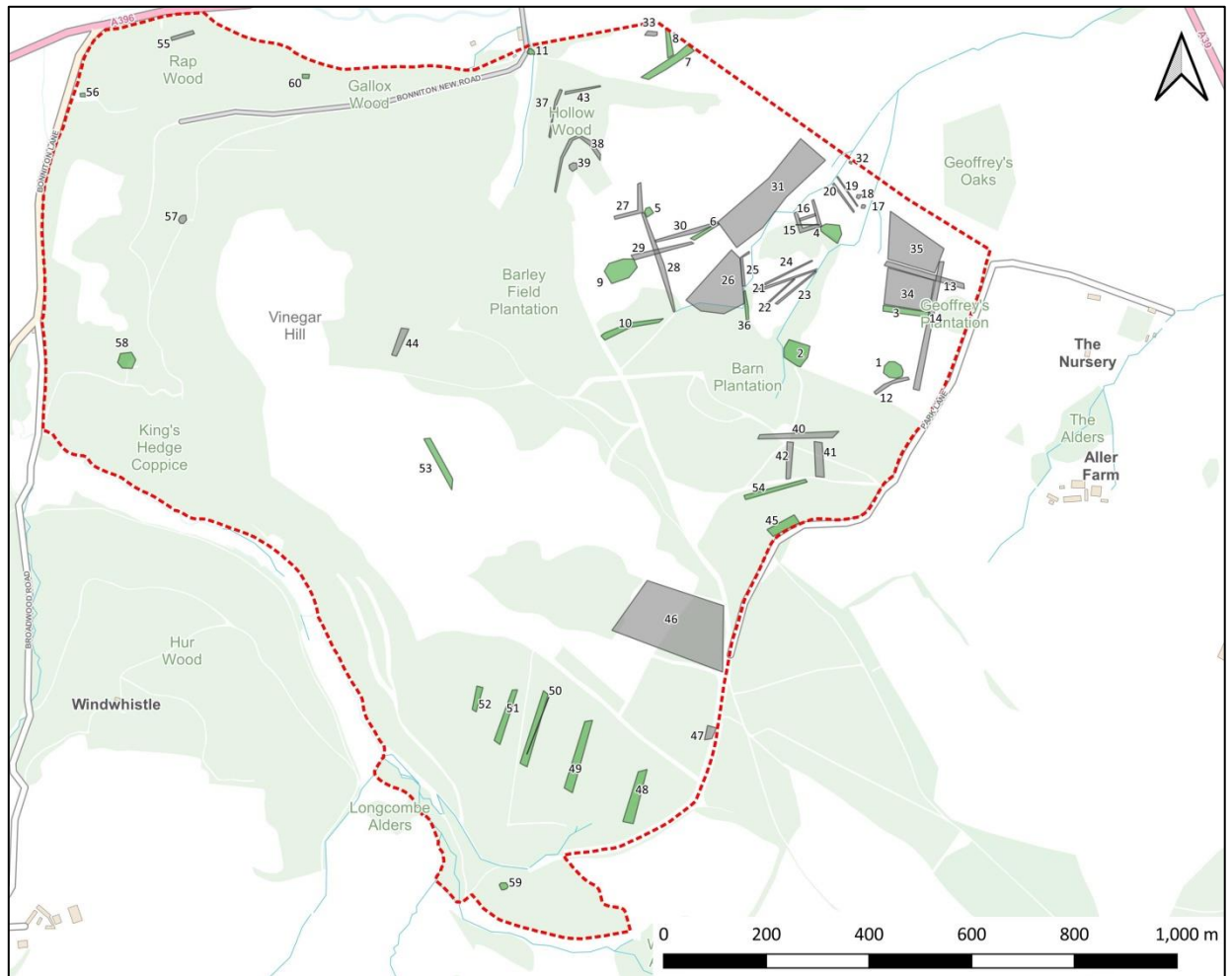


FIGURE 3: MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE SITES IDENTIFIED THROUGH LIDAR ANALYSIS AND WALKOVER SURVEY © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.

No	Site Name	Monument Type	Archaeological feature	Probable date
1	Historic Quarry in the south east of Lower Park	Earthwork	Yes	Unknown
2	Ruins of historic barns or farmstead	Extant Structure	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
3	Two slight east-west linears	Earthwork	Yes	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
4	Probable Historic Quarry a	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
5	Former pond shown on historic mapping	Extant Structure	Yes	Post Medieval
6	Slight Linear	Earthwork	Yes	Unknown
7	Possible Lynchet	Earthwork	Yes	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
8	Possible former boundary	Earthwork	Yes	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
9	Horse pond	Extant Structure	Yes	Post Medieval
10	Possible Lynchet	Earthwork	Yes	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
11	Quarry and Hollow way	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
12	Curving linear	Earthwork	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
13	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval

DUNSTER DEER PARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE SURVEY

14	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
15	Possible Linears	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
16	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
17	Circular feature	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
18	Circular feature	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
19	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
20	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
21	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
22	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
23	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
24	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
25	Linears	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
26	Possible north east- south west oriented ridge and furrow	LiDAR	Unknown	Medieval-Post Medieval
27	Two linears at right angles	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
28	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
29	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
30	Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
31	Possible north east- south west oriented ridge and furrow	LiDAR	Unknown	Medieval-Post Medieval
32	Possible mound	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
33	Possible mounds	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
34	Possible slight East –West oriented ridge and furrow overlain by North – South oriented ridge and furrow	LiDAR	Unknown	Medieval-Post Medieval
35	Possible slight North – South oriented ridge and furrow	LiDAR	Unknown	Medieval-Post Medieval
36	Short section of historic boundary	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
37	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Medieval-Post Medieval
38	Possible Curved Path or Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Post Medieval
39	Possible Hollow	LiDAR	Unknown	Unknown
40	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
41	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
42	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
43	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Unknown	Medieval-Post Medieval
44	Linear	Earthwork	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
45	Quarrying extending further to the west than recorded on the HER	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
46	An area of slight ridging	Earthwork	Unknown	Modern
47	Possible mound or cairn	Earthwork	Unknown	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
48	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Yes	Prehistoric
49	Possible Linear	Earthwork	Yes	Prehistoric
50	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Yes	Prehistoric
51	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Yes	Prehistoric
52	Possible Linear	LiDAR	Yes	Prehistoric
53	Possible Linear	Earthwork	Yes	Prehistoric-Post Medieval
54	Continuation of packhorse way shown on HER	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
55	Possible boundary features	LiDAR	Unknown	Medieval-Post Medieval
56	A structure is shown on modern Ordnance Survey mapping	Not evident	Yes	Unknown
57	Area of Stoney Rubble	Earthwork	Unknown	Post Medieval - Modern
58	Quarry	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
59	Quarry	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval
60	Quarry	Earthwork	Yes	Medieval-Post Medieval

3.0 THE SITE

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1.1 TOPOGRAPHY

Dunster lies on the north eastern edge of Exmoor National Park. The castle is located at the eastern end of a steep sided spur, with low lying land to its east which meets the sea at Dunster Beach c.1.75km north east of the castle. The Deer Park lies to the south of the castle, encompassing the north western end of a spur of land oriented north west- south east and continues beyond the park boundary to Withycombe Hill. Two prehistoric settlements are located along the top of the spur within the Deer Park, with a further prehistoric enclosure across the valley to the north at Grabbist Hill.

3.1.2 GEOLOGY

The geology underlying the survey area of Dunster Deer Park comprises; to the north, south and west sandstones of the Hangman Sandstone Formation; to the north east and east Mudstones of the Mercia Mudstone Group with a small area of sandstones of the Helsby Sandstone Formation in the central area of the Deer Park. Superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium underlie the sandstones of the Hangman Sandstone Formation along the south western boundary of the Deer Park where a stream runs alongside the boundary (BGS 2021).

3.1.3 SOILS

The soil types of the survey area were surveyed by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) as the slowly permeable non-calcareous and calcareous redish clayey soils over mudstone, shallow on steeper slopes of the Worcester Association (northern and eastern sides of the survey area) and the well drained coarse loamy soils over rock of the Rivington 2 Association (western and southern sides of the survey area).

3.2 VEGETATION AND LAND USE

Dunster Deer Park lies within National Character Area 145: Exmoor (Natural England accessed 19/05/21). The survey area comprises predominantly woodland, scrub and parkland. The Somerset and Exmoor Historic Landscape Characterisation defines the survey area as *Historic Landscape Park* with the strip of land named King's Hedge Coppice classified as *Replanted Ancient Woodland*. A significant part of the survey area lies within the Dunster Park and Heathlands SSSI.

3.3 CURRENT PROTECTION AND SCHEDULING

3.3.1 CONSERVATION AREA

There are no Conservation Areas within the survey area however the Dunster Conservation Area abuts the northern boundary of the survey area at Gallox Bridge.

3.3.2 RIGHTS OF WAY

There are a number of public footpaths and public bridleways crossing the survey area. A restricted byway runs along the south western and south eastern sides of the area. A number of permissive paths also cross through Dunster Deer Park and the central area of the survey area which includes Gallox Hill and Bat's Castle is designated as access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

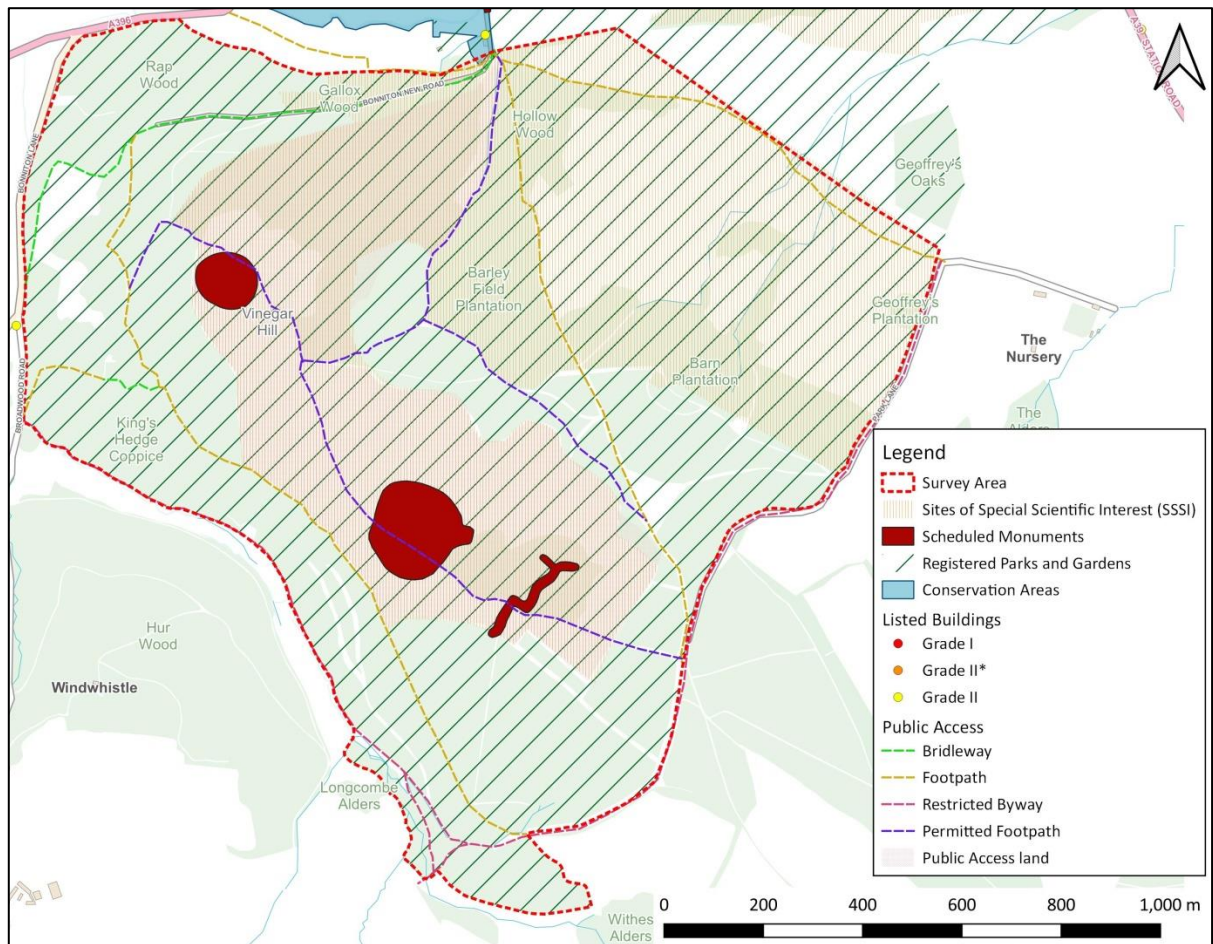


FIGURE 4: MAP SHOWING LEGAL DESIGNATIONS WITHIN AND AROUND THE SURVEY AREA. N.B THESE ARE ILLUSTRATED TO PROVIDE A GUIDE TO THE LOCATIONS OF DESIGNATED ROUTES AND FEATURES AND DO NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THE LEGAL OR DEFINITIVE BOUNDARY © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

3.3.3 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

There are two scheduled monuments within the survey area; Bat's Castle and Black Ball Camp.

3.3.4 REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

The survey area comprises part of the Dunster Castle Grade II* Listed Registered Park and Garden, list entry number 1000467 (Historic England List Entry accessed 19/05/21).

3.3.5 LISTED BUILDINGS

There are no Listed buildings within the survey area.

3.3.6 SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

The Dunster Park and Heathlands SSSIs lies partially within the survey area (Natural England Magic Mapping Application accessed 19/05/21).

3.3.7 NON STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

The western and southern sections of the survey area lie within a Principal Archaeological Landscape (PAL) designated by Exmoor National Park Authority (No. 22: Bats Castle and Withycombe) (Balmond 2015). PALs were designated on Exmoor to signify areas of exceptional archaeological remains which should be managed in a coherent manner as an archaeological landscape. The intention of this non-statutory designation is to assist owners and land-managers in managing these significant areas of historic landscape, in particular to target funding towards appropriate management strategies.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

This section summarises the land use and land use changes within the survey area from the earliest available evidence through to the present day in chronological order, based largely upon previous research and utilising available historical mapping. The evidence for the early periods is more limited.

A comprehensive assessment of changes observable from historic mapping within Dunster Deer Park has been carried out by Nicholas Pearson Partnership LLP as part of a Parkland Management Plan of which this report forms part. To avoid replication, this section attempts to focus on the archaeological elements rather than a discussion of changes observable through historic mapping however historic maps have been provided for context.

4.1 PREHISTORIC, ROMANO-BRITISH AND SAXON

The landscape surrounding Dunster Castle and its Deer Park contains relatively extensive evidence for Prehistoric settlement. Evidence from the early prehistoric periods is however very limited with the earliest recorded evidence of Prehistoric activity being a Mesolithic or Neolithic hammerstone fragment found on Gallox Hill (MSO9433) and Neolithic flint tools including a leaf shaped arrowhead found to the west of Withycombe Hill Gate in 1949 (MSO9424). There is more extensive evidence for later Prehistoric settlement in the form of the two Iron Age defensive sites at Bat's Castle and Black Ball Camp on Gallox Hill, both within the survey area. Bat's Castle also includes outworks, making this a substantial defensive site. To the north of Dunster Deer Park lies Grabbist Hillfort and to the south another later Prehistoric defensive enclosure is located in Long Wood. A cairn containing a human skeleton was recorded as being found in the vicinity of Bat's Castle prior to 1840 although it is not clear if this was actually a cairn located on Croydon Hill, to the south of Dunster Deer Park or whether it was found close to Bat's Castle. As there is another site within Dunster Parish also identified as Bat's Castle it is possible the cairn may have been located there (MSO9091). Prehistoric field systems, possibly contemporary with the defensive sites discussed above have been identified on Withycombe Hill (MSO8633) and potentially at Withies Brake (MSO9113) as well as to the north of Black Ball Camp (MSO12261).

The number of late Prehistoric sites combined with the fragmentary survival of field systems suggest that this area was highly valued and utilised during the later Prehistoric periods, being close to the frontier between the Dumnonii and Durotriges territories, and settlements here may have persevered into the Romano-British period. There is little evidence for Roman settlement or activity within this area although some copper coins of Constantine were recorded as being found under a stone in a gully in Dunster Park in the mid 19th century (MSO9084). A number of coins dated between 102BC and 350AD were uncovered by schoolboys in the ramparts of Bat's Castle in 1983 (MSO9082). A possible Roman fort has been suggested just to the north of Dunster Deer Park, visible as a soil mark however it has also been suggested that this represents a medieval or post medieval rectilinear enclosure, bounded by the river Avill on its north west side (MSO12193). In common with much of this area there appears to be no direct evidence for Saxon activity or occupation recorded in the Exmoor National Park HER although as field boundaries identified as originating prior to the creation of Dunster Deer Park are undated, they could potentially date anywhere from the late prehistoric to the medieval periods.

4.2 MEDIEVAL

A number of features of Medieval date are recorded within the survey area and the settlement of Dunster itself originated as a Medieval borough, first recorded in 1197 (MSO9461). The old, Medieval, Deer Park at Dunster was located to the north of the Post Medieval Deer Park, which is

the subject of this survey, and existed from c.1279 or before until possibly the early 18th century (MSO9086). It seems likely that a number of hollow ways or packhorse ways and field boundaries recorded on the ENPHER within the area of the Post Medieval Deer Park date to the Medieval period and fell out of use following the creation of the new Deer Park in the 18th century. A Medieval road ran from Park Gate north east to the Minehead-Carhampton road (MSO11142) and another Medieval road ran through the Deer Park from Gallox Bridge to Carhampton (Park Lane), prior to its emparking (MSO11140). It is possible that gravel pits identified within the Deer Park may also date to the Medieval Period. Historic mapping dates from the period after the creation of Dunster Deer Park and therefore does not show the landscape prior to its emparking in 1755 however the Ordnance Survey Draft Map of 1802 (Figure 5) shows a field pattern to the north of the park suggestive of Medieval strip fields associated with the Medieval settlement of Dunster, while to the west, south and east of the Deer Park the field pattern appears to resemble the more rectilinear pattern of later enclosure. The Ordnance Survey Draft map does not generally provide an accurate representation of field boundaries however, particularly where they are at a greater distance from roads and therefore this is likely to be a simplified depiction of the landscape at the start of the 19th century. Given the evidence for prehistoric field systems within the survey area however it is possible that, particularly in the northern area of the Deer Park the Medieval field systems may have extended around the 'Old' Deer Park to include some of this area.

4.3 POST MEDIEVAL

Dunster Deer Park dates from the Post Medieval period, having been emparked in 1755 when it is recorded that the Luttrells moved deer to the site from Marshwood Deer Park (MSO9088). A number of other sites and features of Post Medieval date are recorded within Dunster Deer Park including Gallox Well (MSO11236) along the northern boundary of the survey area and numerous quarries and gravel pits.

4.4 THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Historic mapping for the Dunster Castle Estate is first available from 1802 when the Ordnance Survey draft map was produced (Figure 5). The Ordnance Survey First Series map (Figure 6) was published in 1809. Both show similar depictions of Dunster Deer Park with the park boundary clearly illustrated and both Black Ball Camp and Bat's Castle drawn. Bat's Castle appears to be an incomplete depiction on the Surveyors Draft map and is labelled 'Roman Camp'. The depiction is complete on the First Series map but it still appears to be shown as oval rather than circular. Some individual trees are shown on the Surveyors Draft map along with areas of plantation. A rectangular enclosure appears to be shown on both maps with a belt of trees along its north eastern side. This feature is not recorded in the ENPHER and does not appear on later mapping or on remote sensing data. Its purpose is unclear; it is possible it may be some sort of animal enclosure and its boundaries may have been fenced rather than any more permanent structure. The Surveyors Draft map does however indicate a possible building constructed on the eastern side of the enclosure which equates approximately with the location of 'sheds' recorded on the Tithe map (MEM250004). No enclosure to their west is illustrated on the Tithe map although the Ordnance Survey First Edition map shows an irregular shaped enclosure.

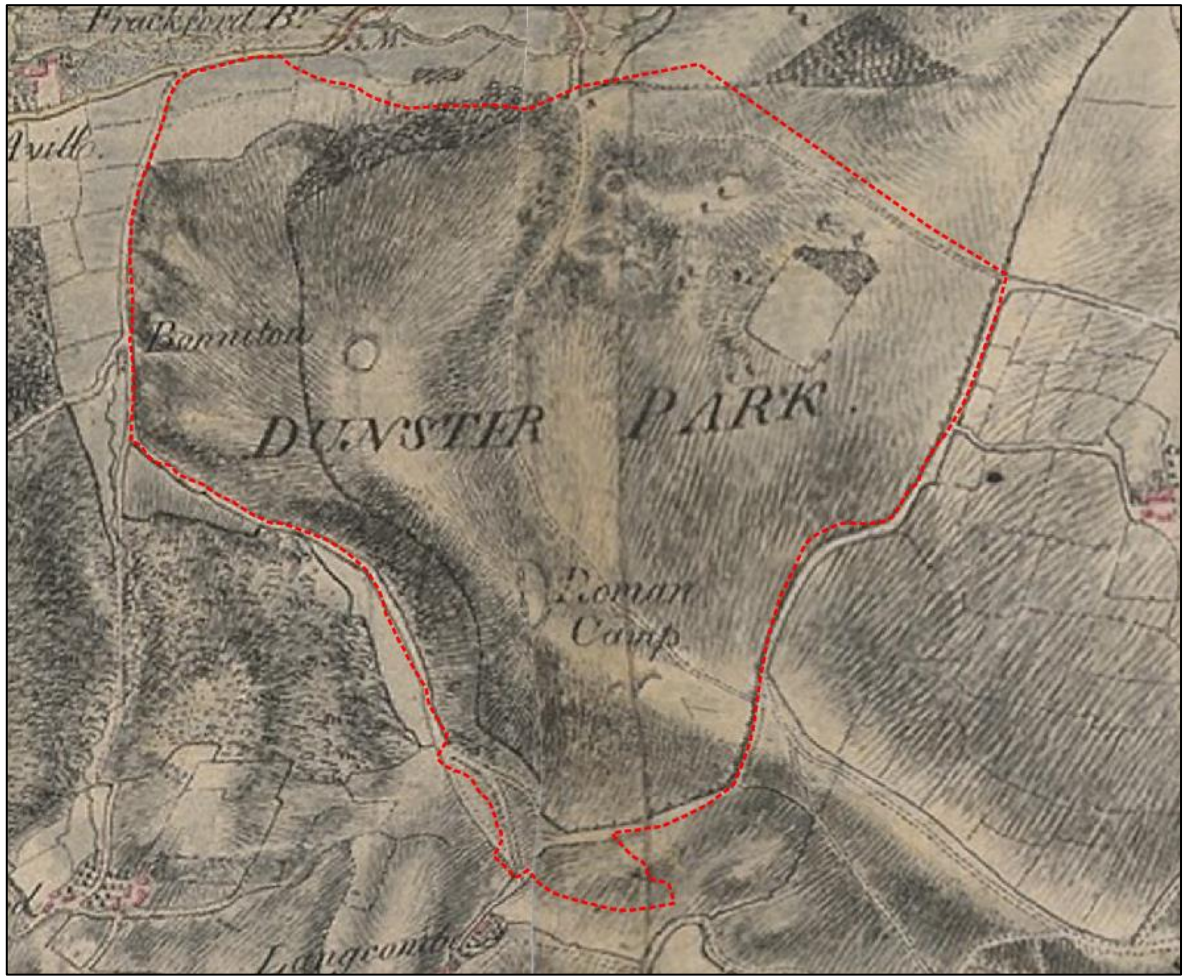


FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1802 ORDNANCE SURVEYORS DRAFT MAP (BL). THE BOUNDARY OF THE SURVEY AREA IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 6: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY FIRST SERIES MAP PUBLISHED 1809 (VOB). THIS WORK IS BASED ON DATA PROVIDED THROUGH [WWW.VISIONOFBRITAIN.ORG.UK](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk) AND USES HISTORICAL MATERIAL WHICH IS COPYRIGHT OF THE GREAT BRITAIN HISTORICAL GIS PROJECT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH.

Dunster Deer Park is divided between the parishes of Dunster, Carhampton and Withycombe. The map below shows a composite of extracts of the Tithe maps for these parishes (Figure 7). It is interesting to note that at the date of the Tithe survey, some areas of land around the north, west and southern edges of the Deer Park was in the ownership of the Acland family of Killerton and Holnicote rather than the Luttrells. A small area to the north was owned by the Dunster Tradesmen's Club. These areas were not part of the Deer Park but now comprise part of the Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden.



FIGURE 7: EXTRACT FROM THE TITHE MAPS FOR THE SURVEY AREA C.1840 (TNA). THE PLOTS WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA ARE DETAILED BELOW.

TABLE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE TITHE APPORTIONMENTS FOR CARHAMPTON, DUNSTER AND WITHYCOMBE PARISHES (TNA)

Parish	Plot	Landowner	Occupier	Estate	Plot Name	Cultivation
Carhampton	450	John Fownes Luttrell	John Fownes Luttrell	Sundries	Part of Kings Hedge Copse	-
	446				Hollow Wood	Wood
	442				Part of the Park	Pasture
	448				Carhampton Hill	Pasture
	451				Part of Kings Hedge Copse	-
	452				Part of Kings Hedge Copse	-
	456		William Rice	Broadwood	Long Meadow	Meadow
	444		John Fownes Luttrell	Sundries	Round Grove and Shed	Wood
	446a		John Fownes Luttrell		Wood	Wood
	449		John Fownes Luttrell		Common	-
	450a		John Fownes		Part of Kings	-

			Luttrell		Hedge Copse	
Dunster	648	John Fownes Luttrell	John Fownes Luttrell		Part of Park	Heath and Pasture
	647	Sir Thomas Dyke Acland Baronet	Richard Groves	Part of Avill	Half part Black Ball undivided	Heath and Pasture
	565	John Fownes Luttrell	John Fownes Luttrell	-	Rap Wood	-
	559	Sir Thomas Dyke Acland Baronet	Martin Langdon	Lower Ellicombe	Little Field	Pasture
	558	John Fownes Luttrell	William Webber	Long Wells	Garden	Garden
	646		John Fownes Luttrell		Gallox Wood	Timber Wood
	577	Sir Thomas Dyke Acland Baronet	Sir Thomas Dyke Acland Baronet	Overboroug h	Little Wood by Park	Timber Wood
	568		John Milton	Common Alders	Holy Thorne Garden	Garden
	567	Dunster Tradesmens Club	Dunster Tradesmens Club	Late Crangs	Field	Arable
	564	Sir Thomas Dyke Acland Baronet	Martin Langdon	Lower Ellicombe	Potatoe Garden	Arable
	573	John Fownes Luttrell	John Harvey	-	Four Acres	Arable
	574			-	Butter Ball	Arable
	575	Sir Thomas Dyke Acland Baronet	Robert Withycombe	Overboroug h and Lower Kitswall	Four Oak Ball	Arable
576	John Fownes Luttrell	John Harvey	-	Vinegar Hill	Arable	
Withycombe	365	Sir Thomas Dyke Acland Baronet	Charles Hagley		Carrot Close	Pasture
	364				Brake	Pasture and Furze
	363				Meadow	Meadow
	348				Moor	Pasture

Figure 8 shows the recorded cultivation of each plot within the survey area at the date of the Tithe survey. This shows the north western edge which lies outside the Deer Park boundary was recorded as arable cultivation while much of the Deer Park was either pasture or heath and pasture. Small areas of wood are shown along with an area recorded specifically as timber wood in the northern central area of the Deer Park. The cultivation of Kings Hedge Coppice is not recorded by the Tithe Survey.

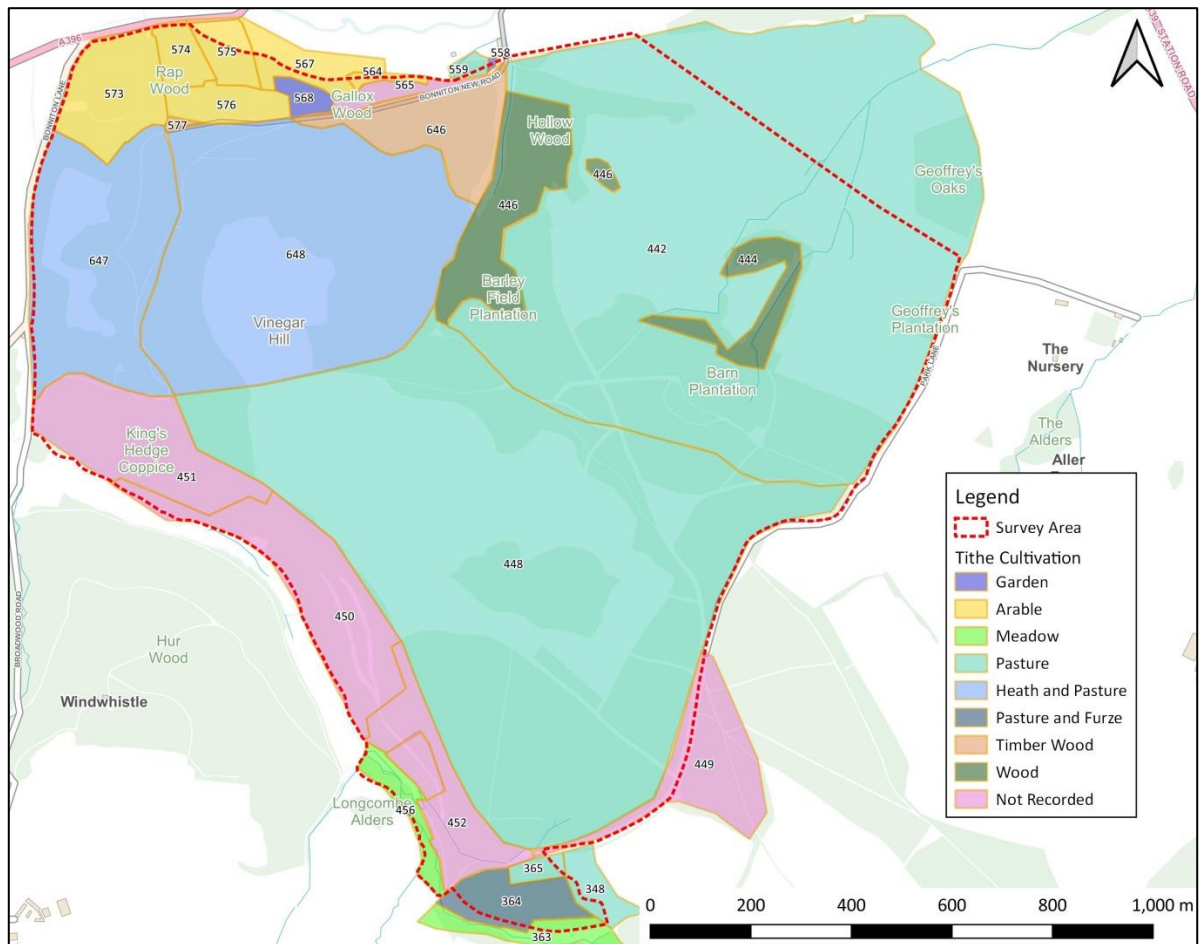


FIGURE 8: MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA BY CULTIVATION TYPE AT THE DATE OF THE TITHE SURVEY. TITHE PLOTS ARE NUMBERED AND CORRESPOND WITH THE APPORTIONMENT IN TABLE 2. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021

The Ordnance Survey First Edition map (Figure 9) surveyed in 1887 provides the first highly accurate map of Dunster Deer Park. It gives an impression of a change in emphasis on the northern side of the survey area, moving away from the arable cultivation shown in the mid 19th century Tithe survey to mixed wooded slopes with paths depicted. The First Edition map indicates the north western boundary of the park has moved slightly to the south by this date although the sharp, 90 degree north western corner shown on the Tithe map can still be made out; this section of the Deer Park appears to have become mixed woodland as part of Rap Wood, with a number of paths shown running through it on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. Several shooting boxes are identified on this map throughout the eastern side of the Deer Park. No evidence of these was encountered during the walkover survey, suggesting they were likely to be relatively temporary structures possibly of wooden construction. The inclusion of shooting boxes is of interest within the Deer Park as these are often associated with grouse shooting and although seemingly short lived, may have the potential to reveal more about the way in which the Deer Park was used; there is the potential that some traces of these structures could survive below the ground. Changes observable with the survey area shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map are discussed in detail by Nicholas Pearson Partnership as part of the Dunster Deer Park Parkland Management Plan of which this report forms part.

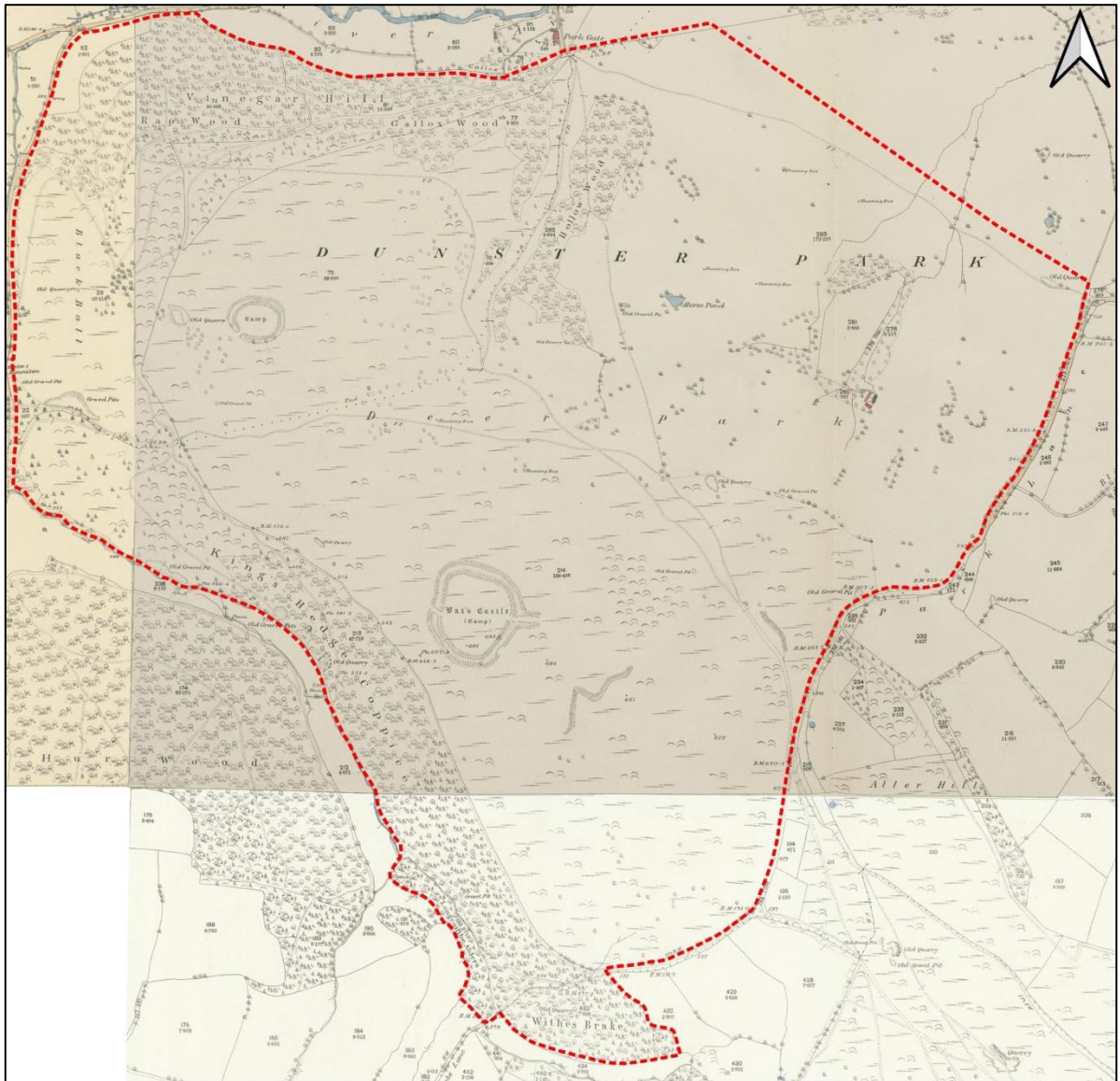


FIGURE 9: FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA. SURVEYED 1887(NLS)

4.5 THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 10) was surveyed in 1902 and shows few changes to the First Edition map. Changes observable with the survey area shown on this map are discussed in detail by Nicholas Pearson Partnership as part of the Dunster Deer Park Parkland Management Plan of which this report forms part.

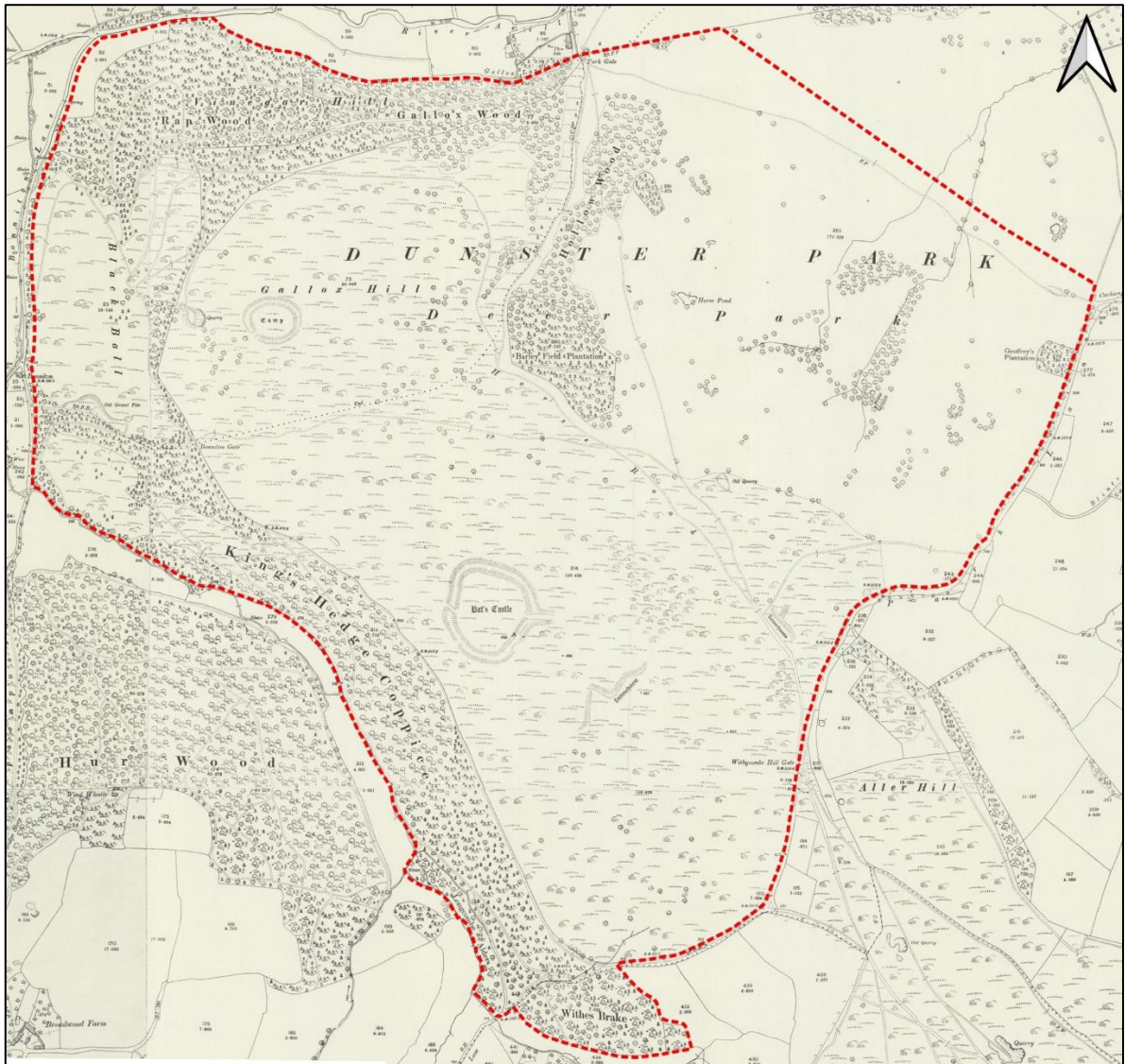


FIGURE 10: SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA. SURVEYED 1902 (NLS)

A revised Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 11) which covers all but the southern extent of the Deer Park was surveyed in 1928. Most of the observable changes are minor although it is evident that the shooting boxes are no longer extant by this date and that Barn Plantation has been created around the no longer extant buildings on the eastern side of the Deer Park.

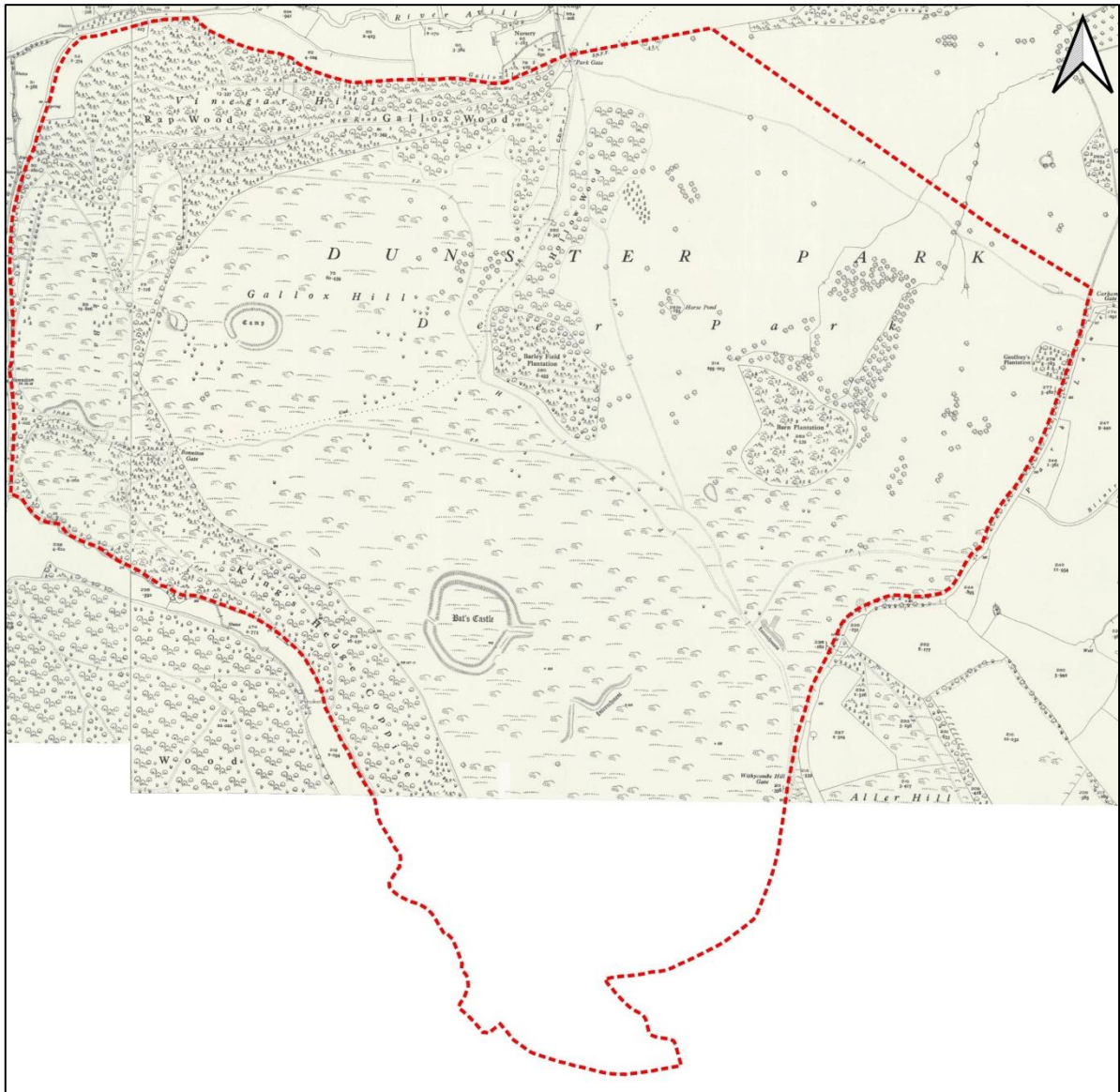


FIGURE 11: SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING THE SURVEY AREA. SURVEYED 1928 (NLS)

Historic Ordnance survey mapping from the 1960s indicates little change across the Deer Park during this period, with some boundaries around plantations evidently lost during this time and some extension of existing plantations. The reservoir on the eastern boundary of the Deer Park appears to have been constructed between 1962 and 1972 and significant conifer plantations with associated forestry tracks had also been added by this date.

4.6 HISTORIC PATH AND BOUNDARY PHASING

The maps below show the phasing of the paths and boundaries within the survey area. Figure 12 indicates the date by which historic boundaries appear to have been added and removed within the survey area, based on the available historic mapping. Those which were shown on the Tithe map have the potential to have much earlier, possibly even medieval, origins although this is not the case for the Deer Park boundary itself as it is recorded that the park was created in the mid 18th century.

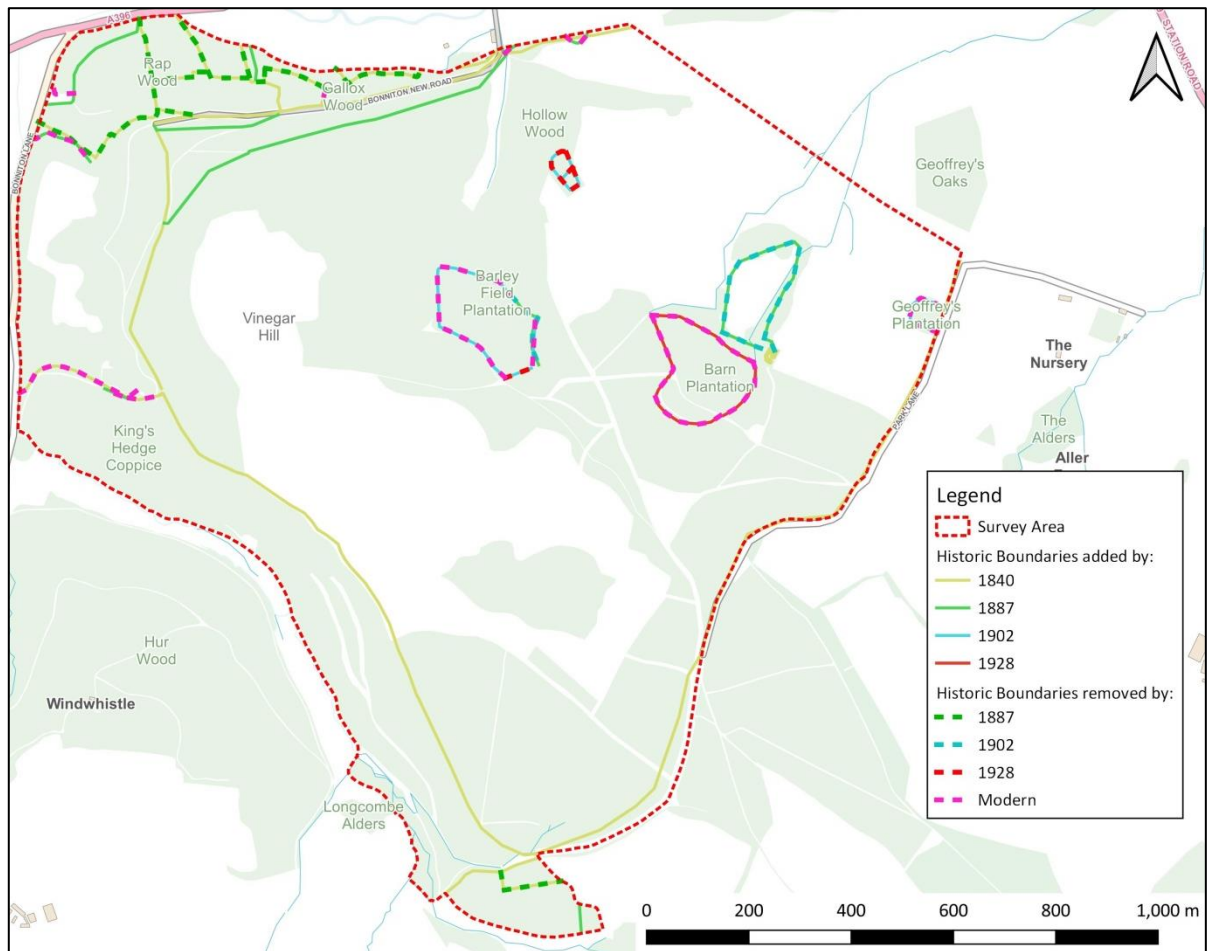


FIGURE 12: PHASING OF BOUNDARIES WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA FROM HISTORIC MAPPING. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

Figure 13 shows the dates by which paths and trackways were added or removed from the survey area, based on available historic mapping. The map shows that a number of the current pathways across the Deer Park date from the 19th century; those shown on the Tithe map may have much earlier origins. Figure 13 also highlights the significant increase in paths and trackways during the later 19th century, particularly in the north western corner of the survey area.

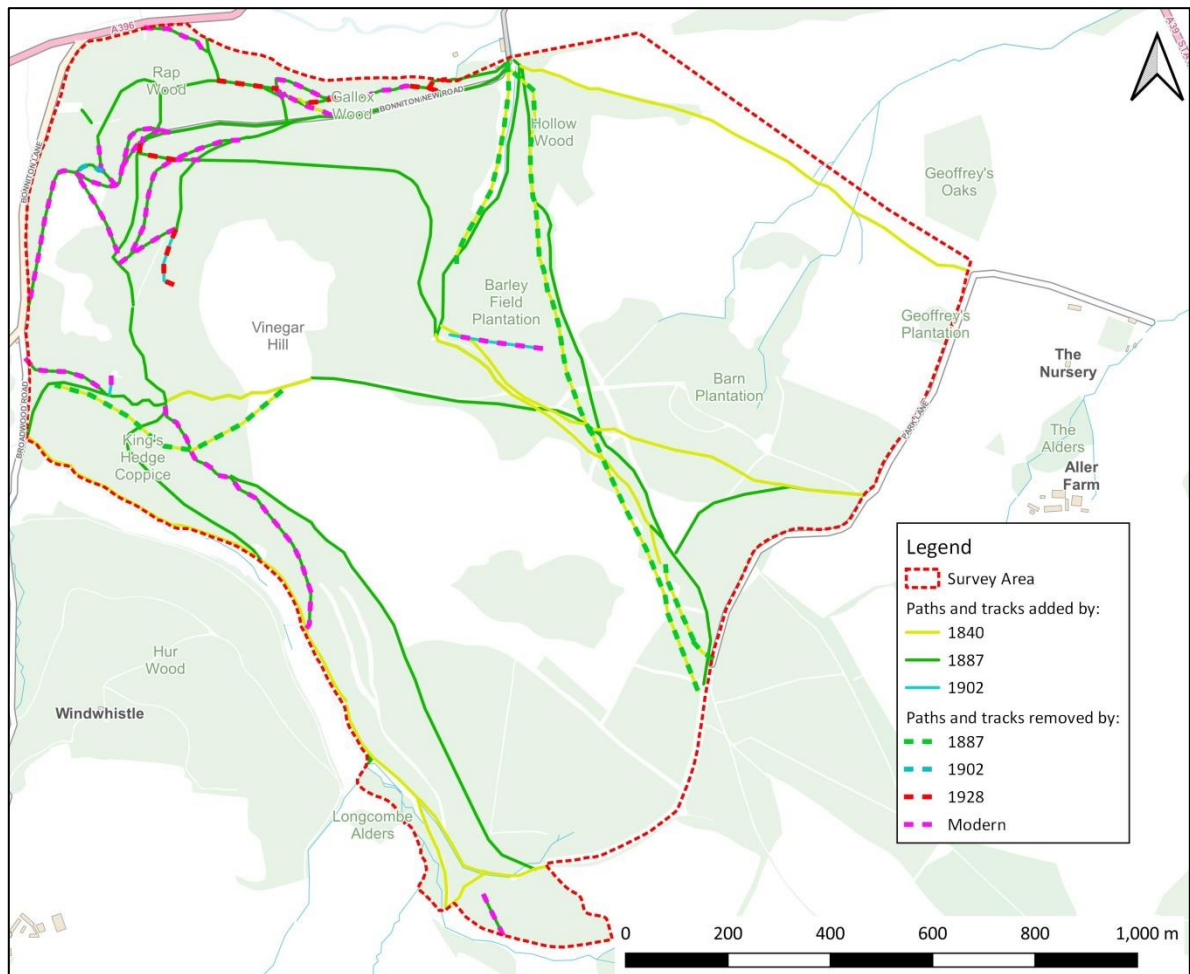


FIGURE 13: PHASING OF THE PLANTING OF PATHS AND TRACKWAYS ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA BASED ON HISTORIC MAPPING. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021

4.7 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIDAR DATA

Recent aerial photography of the survey area (Figures 14-15) is limited in its identification of archaeological features due to the large amount of woodland and scrub. Aerial images taken after WW2 (c.1946; not illustrated) show the landscape of the Deer Park and surrounding area prior to its acquisition by the Crown Estate and conversion to commercial forestry. This gives an image of a far more open landscape, with evidence for the felling of earlier plantations on the estate, presumably to supply timber for the war effort. The 2001 aerial photograph shows significant areas of conifer plantation, with trees almost surrounding Bat's Castle and Black Ball Camp. Modern ridging of the ground can be seen immediately to the south east of Bat's Castle.



FIGURE 14: 2001 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE SURVEY AREA OUTLINED IN RED. © 2021 INFOTERRA LTD AND BLUESKY



FIGURE 15: 2019 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE SURVEY AREA OUTLINED IN RED. © GOOGLE 2021

LiDAR data is available at a survey interval of 50cm for the northern and eastern part of the survey area and 1m for the southern area of the survey area from the Environment Agency (EA). While a 25cm interval is preferable for the identification of archaeological features, especially within woodland, a 1m resolution can be used, particularly for identifying larger archaeological features. The 1m LiDAR data is a 2006 data set while the 50cm resolution data is a 2020 data set; this presents some issues particularly with the Digital Surface Model (DSM) data where vegetation cover is likely to have changed in the 14 years between the data sets. This should be borne in mind when considering the processed LiDAR imagery. LiDAR data for both Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and Digital Surface Model (DSM) has been processed and examined. The DSM data illustrates the extent of tree coverage in the survey area and while the DTM data digitally removes the vegetation cover, the 1m survey interval can mean that in areas of extensive vegetation cover where no return from the ground surface is detected, the blank spaces are digitally filled. This can therefore lessen the usefulness of this data to observe any archaeological features, especially in dense woodland.

A number of images of processed LiDAR are shown below. Where 50cm LiDAR data is available it overlies the 1m data and the change in resolution is evident in the visibility of features. Identification of features from the LiDAR data was undertaken in conjunction with a walkover survey and is discussed in Section 5. A summary has been provided in Section 2. Features identified

through analysis of LiDAR imagery but determined not to be of archaeological origin are recorded in Appendix 1.

4.7.1 LIDAR HILLSHADE

Figure 16 shows LiDAR data of the survey area with the vegetation cover apparent. Figure 17 shows the survey area with the vegetation cover digitally 'removed'.

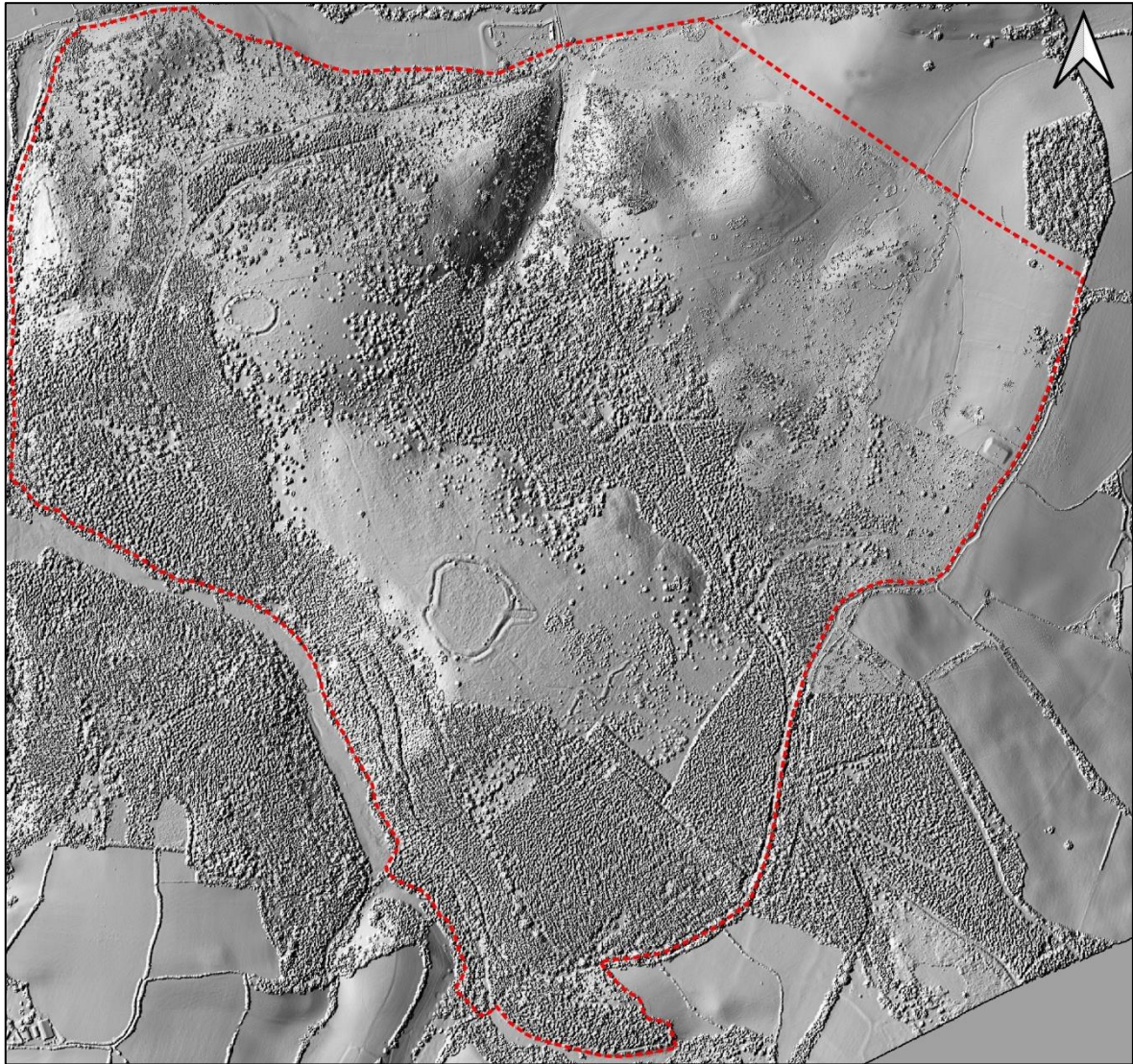


FIGURE 16: 50CM AND 1M DSM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 HILLSHADE 315_35_1. © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COPYRIGHT AND/OR DATABASE RIGHT 2015. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

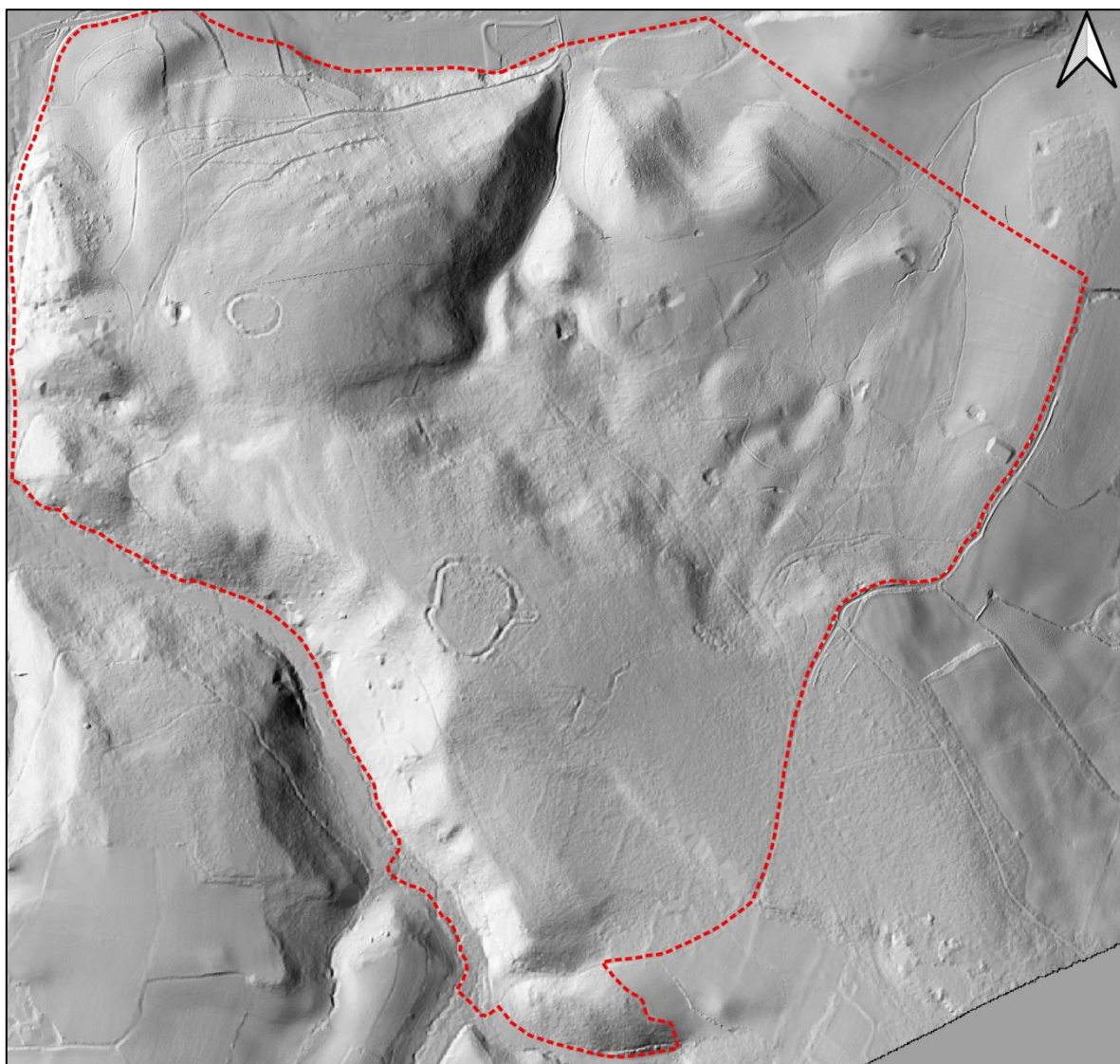


FIGURE 17: 50CM AND 1M DTM LiDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 HILLSHADE 315_35_1. © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COPYRIGHT AND/OR DATABASE RIGHT 2015. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

4.7.2 LiDAR SLOPE

Figure 18 shows LiDAR data of the survey area with the vegetation cover apparent. Figure 19 shows the survey area with the vegetation cover digitally 'removed'

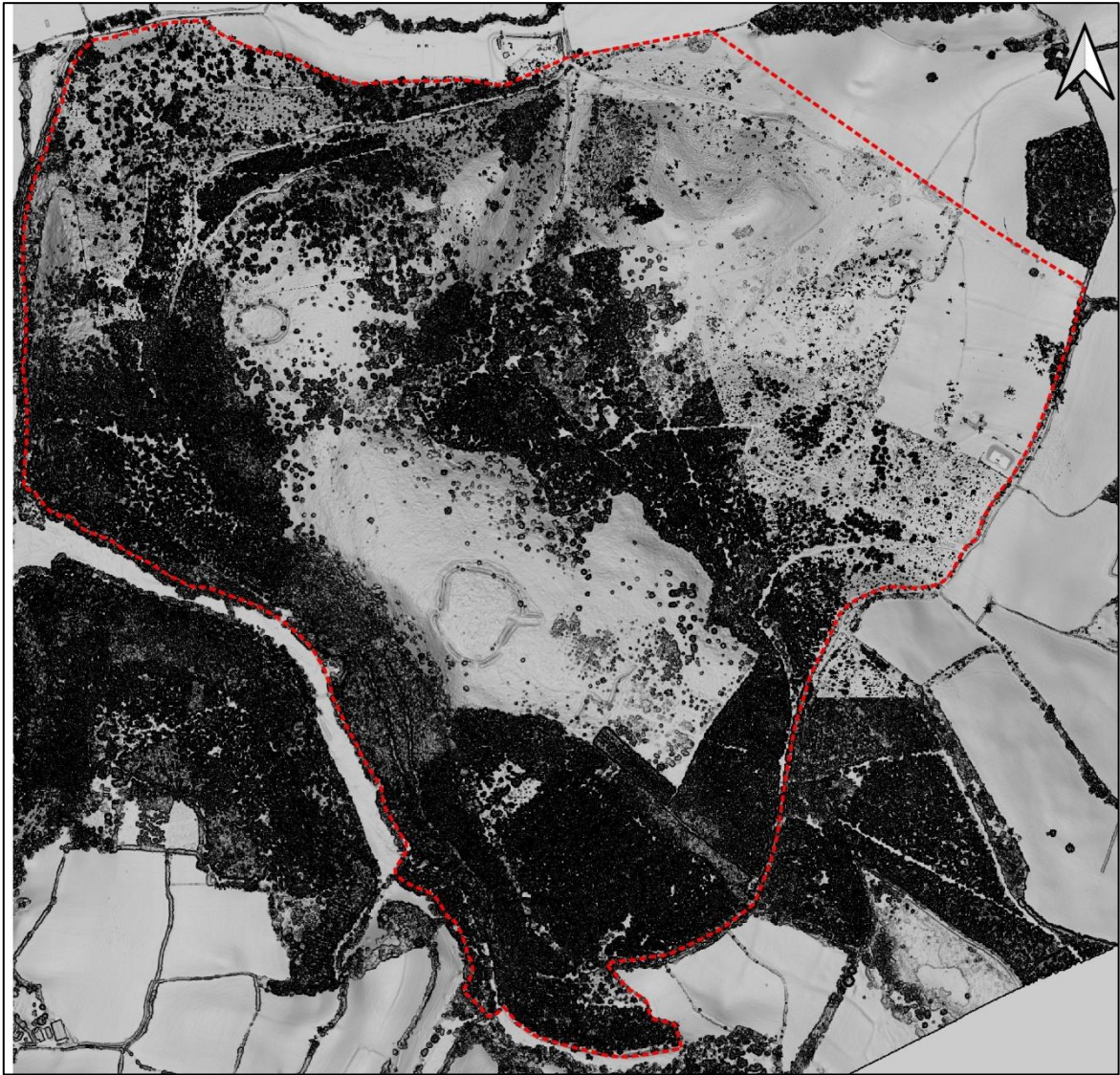


FIGURE 18: 50CM AND 1M DSM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 SLOPE Z2. © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COPYRIGHT AND/OR DATABASE RIGHT 2015. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

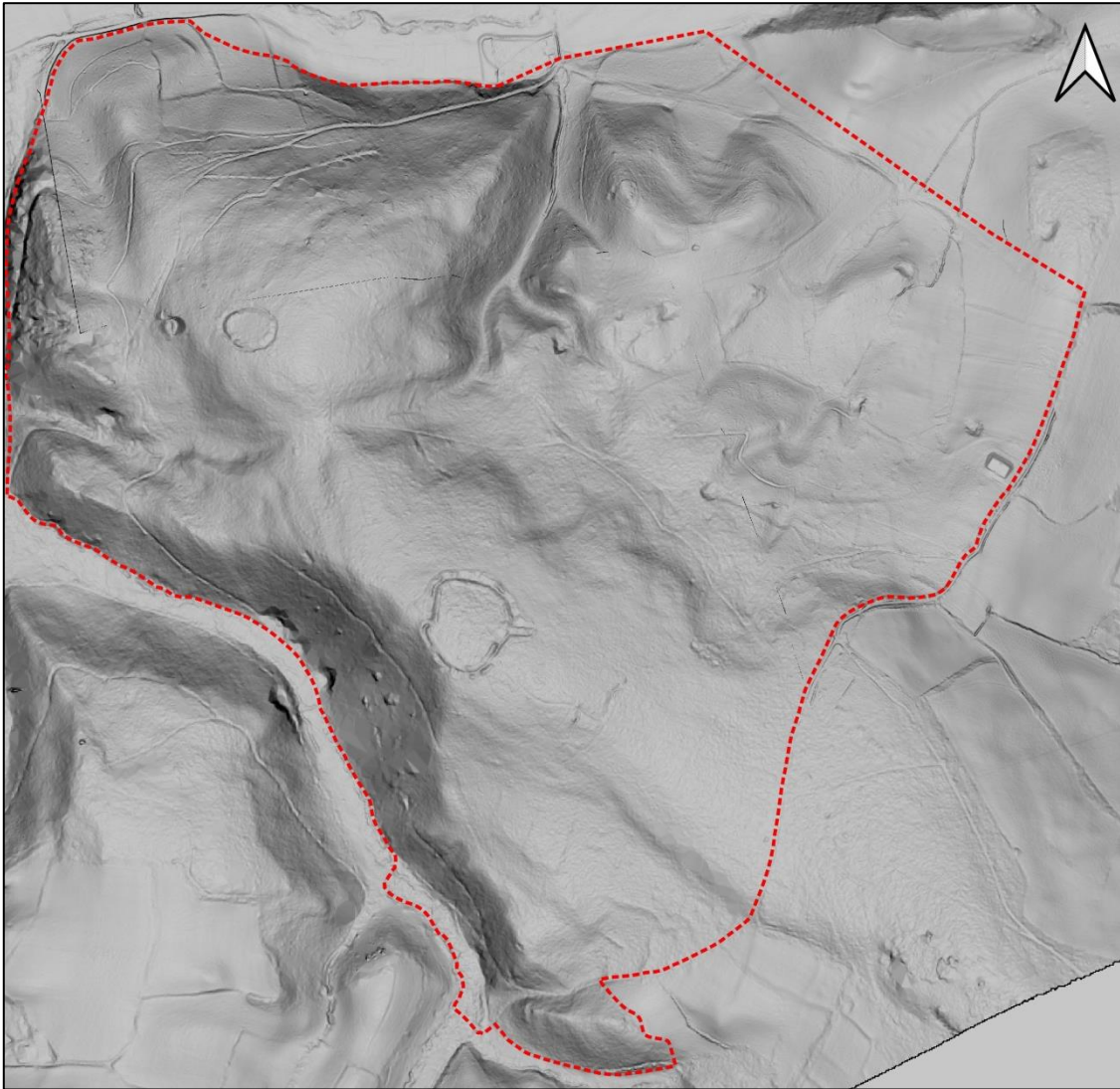


FIGURE 19: 50CM AND 1M DTM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED WITH QGIS 3.14 SLOPE Z2. © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COPYRIGHT AND/OR DATABASE RIGHT 2015. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

5.0 WALKOVER SURVEY

A walkover survey of the area was undertaken over three days in May-June 2021. The weather conditions varied between overcast, hail, heavy rain and clear sunny skies. The results of the survey are presented below. The results are presented below by four main areas, Lower Park, Lower Slopes, Hilltop and Upper Slopes and Outside the Park. These areas are based primarily on vegetation types and topography and were supplied by Nicholas Pearson Partnership (Figure 20).

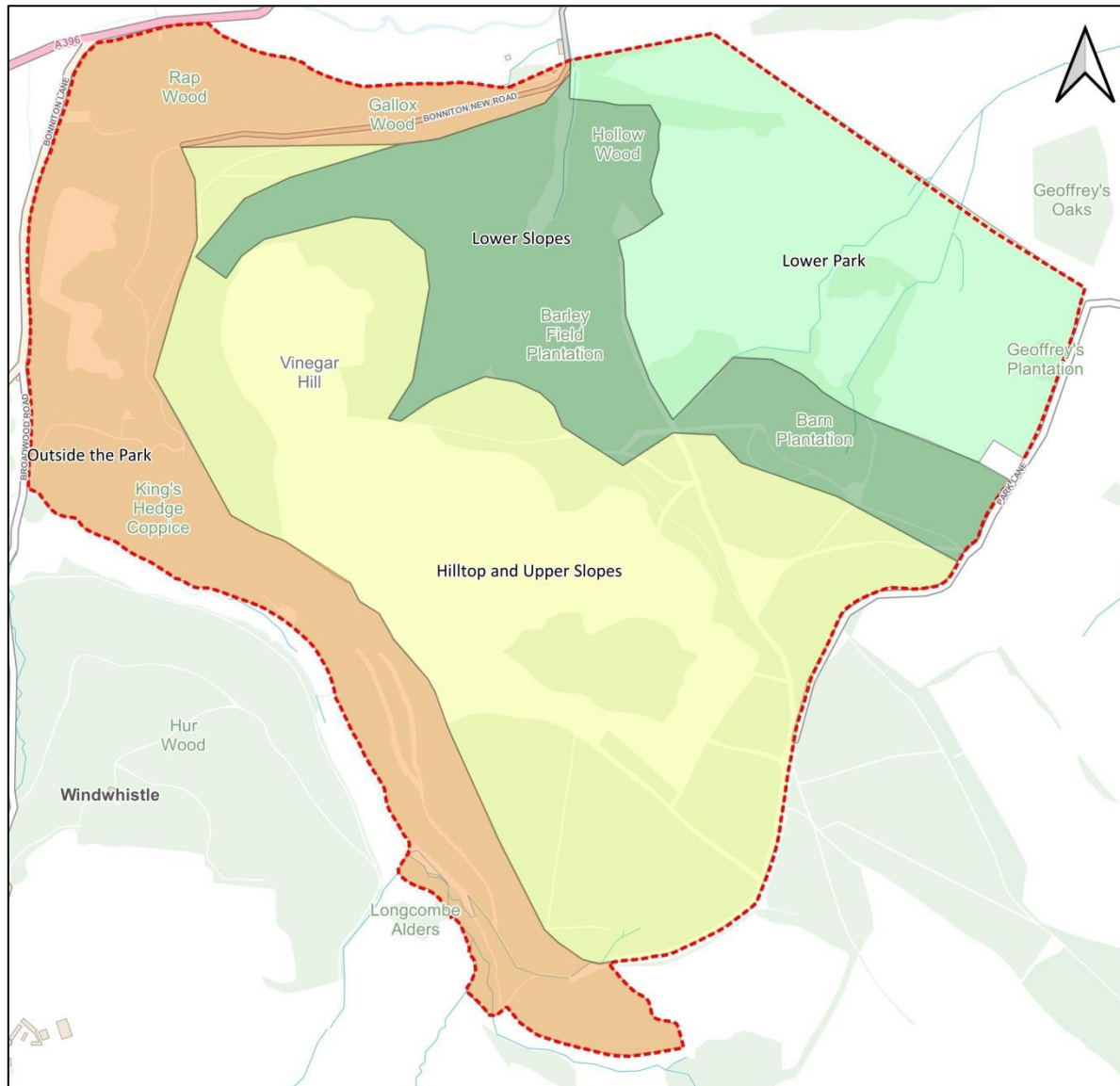


FIGURE 20: BOUNDARIES OF AREAS SURVEYED AS PART OF THE WALKOVER SURVEY. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021.

Much of the Registered Park and Garden was used for commercial forestry purposes following its acquisition by the Crown Estate in the 1950s. There has been a gradual shift back towards grazing of the hilltop areas and a policy of not replanting commercial conifers in these areas, although natural regeneration is occurring. The survey area is therefore a combination of open ground, open heathland and mixed woodland. Some areas are steeply sloping while other areas are more gently sloping ground.

Features identified on the ground have been allocated a number and are shown on Figure 3. A summary of sites identified can be found in Section 2. Features identified through LiDAR analysis

but determined during the walkover survey to not to be of archaeological origin have been included in Appendix 1.

Within the wooded areas of the survey area the ground vegetation coverage varied but in places consisted of brambles, stinging nettles and ivy with areas of fallen timber, now covered in vegetation. This impeded assessment of possible archaeological features with the wooded areas of the survey area and also means that assessment of possible archaeological features from LiDAR data is further complicated by these 'features'. As a result it is not possible to consider this survey to have been exhaustive, however every attempt was made to access the ground within the woodland areas and make an assessment of possible archaeological features. It is possible that further features may exist, overlain by deadwood or dense vegetation cover. This is addressed in the recommendations of this report (Section 8).

5.1 LOWER PARK

This area comprises the north eastern side of the survey area. It is the lowest lying area included in this survey and is also the most gently sloping part of the survey area. It was largely pasture at the date of the Tithe survey and now is largely open ground with some areas of woodland and scrub. There are 13 features recorded in this area in the Exmoor HER within this area including two former medieval roads, a quarry and gravel pit and a series of shooting boxes documented on historic mapping.

1. Historic Quarry in the south east of Lower Park

SS 9967 4248

A quarry c. 20m x 20m is located in the south eastern corner of Lower Park, close to a modern reservoir. It is largely filled with vegetation. This feature is not shown on any historic or modern mapping although a horseshoe shaped line of trees on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map appears likely to have been planted around this feature, suggesting it predates this map.



FIGURE 21: QUARRY IN THE SOUTH EAST OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

2. Ruins of historic barns or farmstead

SS 9949 4250

The ruins of stone buildings, a pond and a building platform are visible in the location of structures shown on the Tithe map and early Ordnance Survey mapping. They appear extant on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (1902) but are shown as derelict by the revised 2nd Edition map suggesting they no longer had a function in the management of the estate. These buildings are referred to as 'sheds' by the Exmoor HER (as per the Tithe apportionment) (MEM25004) however it is unclear whether they were purpose built for a function within the Deer Park or perhaps could have been an earlier farmstead, repurposed when this area was emparked. They are shown with an enclosed area to the north and west on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map and also potentially on the Tithe map. The Ordnance Survey draft map also indicates at least one building and an enclosure in this area.



FIGURE 22: FRONT EDGE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST BUILDING SHOWN ON HISTORIC MAPPING, FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 23: POND TO THE WEST OF THE STRUCTURES SHOWN ON HISTORIC MAPPING; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).

3. Two slight east-west linears

SS9970 4259

Two slight linears running east-west are visible on the eastern side of Lower Park. These can also be seen on RAF aerial photographs from 1946 and appear to represent a former field boundary. A veteran tree is visible half way along the linear suggesting a possible tree topped hedge bank. This is likely to be a fragment of the pre-park agrarian landscape.



FIGURE 24: SLIGHT LINEAR, WITH TREE GROWING PART WAY ALONG; FROM THE NORTH EAST (NO SCALE).

4. Probable Historic Quarry

SS 9955 4275

A depression visible on LiDAR imagery within a wooded area of Lower Park appears likely to be a historic quarry not shown on historic mapping. The area corresponds with an area of plantation shown on the Ordnance Survey surveyors draft map. This lies at the northern end of the enclosure shown on the Ordnance Survey draft and First Edition maps.



FIGURE 25: PROBABLE HISTORIC QUARRY; FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).

5. Former pond shown on historic mapping

SS 9919 4278

A depression evident on LiDAR imagery and visible during walkover survey corresponds with a small pond shown on Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition mapping but not shown on the revised 2nd Edition map. No water was evident in this former pond.



FIGURE 26: A DEPRESSION CORRESPONDS WITH THE LOCATION OF A HISTORIC POND; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

6. Slight Linear

SS 9930 4274

A slight linear is visible on LiDAR imagery and was just observable during walkover survey. It is possible this could represent a pre parkland boundary although its location downslope of the extant Horse Pond could also indicate its possible formation as a result of water run off/overflow from the pond and therefore it may be non-archaeological in origin.

7. Possible Lynchet

SS 9923 4308

A north east- south west oriented linear visible on LiDAR imagery was evident during walkover survey and may represent a Lynchet associated with a pre park agrarian landscape.



FIGURE 27: POSSIBLE LYNCHET ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE NORTH WEST (NO SCALE).

8. Possible former boundary

SS 9924 431

A linear visible on LiDAR imagery may be a former boundary associated with a pre park agrarian landscape. The linear is c. 3-4m wide x 0.4m high. It is oriented north-south and runs upslope towards a possible lynchet (6).



FIGURE 28: POSSIBLE HISTORIC BOUNDARY; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

9. Horse Pond

SW 9087 4767

A pond shown on historic mapping and labelled as 'Horse Pond' is still extant but does not appear to be recorded in the Exmoor HER. The pond drains/overflows out of its eastern side.



FIGURE 29: THE HORSE POND WITHIN DUNSTER DEER PARK; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE)>

10. Possible Lynchet

SS 9916 4256

A linear c. 10m long and 0.4m in height is visible on LiDAR imagery and was identified during walkover survey. It appears to run east-west into a historic boundary. It is possibly a lynchet associated with a pre park agrarian landscape.



FIGURE 30: POSSIBLE LYNCHET IN THE WESTERN PART OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

11. Quarry and possible Hollow Way

SS 9896 4310

Quarrying appears to have taken place near the entrance into the Deer Park at the junction of a number of paths and boundaries. A fragment of hollow way is located on the north eastern side of the quarry, and is likely to comprise part of the Gallox Bridge to Carhampton Road shown on historic maps (MSO11140). This gradually fades out as the ground rises to the east. This site is in the approximate possible location of a house at Holway (or Hollow way) recorded in documentary sources in the Medieval period and possibly indicated by a structure in this area on the OS surveyors draft map (See Nicholas Pearson Partnership Dunster Deer Park Parkland Management Plan main report for further details of Holway House). It is suggested this site could represent the location of the house however further detailed survey work with significantly less ground vegetation cover would be required to determine whether any building platform exists in this location. It is also possible that a photograph by James Date prior to 1868 which shows a gothic arch in the background and a woman stood behind a five bar wooden gate across a path or road could show the area around Park Gate. If this is the case, it is possible that the gothic arch may have been located near to this site or potentially just to its north.



FIGURE 31: QUARRYING AT THE NORTH WEST OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).

12. Curving Linear

SS 9967 4245

A slight but indistinct curving linear is visible in the south eastern corner of Lower Park. It is possible this may relate to a pre park agrarian landscape.



FIGURE 32: SLIGHT CURVING LINEAR IN SOUTH EAST OF LOWER PARK; FROM THE NORTH EAST (1M SCALE).

13. Possible Linear

SS 9973 4266

A linear is visible on LiDAR imagery but was not apparent on the ground during walkover survey.

14. Possible Linear

SS 9974 4255

A linear is visible on LiDAR imagery but was not apparent on the ground during walkover survey.

15. Linears

SS 9952 4278

Two north-south oriented linears are visible on LiDAR imagery. Very slight terracing of the ground was visible during walkover survey but the features which appear on the LiDAR could not clearly be distinguished.

16. Linears

SS 9950 4278

Two east-west oriented linears are visible on LiDAR imagery. Very slight terracing of the ground was visible during walkover survey but the features which appear on the LiDAR could not clearly be distinguished.

17. Circular feature

SS 9961 4280

A possible circular feature is visible in this area on LiDAR imagery however the dense vegetation in this area means that it is not possible to determine whether any archaeological feature is present or if the anomaly is caused by the vegetation

18. Circular feature

SS99604282

A possible circular feature is visible in this area on LiDAR imagery however the dense vegetation in this area means that it is not possible to determine whether any archaeological feature is present or if the anomaly is caused by the vegetation

19. Possible Linear

SS 9958 4282

A linear apparent on LiDAR imagery was not visible on the ground during walkover survey

20. Possible Linear

SS 9957 4281

A linear apparent on LiDAR imagery was not visible on the ground during walkover survey

21. Linear

SS 9945 4265

A linear apparent on LiDAR imagery was not visible on the ground during walkover survey. It may be caused by natural water flow into a stream or by artificial drainage.

22. Linear

SS 9945 4263

A linear apparent on LiDAR imagery was not visible on the ground during walkover survey. It may be caused by natural water flow into a stream or by artificial drainage.

23. Linear

SS 9948 4264

A linear apparent on LiDAR imagery was not visible on the ground during walkover survey. It may be caused by natural water flow into a stream or by artificial drainage.

24. Linear

SS 9946 4266

A linear apparent on LiDAR imagery was not visible on the ground during walkover survey. It may be caused by natural water flow into a stream or by artificial drainage.

25. Linears

SS 9938 4268

Linears apparent on LiDAR imagery was not visible on the ground during walkover survey.

26. Possible north east- south west oriented ridge and furrow

SS 9933 4263

An area of possible north east- south west oriented ridge and furrow ploughing is visible on LiDAR imagery in the central area of Lower Park. This was not identified during walkover survey however the vegetation cover in this area is likely to have inhibited the visibility of slight features.

27. Two linears at right angles

SS99184279

Two linears are visible on LiDAR imagery meeting at right angles to each other. These could be traces of former boundaries however they were not visible on the ground during walkover survey and may in part be due to natural terracing of the hillside on which they are located.

28. Linear

SS99224269

A linear is visible on LiDAR imagery but was not visible on the ground during walkover survey. The ground surface in this area is densely covered in ant hills which may either be creating the illusion of a linear on the LiDAR or may be obscuring the visibility of any archaeological feature.

29. Linear

SS 9922 4271

A linear is visible on LiDAR imagery but was not visible on the ground during walkover survey. The ground surface in this area is densely covered in ant hills which may either be creating the illusion of a linear on the LiDAR or may be obscuring the visibility of any archaeological feature.

30. Linear

SS 9928 4275

A linear is visible on LiDAR imagery but was not visible on the ground during walkover survey. The ground surface in this area is densely covered in ant hills which may either be creating the illusion of a linear on the LiDAR or may be obscuring the visibility of any archaeological feature.

31. Possible north east- south west oriented ridge and furrow

SS 9930 4271

A rectilinear area c. 200m x 50m appears on LiDAR imagery to show north east-south west oriented ridge and furrow ploughing. Walkover survey determined this area to be densely covered in ant hills and bracken. It was impossible to determine whether ridge and furrow underlies this although it is possible. The ant hills may be causing the appearance of a ridge and furrow like pattern in the

LiDAR data however it is also possible that they could be utilising differences in soil texture caused by ridge and furrow and are therefore obscuring this feature.



FIGURE 33: EXTREMELY DENSE AREA OF ANT HILLS PREVENTED POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF ANY RIDGE AND FURROW; FROM THE NORTH EAST (NO SCALE).

32. Possible mound

SS 9959 4288

A possible mound is visible on LiDAR imagery however walkover survey showed this to be an area of dense vegetation. It is unclear whether any archaeological feature is present or whether the anomaly is caused by the density of the vegetation.

33. Possible mounds

SS 9920 4313

Possible mounds are visible on LiDAR imagery however walkover survey showed this to be an area of dense vegetation. It is unclear whether any archaeological features are present or whether the anomaly is caused by the density of the vegetation.

34. Possible slight East –West oriented ridge and furrow overlain by North – South oriented ridge and furrow

SS 9970 4263

LiDAR imagery suggests a possible area of east-west oriented ridge and furrow overlain by north-south oriented ridge and furrow in the north eastern corner of Lower Park. This was not visible on the ground during walkover survey however the conditions (vegetation and light) were not ideal for the visibility of slight features.

35. Possible slight North – South oriented ridge and furrow

SS 9971 4271

LiDAR imagery suggests a possible area of north-south oriented ridge and furrow in the north eastern corner of Lower Park. This was not visible on the ground during walkover survey however the conditions (vegetation and light) were not ideal for the visibility of slight features.

36. Short section of historic boundary

SS 9939 4260

A short section of a probable historic boundary is evident alongside a watercourse depicted on Ordnance Survey First Edition mapping. A number of historic trees were noted on or close to the boundary bank, some appearing to be old coppice. It is located in the approximate area of an enclosure shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map although does not appear to quite follow the alignment of the boundary shown on that map.



FIGURE 34: SHORT SECTION OF HISTORIC BOUNDARY; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

5.2 LOWER SLOPES

This area comprises the lower slopes in the central and eastern parts of the survey area. It was recorded as a mix of timber wood, wood and heath and pasture at the date of the Tithe survey and now is largely wooded. There are 6 features recorded in this area in the Exmoor HER within this area including a number of quarries and gravel pits.

37. Possible Linear

SS 9901 4299

A possible north east- south west linear is visible on LiDAR imagery in the north of Lower Slopes, adjoining a public footpath, in an area known as Hollow Wood. It is not known whether this is an archaeological feature as it was not identified during walkover survey as the ground vegetation was relatively dense in this area, which inhibited visibility.

38. Possible Curved Path or Linear

SS 9905 4293

A possible curving path or linear following the contour line is visible on LiDAR imagery in the north of Lower Slopes, adjoining a public footpath, in an area known as Hollow Wood. It is not known whether this is an archaeological feature as it was not identified during walkover survey as the ground vegetation was relatively dense in this area, which inhibited visibility.

39. Possible Hollow

SS 9905 4287

A possible hollow feature was identified on LiDAR imagery in the north of Lower Slopes, in an area known as Hollow Wood. It is not known whether this is an archaeological feature as it was not identified during walkover survey as the ground vegetation was relatively dense in this area, which inhibited visibility and the feature location appeared to be on a highly vegetated steep slope.

40. Possible Linear

SS 9949 4235

A possible north-south linear is visible on LiDAR imagery in the east of Lower Slopes in an area known as Barn Plantation. It is not known whether this is an archaeological feature as it was not identified during walkover survey as the ground vegetation included dense bracken in this area, which inhibited visibility. The feature appears aligned to a number of others visible on LiDAR imagery (40, 42) which have the potential to form part of a pre-park agrarian landscape dating from the prehistoric to medieval period.

41. Possible Linear

SS 9949 4235

A possible north-south linear is visible on LiDAR imagery in the east of Lower Slopes in an area known as Barn Plantation. It is not known whether this is an archaeological feature as it was not identified during walkover survey as the ground vegetation included dense bracken in this area, which inhibited visibility. The feature appears aligned to a number of others visible on LiDAR imagery (88, 89) which have the potential to form part of a pre-park agrarian landscape dating from the prehistoric to medieval period.

42. Possible Linear

SS 9947 4233

A possible north-south linear is visible on LiDAR imagery in the east of Lower Slopes in an area known as Barn Plantation. It is not known whether this is an archaeological feature as it was not identified during walkover survey as the ground vegetation included dense bracken in this area, which inhibited visibility. The feature appears aligned to a number of others visible on LiDAR imagery (89, 90) which have the potential to form part of a pre-park agrarian landscape dating from the prehistoric to medieval period.

43. Possible Linear

SS 9907 4302

A possible east-west linear is visible on LiDAR imagery in the north of Lower Slopes, in an area known as Hollow Wood. It is not known whether this is an archaeological feature as it was not identified during walkover survey as the ground vegetation was relatively dense in this area, which inhibited visibility.

44. Linear

SS 9871 4254

Possible lynchets or natural terracing of the hill slope are visible in this area extending down the slope. It is unclear whether these are archaeological in origin.



FIGURE 35: POSSIBLE LYNCHETS TO THE EAST OF BLACK BALL CAMP; FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).

5.3 HILLTOP AND UPPER SLOPES

This area comprises the highest areas of the survey area and includes much of the western and southern parts of the Deer Park. It was recorded as a mix of heath and pasture at the date of the Tithe survey and now is largely open heathland with some wooded areas. There are 29 features recorded in this area in the Exmoor HER within this area including post medieval shooting boxes, quarries, medieval field boundaries, prehistoric field boundaries, two scheduled hillforts (one with an associated outwork), prehistoric tool finds and a prehistoric burial cairn.

45. Quarrying extending further to the west than recorded on the HER

SS 9946 4217

An area of quarrying recorded on the Exmoor HER (MEM22106) appears to extend further to the west along steep and vegetated slopes than is recorded in the Exmoor HER. The area of quarrying appears to be c.30-40m long x 15m wide.

46. An area of slight ridging

SS 9925 4198

Slight ridging is visible in an area evidently utilised as an agricultural field during WW2, based on evidence from 1946 aerial photography. It is possible this could be tree ridging related to later planting.



FIGURE 36: AREA OF SLIGHT RIDGING TO THE NORTH OF WITHYCOMBE HILL GATE; FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).

47. Possible mound or cairn

SS 9931 4177

An area which appears to be approximately circular c.10m in diameter and contains significantly more stone than the surrounding area. This feature lies on high ground immediately adjacent to the Deer Park boundary bank. It sits within an area evidently ploughed and utilised for agricultural purposes during World War II (visible on RAF 1946 aerial photographs). It does not appear to have any obvious built form although the ditch adjacent to the boundary appears to cut it. It may represent stone material utilised in the construction of the Deer Park boundary or possibly clearance of stone from this area, of unknown date (Prehistoric-Medieval). It could potentially be a stone burial cairn, reduced in height by ploughing of this area during World War II.



FIGURE 37: POSSIBLE MOUND; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

48. Possible Linear

SS 9917 4165

A series of linears visible on LiDAR imagery appear consistent with a prehistoric field system recorded to the south east on Withycombe Hill and extending into this area of the Deer Park (MSO9113/MSO9088). The linears visible on LiDAR are relatively evenly spaced and appear a reasonably consistent width. The area in which they lie is densely wooded with relatively high ground vegetation cover in the form of brambles and bracken. This linear was not clearly evident on the ground but visibility was inhibited by the ground vegetation. N.B. A number of linears were recorded in this area by the National Mapping Programme Survey of Exmoor – these were recorded from 1940s aerial photographs and appear to show 90 degree returns to some of the linears which do not appear visible on the available LiDAR data, nor were they visible on the ground however this is unsurprising given the ground vegetation cover in this area (see Figure 39).

49. Possible Linear

SS 9906 4172

A series of linears visible on LiDAR imagery appear consistent with a prehistoric field system recorded to the south east on Withycombe Hill and extending into this area of the Deer Park (MSO9113/MSO9088). The linears visible on LiDAR are relatively evenly spaced and appear a reasonably consistent width. The area in which they lie is densely wooded with relatively high ground vegetation cover in the form of brambles and bracken. A section of this linear did appear to be evident on the ground but was very slight. Its full extent could not be traced through the dense ground vegetation. N.B. A number of linears were recorded in this area by the National Mapping Programme Survey of Exmoor – these were recorded from 1940s aerial photographs and appear to show 90 degree returns to some of the linears which do not appear visible on the available LiDAR data, nor were they visible on the ground however this is unsurprising given the ground vegetation cover in this area (see Figure 39).



FIGURE 38: SECTION OF SLIGHT LINEAR POSSIBLY FORMING PART OF A PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM EXTENDING ALONG FROM WITHYCOMBE HILL; FROM THE NORTH WEST (1M SCALE).

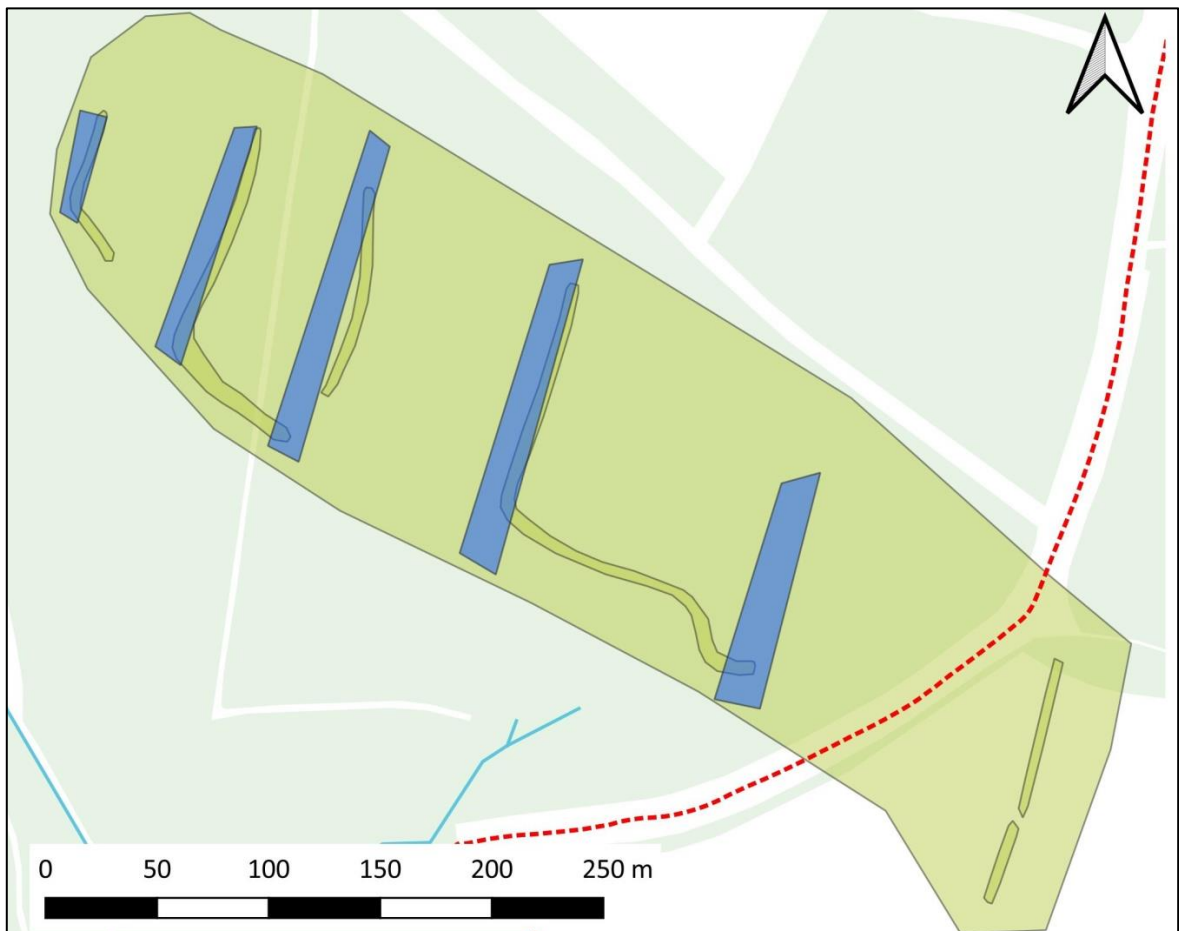


FIGURE 39: COMPARISON OF LINEARS MAPPED NORTH OF WITHIES BRAKE BY NMP (YELLOW) UTILISING 1946 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND SHOWING 90 DEGREE RETURNS; AND FROM 2006 1M DTM LIDAR DATA (BLUE)

50. Possible Linear

SS 9897 4178

A series of linears visible on LiDAR imagery appear consistent with a prehistoric field system recorded to the south east on Withycombe Hill and extending into this area of the Deer Park (MSO9113/MSO9088). The linears visible on LiDAR are relatively evenly spaced and appear a reasonably consistent width. The area in which they lie is densely wooded with relatively high ground vegetation cover in the form of brambles and bracken. This linear was not clearly evident on the ground but visibility was inhibited by the ground vegetation. N.B. A number of linears were recorded in this area by the National Mapping Programme Survey of Exmoor – these were recorded from 1940s aerial photographs and appear to show 90 degree returns to some of the linears which do not appear visible on the available LiDAR data, nor were they visible on the ground however this is unsurprising given the ground vegetation cover in this area (see Figure 39).

51. Possible Linear

SS 9892 4180

A series of linears visible on LiDAR imagery appear consistent with a prehistoric field system recorded to the south east on Withycombe Hill and extending into this area of the Deer Park (MSO9113/MSO9088). The linears visible on LiDAR are relatively evenly spaced and appear a reasonably consistent width. The area in which they lie is densely wooded with relatively high ground vegetation cover in the form of brambles and bracken. This linear was not clearly evident on the ground but visibility was inhibited by the ground vegetation. N.B. A number of linears were recorded in this area by the National Mapping Programme Survey of Exmoor – these were recorded from 1940s aerial photographs and appear to show 90 degree returns to some of the linears which do not appear visible on the available LiDAR data, nor were they visible on the ground however this is unsurprising given the ground vegetation cover in this area (see Figure 39).

52. Possible Linear

SS 9886 4184

A series of linears visible on LiDAR imagery appear consistent with a prehistoric field system recorded to the south east on Withycombe Hill and extending into this area of the Deer Park (MSO9113/MSO9088). The linears visible on LiDAR are relatively evenly spaced and appear a reasonably consistent width. The area in which they lie is densely wooded with relatively high ground vegetation cover in the form of brambles and bracken. This linear was not clearly evident on the ground but visibility was inhibited by the ground vegetation. N.B. A number of linears were recorded in this area by the National Mapping Programme Survey of Exmoor – these were recorded from 1940s aerial photographs and appear to show 90 degree returns to some of the linears which do not appear visible on the available LiDAR data, nor were they visible on the ground however this is unsurprising given the ground vegetation cover in this area (see Figure 39).

53. Possible Linear

SS 9879 4230

A possible north west-south east linear is visible on LiDAR imagery to the north of Bat's Castle. A slight earthwork was evident during walkover survey at the northern end of the feature however ground vegetation cover and the slight nature of this earthwork makes it difficult to determine how far this feature extends.



FIGURE 40: POSSIBLE LINEAR TO THE NORTH OF BAT'S CASTLE; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).

54. Continuation of packhorse ways shown on HER

SS 9944 4224

Packhorse/hollow ways recorded to the east of Bat's Castle (MSO 9085) appear to extend further to the north east than is recorded on the Exmoor HER. There is evidence of recent felling of trees on the hollow way.



FIGURE 41: EXTENSION OF PACKHORSE/HOLLOW WAYS TO THE EAST OF BAT'S CASTLE; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

5.3.1 OUTSIDE THE PARK

This area comprises land on the north and western sides of the survey area which although part of the Registered Park and Garden was not historically part of the Dunster Deer Park. Some parts of this area were in the ownership of the Acland family at the date of the Tithe survey and the cultivation is recorded as a mix of arable, garden, heath and pasture. It is now largely wooded and comprises some very steep slopes. There are 15 features recorded in this area in the Exmoor HER within this area including a number of quarries or gravel pits and a well.

55. Possible boundary features

SS 9828 4313

Not visible during walkover survey. Many fallen trees/bracken in this area

56. A structure is shown on modern Ordnance Survey mapping

SS 9809 4301

No evidence of the standing structure depicted on OS mapping was visible during walkover survey. A small section of concrete block wall located close to the road was evident and a wooden gate was also observed.



FIGURE 42: SHORT SECTION OF CONCRETE BLOCK WALL IN BACKGROUND WITH WOODEN GATEPOST AND FENCE IN FOREGROUND; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).

57. Area of stoney rubble

SS 9829 4277

An area of low earth and stone rubble in approximate linears less than 1m in height. The northern area appears rectilinear in form. The areas to the west and south are more amorphous in form. Vehicle tracks are evident in this area. The material is located just outside a gateway through the Deer Park boundary. It is unclear to what period this area dates and what its possible function might be. There is no evident built form to indicate construction and some pieces of concrete slab were visible in the south western area of material. It may be that this represents modern clearance of tracks or areas in the area around the Deer Park and that material has been dumped here and

subsequently moved around or reused. The linear forms of the northern area may have been formed by the movement of material. It is unclear how long this area has been utilised for however the lack of trees in this area suggest it has been used relatively recently.



FIGURE 43: AREA OF STONEY RUBBLE 'BANKS' OUTSIDE THE DEER PARK BOUNDARY; FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 44: DETAIL OF STONE AND EARTH LINEARS/'BANKS' LOCATED OUTSIDE THE DEER PARK BOUNDARY GATE; FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

58. Quarry

SS 9818 4250

A quarry was recorded during walkover survey in an area marked as old gravel pits on historic mapping.



FIGURE 45: QUARRY MARKED OLD GRAVEL PITS ON HISTORIC MAPPING; FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).

59. Quarry

SS 9891 4147

An 'Old Quarry' is shown on First Edition mapping and is visible on the ground as a small quarry with a slight path leading to it, also depicted on the First Edition map.



FIGURE 46: OLD QUARRY AND PATH, SHOWN ON FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP; FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).

60. Quarry

SS 9853 4305

A small quarry is located alongside a pathway through Gallox Wood.



FIGURE 47: QUARRY; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

5.4 SUMMARY

In total 60 features of archaeological or possible archaeological origin not recorded on the ENPHER were identified within the survey area. A number of features identified through LiDAR analysis were determined to be non-archaeological in origin and have been recorded in Appendix 1. It is likely that the majority of the features date to the post medieval period and may be associated with the function of the Deer Park, although a number may relate to the pre-park agrarian landscape and may span the medieval-post medieval period. It is possible some of the features have prehistoric origins. A notable number of quarries were recorded within the survey area, which may have provided material not only for the construction of the Deer Park boundary but also the wider Dunster Castle Estate. Within some parts of the survey area there was dense ground vegetation coverage including brambles, ivy, bracken and gorse with areas of fallen deadwood. This impeded assessment of possible archaeological features, particularly slight features, within some parts of the survey area and it is therefore not possible to consider this survey to have been exhaustive.

6.0 BOUNDARIES AND PATHS

6.1 ASSESSMENT OF SURVIVAL OF HISTORIC BOUNDARIES AND PATHS

The survival of paths and boundaries shown on historic mapping across the Deer Park was assessed during walkover survey. Their condition was not documented as part of this survey. The form of boundary banks appeared to be earth and stone rubble construction, with the Deer Park boundary itself being the most prominent surviving boundary within the survey area. An assessment of the date of boundary features can be made utilising available historic mapping to provide a likely date by which a boundary was constructed. A map showing the probable dates by which historic boundaries were added and removed across the survey area is given above (Figure 12). This shows all of the historic boundaries across the estate, including those no longer extant (removed). The map below (Figure 48) shows the extant historic boundaries characterised by probable date.

An assessment of the date of historic paths and tracks within the survey area can also be made utilising available historic mapping to provide a likely date by which a path or track was added. A map showing the probable dates by which historic paths and tracks were added and removed across the survey area is given above (Figure 13). This shows all of the paths and tracks shown on historic mapping across the estate, including those no longer extant (removed). The map below (Figure 48) shows the extant historic paths and tracks characterised by probable date.

6.2 PHASING OF EXTANT BOUNDARIES

A number of extant historic boundaries were identified during walkover survey. The majority of these appear to date from at least the Tithe map (1840) although some were added between the Tithe survey and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. This includes the north western boundary of the Deer Park itself which appears to have been moved slightly to the south to accommodate the addition of woodland to the north of the Deer Park between 1840 and 1887.

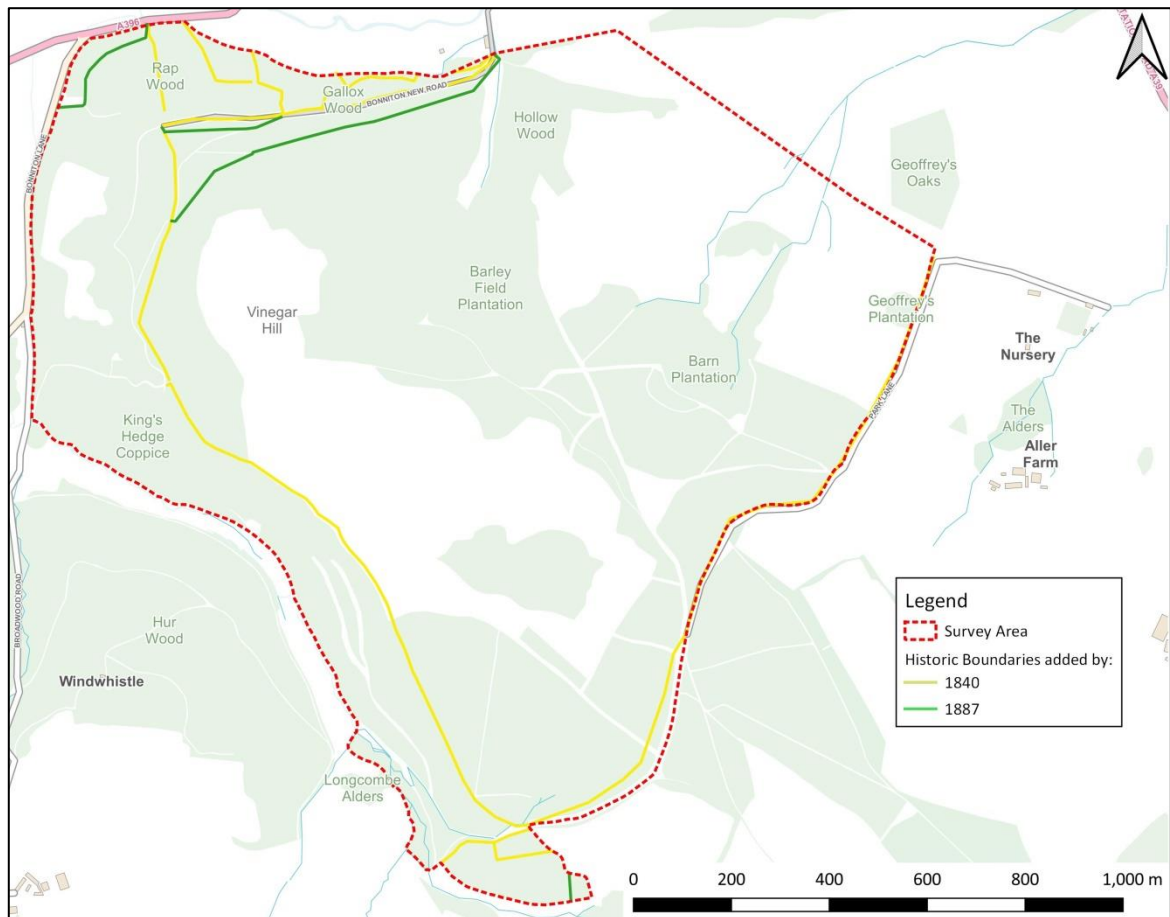


FIGURE 48: EXTANT HISTORIC BOUNDARIES ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021

6.3 PHASING OF EXTANT PATHS AND TRACKS

A number of extant historic paths and tracks were identified during walkover survey. The majority of these appear to date from at least the First Edition Ordnance Survey map although some were shown on the Tithe map (1840). It is possible not all paths or tracks would have been depicted on the Tithe map as this was not its function, however the pathways in Rap Wood/Gallox Wood do appear likely to have been added after the Tithe survey as much of this land was recorded as in arable cultivation at that date. It is unclear whether the paths/tracks shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map were created to allow access into the woodland and therefore served a functional purpose or whether they were added as part of a considered layout of walks for the occupants of Dunster Castle to use. The walkover survey suggested that where these paths have survived it is because they have been incorporated into modern routes, either as footpaths or for forestry access and in the case of the latter it appears likely that they have been widened to allow this. Where paths were observed as extant but are evidently not in modern use, they appeared slight, with no evident built form, and were often fragmentary. There is evident use of some of these paths by animals as in certain places, a levelled area of path could be observed before disappearing with only a narrow animal path continuing on, not along the route shown on the historic mapping. Fallen trees within the woodlands have also obscured the onward routes of a number of these paths, which are no longer discernible in the dense ground vegetation. The apparent slight nature of these paths makes them ephemeral and easily susceptible to loss from ground slips and vegetation cover.

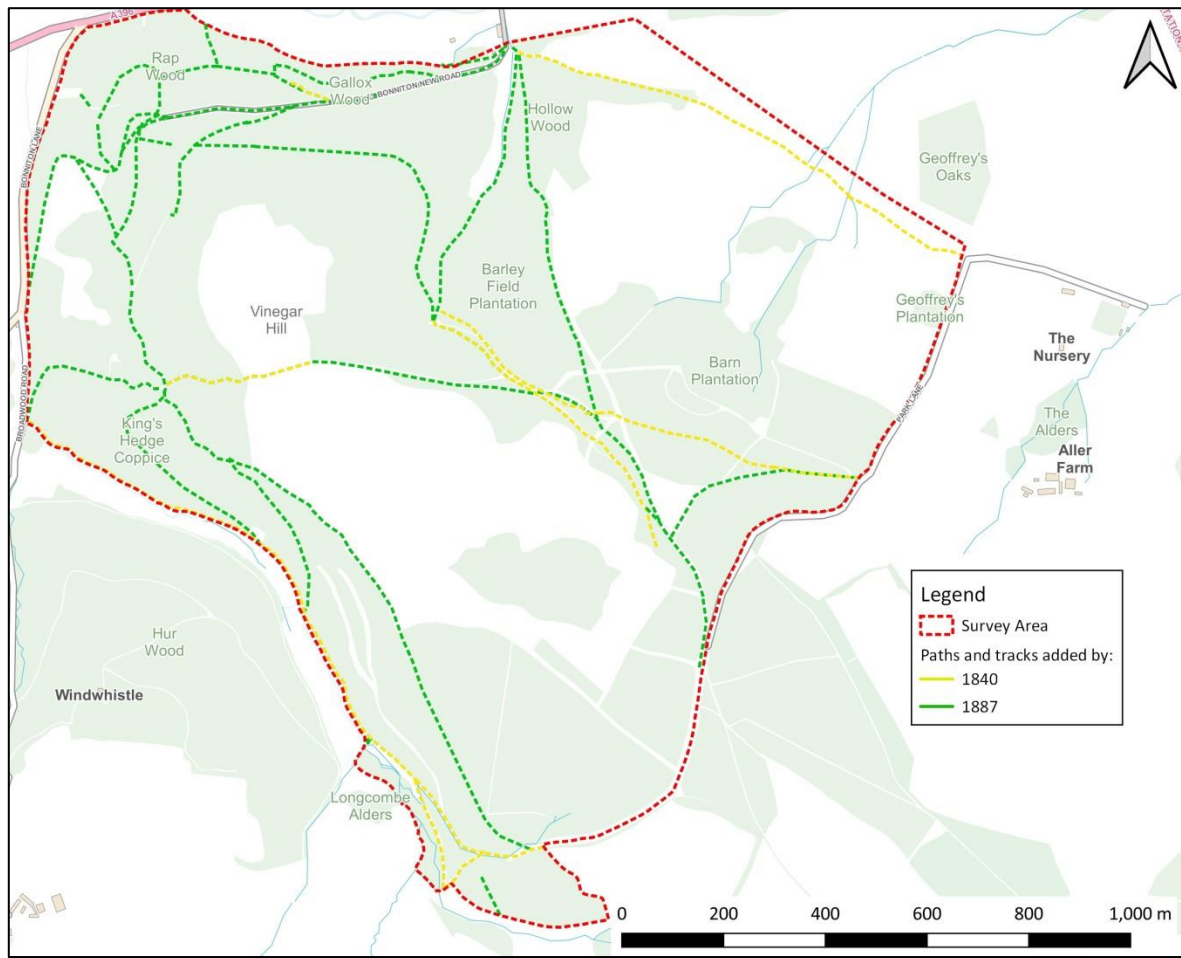


FIGURE 49: EXTANT HISTORIC PATHS AND TRACKS ACROSS THE SURVEY AREA. © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2021

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The land which comprises the survey area forms part of the Grade II* Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden and is now in private ownership having been sold by its previous owner, the Crown Estate. It comprises much of the Post Medieval Deer Park to the south of Dunster Castle (which is in the ownership of the National Trust) and includes two Scheduled Monuments of Prehistoric date. The survey area is a mix of open heathland, scrub, mixed woodland and conifer plantation. It has largely been utilised for commercial forestry purposes since the 1950s. The Deer Park is recorded as having been emparked in 1755 by the Luttrell Family who owned the Dunster Castle Estate from the 14th century until the mid 20th century.

A find spot of a Mesolithic or Neolithic hammerstone fragment on Gallox Hill provides the earliest evidence for occupation of this area and Neolithic flint tools found near Withycombe Hill Gate provide further evidence for early utilisation of this landscape. There is more extensive evidence for later Prehistoric occupation in the form of two Iron Age defensive sites and associated field systems. There is more limited evidence from the Roman period within the survey area, with some Roman coins having been recorded as found close to the north eastern boundary of the area and within the ramparts of Bat's Castle. Utilisation of this area during the Medieval period is less clear although it seems probable that some of the packhorse ways and trackways crossing the Deer Park between settlements are likely to date to this period. It is possible that prior to emparking, this area of the Dunster Castle Estate may have had an agricultural function and therefore some of the fragmentary boundaries recorded through walkover survey may have origins in this period. LiDAR analysis suggested possible ridge and furrow ploughing in parts of the estate although no conclusive evidence for this was observed during walkover survey. A notable number of extractive pits and quarries are recorded across the survey area and some of these may also have originated in the medieval period, possibly to provide materials for the castle but also in the construction of boundaries. A number of archaeological features within the survey area appear to date from the Post Medieval period, not least the Deer Park itself, but also the significant number of extractive pits and quarries identified which are considered likely to have been exploited during this period. A number of ponds and paths through the survey area were also created at this time. During the later 19th century it appears that the north western boundary of the Deer Park was moved south to accommodate the creation of Gallox Wood and Rap Wood along with a number of tracks or walks in an area which appears previously to have been under arable cultivation. The new section of boundary bank which was constructed at this date appears not to have been of the same built quality as the mid 18th century boundary.

A walkover survey identified 60 features of archaeological or possible archaeological (unknown) origin within the survey area. A number were recorded as unknown because they were evident on LiDAR imagery but the ground vegetation cover totally inhibited visibility and therefore they could not be conclusively identified as of archaeological or non archaeological origin. It is likely that the majority of the features identified date to the Post Medieval period or possibly span the Medieval-Post Medieval period and relate to the pre-parkland landscape at Dunster Deer Park. Some features may be of modern date and relate to the use of the Deer Park after its sale by the Luttrell Family in the mid 20th century. Within parts of the survey area the ground vegetation coverage consisted of brambles, ivy, bracken and gorse with areas of fallen deadwood. This impeded assessment of possible archaeological features within these areas and it is therefore not possible to consider this survey to have been exhaustive.

Dunster Deer Park is a Post Medieval creation by the Luttrell Family, replacing an earlier Deer Park probably located to the north of the present one. The landscape history of the survey area between the later Prehistoric period and its emparking is unknown although it is possible it may have been, in part, an agricultural landscape during the medieval period. There is little conclusive evidence

however to support this, although evidence of fragmentary relict boundaries and possible lynchets within the survey area suggest that certainly areas of the Lower Slopes and Lower Park may once have been enclosed for agricultural purposes. Visibility of these features on the ground is severely limited by ground vegetation cover.

It is evident that the land comprising the survey area was part of a significant later Prehistoric landscape on the border between the Iron Age territories of the Dumnonii and Durotriges. Linears visible on LiDAR imagery near to Withycombe Hill Gate have been identified as part of a Prehistoric field system, likely contemporary with the defensive sites, extending from Withycombe Hill; it is possible that some of the linears visible in the north eastern area of the survey area on LiDAR imagery, although not observed on the ground, could also date to the same period.

From the mid 20th century, much of the survey area has been used for commercial forestry operations. The shift to extensive conifer plantations is not in-keeping with previously largely open hill tops and mixed wooded slopes and has had an impact on the character of the Deer Park. The addition of tracks and widening of existing paths to accommodate forestry access could, in places, have been more sensitively done.

8.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of a heritage asset can be defined as *'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.'* (NPPF). Historic England describe significance through four values: evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal (Historic England 2008).

Given the public accessibility of much of the survey area it can be considered to have a high communal significance, frequently visited by local people and visitors to the area. Its proximity to the settlement of Dunster further increases its attraction to walkers. As a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden associated with Dunster Castle the aesthetic value of the survey area can also be considered to be high. The illustrative historical value of the survey area is high, as it narrates a story of a landscape occupied and utilised in a variety of ways from the defensive enclosures and field systems of the later Prehistoric period to the Post Medieval Deer Park, and more recently commercial forestry. The evidential value of a number of individual sites within the survey area is high. This includes the Scheduled Monuments, the Deer Park boundary and possible structures identified within the survey area including the 'sheds' on the edge of Barn Plantation. The evidential value of other archaeological features within this area is likely to be lower. The location of the survey area within a National Park, and its local designation as a PAL further add to its significance.

The survey area comprises part of the Grade II* Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden which is of National (High) Significance. As such any features associated with the reasons for designation of the RPG are also considered to be of National/High Significance. This includes the Deer Park boundary and any features associated with it. Any future research into Dunster Deer Park which provides further evidence for the design or layout of the woodland areas to the north of the Deer Park boundary in Rap Wood/Gallox Wood or within the Deer Park itself, particularly if in association with any 'known' individuals has the potential to increase their significance. Archaeological features which are not related to the Registered Park and Garden and its reasons for designation are likely to have a lower significance, although their lack of relation to the RPG would need to be demonstrated. Such features may have a local or possibly regional significance (e.g. evidence of pre parkland agriculture). The exception to this is any features associated with the Scheduled Monuments, including their setting, which are also accorded National/High Significance.

Overall therefore the survey area can be considered to have High Significance, and its setting, including views out from the Scheduled Monuments contributes to this.

9.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The majority of the archaeological sites discussed in this report are considered to be in relatively stable condition as a result of low visitor footfall on sites away from the main footpaths, a shift away from commercial forestry in a number of areas of the survey area and relatively static woodland in the remaining areas. The following are specific recommendations for the survey area; recommendations for the two scheduled monuments have been made separately below:

- The survival of historic paths and boundaries across the survey area has been recorded by this survey. It is recommended that any future work considers the location of these features and is designed in such a way as to prevent or reduce to a minimum any harmful impact on surviving historic paths and boundaries.
- Any groundworks within the Registered Park and Garden should consider the archaeological potential of the location and it is advised to consult an archaeologist prior to works taking place to determine whether archaeological works are recommended. Any works within the scheduled areas of the two scheduled monuments will require Scheduled Monument consent; advice from Historic England should be sought at the earliest opportunity.
- Vegetation management is required in a number of sites across the survey area (identified by Nicholas Pearson Partnership in the Parkland Management Plan). Where this is undertaken in areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, in particular if new management techniques are to be employed, it is recommended that consultation is undertaken with an archaeologist prior to commencement of works. The ENPA Archaeologist can be consulted in the first instance. In areas with statutory heritage designations this should also include consultation with Historic England.
- It is understood that the removal of commercial forestry plantations is being undertaken. While this is welcomed, particularly where it allows previously open views to be restored, care should be taken that replanting or regeneration does not negatively impact upon any archaeological features identified within these areas. This could include through scrub encroachment or shifting animal or people movements through these areas. This should be assessed on a site by site basis as features such as quarries are far less likely to suffer impacts than for example slight Prehistoric field systems.
- Monitoring of activities which are likely to cause harm to the historic assets within the Registered Park and Garden should be considered. Although not currently at levels likely to cause significant erosion, bike tracks were noted in a number of locations within the survey area including over a slightly collapsed section of the Deer Park Boundary (Figure 50). Should usage of the area for this purpose increase, it has the potential to cause significant harm to historic features located within it (e.g. historic boundaries, fragmentary prehistoric field systems, scheduled monuments).



FIGURE 50: BIKE TRACK OBSERVED ALONGSIDE AND CROSSING OVER DEER PARK BOUNDARY

9.1.1 BAT'S CASTLE

An assessment of Bat's Castle hillfort showed that erosion on the site is still relatively limited and does not appear to have increased in recent months/years. Very slight ridging was observed in the interior of the hillfort although this may be accentuated by the large number of anthills. The interior of the monument appears largely free of bracken, being mainly covered with whortleberry plants. Bracken was observed on the ramparts of the monument and in the ditch. Overall the condition of the monument appeared to be similar to that recorded by the Scheduled Monument Condition Survey in 2015 (Archaedia 2015), although with possibly slightly less bracken recorded in the interior of the monument.

Bat's Castle is currently on the Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England accessed 02/08/21). It is noted as being *generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems* with its major vulnerability being bracken and its condition 'declining'. It is evident that bracken management has been carried out and reduced between 2009 and 2015 (Archaedia 2015). Clearly long term continued investment in bracken management is required if re-establishment of bracken is to be prevented however given the spread of bracken within the surrounding area it is a considerable challenge to determine a sustainable approach to prevent bracken reencroachment on this site, given the options currently available.

There is some possible evidence of human movement of the exposed stones on the top of the ramparts however this appears to be low level and is noted as having been observed for many years (Archaedia 2015). It is likely that any mitigations aimed at preventing this could result in greater harm than attempting to stop this as other (previously undisturbed) areas could become vulnerable to this type of activity.

A clear path runs over the monument, entering it on the western side over an area of the rampart ditch which appears to have been filled in to create a causeway. It is unclear when exactly this occurred, although it is shown in this way on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map and therefore may be a historic feature of the designed landscape surrounding Dunster Castle, forming part of a Luttrell walk.

Recommendations:

- The unsympathetic stone cairn located within Bat's Castle with its interpretation board missing should be removed. It is currently encouraging erosion around its base (either by human footfall or ponies).
- The current path through the monument should be retained as it may be a historic route; limited erosion is already happening in this area and moving the path would create erosion on another part of the monument. A path around the monument could be created to reduce visitor footfall through the monument for those who do not wish to view the monument itself (e.g. regular dog walkers/visitors). This would be harder to achieve for the outwork to the east however it might still be possible.
- Removal of occasional wooden posts which were visible lying around the ramparts and outwork (seemingly the remains of anti-bike/vehicle/horse defences but now largely derelict) would enhance visitor experience of the monument.
- Improved interpretation of the monument would also add to the visitor experience (see section 9.3 below).
- Vegetation management, particularly of bracken, should be undertaken on and around the monument.
- Given the difficulties in managing the bracken and sustaining this over the longer term some non intrusive, and potentially subsequently intrusive, fieldwork (i.e. excavation) could be undertaken to ascertain the survival of below ground archaeology within and around the monument and to determine which areas are most susceptible to damage by bracken. This could inform the ongoing management of the monument in terms of vegetation management and erosion.
- Consideration should be given as to the suitability of locations for benches and other infrastructure within the vicinity of the monument. A memorial bench appears to have been placed close to the outer rampart and some erosion (most likely by ponies) is visible around it (Figure 51). Impacts upon the setting of the monument should be considered prior to the addition of any such features.
- Restoration of views out from the monument would greatly enhance its setting. This could be achieved by selective felling of trees, particularly those which inhibit intervisibility with other hillfort sites and subsequent management or replanting to prevent regeneration of the felled species.



FIGURE 51: MEMORIAL BENCH LOCATED CLOSE TO THE RAMPART OF BAT'S CASTLE WITH SOME EROSION VISIBLE.

9.1.2 BLACK BALL CAMP

An assessment of Black Ball Camp suggested that although some slight erosion is occurring on the monument due to human and animal access over the ramparts, this appears minimal. Bracken was observed within the interior of the monument. Bracken, rhododendrons and a conifer tree were also noted on the ramparts.

Black Ball Camp is currently on the Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England accessed 02/08/21). It is noted as having *extensive significant problems* with its major vulnerability being bracken and its condition 'declining'. Overall the condition of the monument appeared to be similar to that recorded by the Scheduled Monument Condition Survey in 2015 (Archaeia 2015). Clearly long term continued investment in bracken management is required if re-establishment of bracken is to be prevented however given the spread of bracken within the surrounding area it is a considerable challenge to determine a sustainable approach to prevent bracken reencroachment on this site, given the options currently available.

Recommendations:

- Improved interpretation of the monument would also add to the visitor experience (see section 9.3 below).
- Vegetation management, particularly of the bracken, rhododendron and trees should be undertaken on and around the monument.

- Given the difficulties in managing the bracken and sustaining this over the longer term some non intrusive, and potentially subsequently intrusive, fieldwork (i.e. excavation) could be undertaken to ascertain the survival of below ground archaeology within and around the monument and to determine which areas are most susceptible to damage by bracken. This could inform the ongoing management of the monument in terms of vegetation management and erosion.
- Restoration of views out from the monument would greatly enhance its setting which is particularly limited by plantations to the north and east of the monument. This could be achieved by selective felling of trees, particularly those which inhibit intervisibility with other hillfort sites and subsequent management or replanting to prevent regeneration of the felled species.

9.2 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

This survey has identified a number of archaeological features and potential archaeological features across the survey area. Further archaeological work is recommended as follows:

- The site was visited during the late spring when the ground vegetation cover including bracken was of a height not conducive to the identification of archaeological features. An analysis of the parkland under different ground conditions may yield different results. For example in late winter when bracken has died back. Short grass and low, raking sunlight would be more ideal conditions for the visibility of any surviving ridge and furrow ploughing within the parkland. It is probable however that given the combination of ground vegetation cover, ant hills and fallen deadwood in the plantations that unless substantial vegetation management were undertaken that conditions for the identification of archaeological features is unlikely to improve sufficiently to warrant a resurvey.
- Sites which may warrant a re-visit or further survey work are the quarry/possible site of Holway House (No 11 in this report) which may be easier to determine whether a possible location of a building under different ground conditions; and the 'sheds/barns' (No 2 in this report) located on the eastern side of the survey area. Earthwork survey of the surviving remains and the boundaries in the landscape immediately around them may provide a greater understanding of the form, date and function of these structures and any enclosures accompanying them.
- This survey has indicated survival of some parts of the paths and boundaries shown on historic mapping. More detailed recording of these surviving features, is needed to fully understand the survival of the paths added by the Luttrells in the mid to late 19th century and their intentions in constructing these (e.g. whether they form part of picturesque walks)
- Nicholas Pearson Partnership have identified a photograph which is believed to show a gothic arch close to an entrance into the Deer Park. It is possible that this was at Park Gate but is uncertain. Further documentary research may reveal more about this structure and its original location (e.g. diaries or accounts could document its removal or reuse elsewhere on the estate). No evidence of such a structure was observed during walkover survey however any groundworks in areas which may have a reasonable potential to be the location of this feature should consult an archaeologist to determine whether further archaeological work is needed, prior to commencement of groundworks.

- A monitoring and repair schedule should be considered for the historic Deer Park boundary. This is currently in variable condition and is in need of regular monitoring and maintenance to prevent decay and/or loss of this feature. Any works involving the Deer Park boundary should consider whether a programme of archaeological works is needed. This may include works such as boundary restoration or replacement of fences in close proximity to the boundary.
- A significant number of quarries and extractive pits were identified within the survey area, some not previously recorded on the ENPHER. Future research could consider the role of these quarries within the Dunster Estate and, combined with documentary research, may be able to define a more accurate date for these features.
- The historic parkland at Dunster Castle would historically have enabled views out (and in) to the surrounding landscape; both prior to emparking in prehistory from the defensive sites which were located on a ridge specifically for this purpose, but also as part of the designed landscape of the Luttrell's Estate. More recent additions of plantations, often for commercial forestry have removed or inhibited historic views outwards, and in the case of the prehistoric sites, the loss of intervisibility with similar sites located on surrounding high ground has impacted upon their setting. It is recognised that in some cases that screening of surrounding development could be beneficial however consideration should be given to the location of future plantations to ensure that historically significant views are compromised as little as possible.

9.3 INTERPRETATION AND ACCESS

Public access to Dunster Deer Park is generally good with a number of public footpaths, bridleways and an area of access land within the survey area. The area appears to be popular with visitors with a number of walkers sighted during the walkover survey including a walking group or guided walk.

Interpretation of the Deer Park is more challenging and although access through the large deer fence gates, some with signage about deer and ponies, indicates to visitors they are entering an area which is different to the surrounding part it is probably not apparent to casual walkers that they are within a historic Deer Park. Small laminated A4 landscape posters were observed on some of the Deer Park boundary gates (done by Exmoor National Park Authority) which provided information on the prehistoric landscape with a reconstruction illustration of Bat's Castle (Figure 52). These posters provide useful information to visitors and their location away from the monument on a modern fence/access point appears excellent however their small size and the fact they are made of laminated paper means that although they appear only to have been in position for about a year they are fading and difficult for those with poorer eyesight to read. The signs direct people towards the ENPHER for more information which is a good source of detailed information but is probably less helpful for visitors just wanting more general information about the landscape/Luttrell Family/Deer Park. Interpretation panels of more durable materials in a larger size in this location would be a good way of communicating information about this exceptional prehistoric and post medieval landscape with visitors. Adding a QR code to scan on a smartphone which would link to a website with more information about the historic landscape or possibly even specific HER records (although this could be more challenging for the general reader) would be an option. Potentially this could be done in partnership with the National Trust to engage visitors with the whole Dunster Castle Estate.



FIGURE 52: INTERPRETATION BOARD FIXED TO DEER PARK BOUNDARY FENCE.

National initiatives such as Heritage Open Days could provide opportunities to promote a greater understanding of Dunster Deer Park and could include events which provide opportunities to engage with visitors and provide interpretation or walks to parts of the Deer Park which are less visited. This could be undertaken in conjunction with Exmoor National Park Authority and/or the National Trust.

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11.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: FEATURES DETERMINED NOT TO BE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORIGIN

The following features were identified through analysis of LiDAR imagery and walkover survey of the survey area at Dunster Deer Park but were determined through walkover survey not to be of archaeological origin.

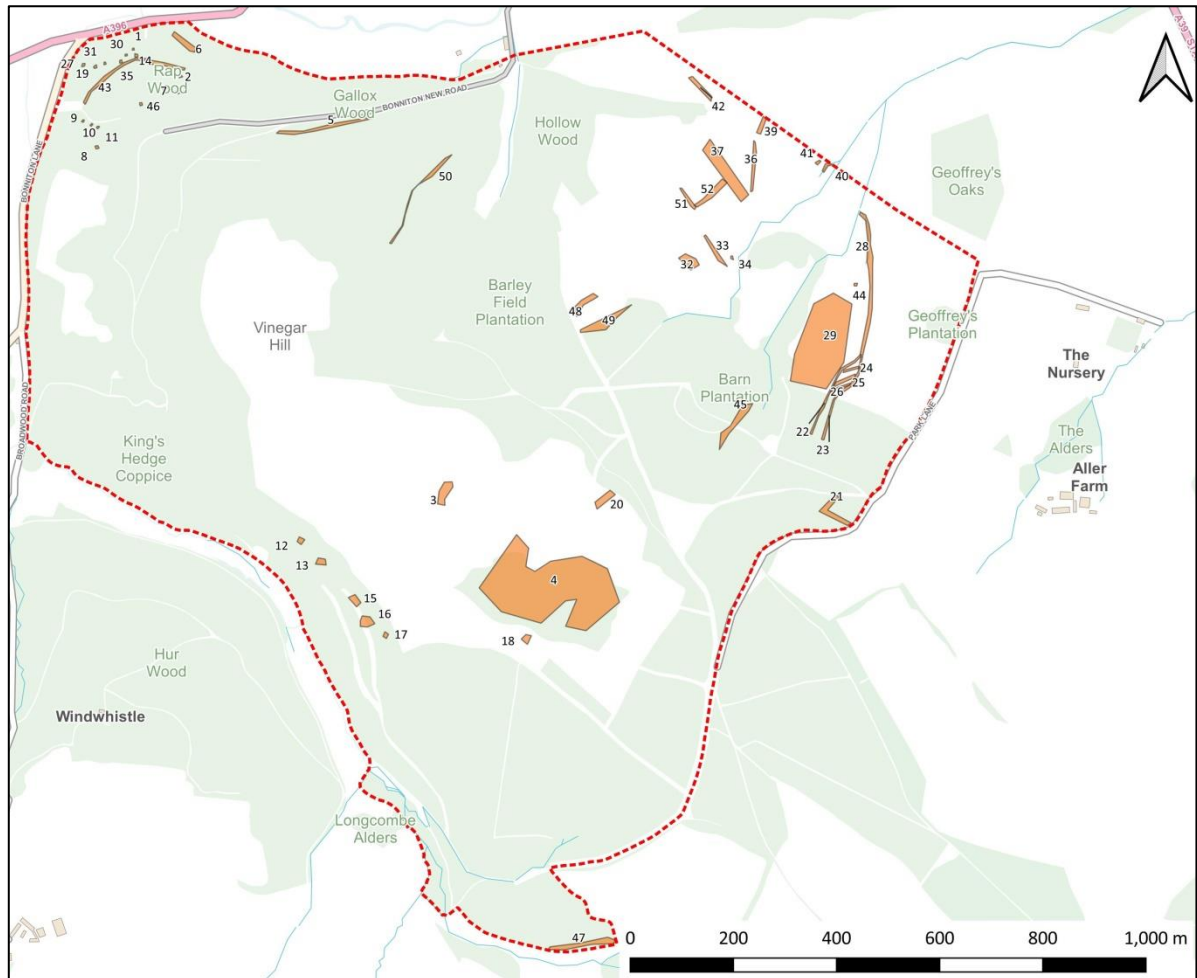


FIGURE 53: MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF FEATURES DETERMINED NOT TO BE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORIGIN

TABLE 4: FEATURES DETERMINED TO BE NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL IN ORIGIN

No	Source	LiDAR Identification	Walkover Survey
1	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
2	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
3	LiDAR	Curved feature	Possible access into hillfort but doesn't appear to form part of a pathway. Could be result of vegetation/water runoff.
4	LiDAR	Tree planting ridges	Visible on the ground
5	LiDAR	Linear	Appears likely to be a relatively modern track/path probably for forestry purposes. Deadwood appears to have been stacked along the north side at the eastern end possibly extending length on LiDAR
6	LiDAR	Possible bank/boundary feature	Appears to be part of a series of probably natural terraces which extend to the south around the

			hillside
7	LiDAR	Possible mound or hollow	Tree Throw
8	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
9	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
10	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
11	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
12	LiDAR	Possible mound	Located on steep slope. Nothing visible. Probable tree throw
13	LiDAR	Possible mound	Located on steep slope. Nothing visible. Probable tree throw
14	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
15	LiDAR	Possible mound or depression	Nothing visible in this location - just forestry track
16	LiDAR	Possible mound or depression	Nothing visible in this location, just forestry track
17	LiDAR	Possible mound	Not visible. Probable tree throw
18	LiDAR	Possible mound or depression	Nothing evident possibly just vegetation
19	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
20	LiDAR	Possible linear	Steep slope covered in dense bracken - nothing visible.
21	LiDAR	Possible boundary features	Change in ground level but no evident features
22	LiDAR	Linear - possible stream	Stream
23	LiDAR	Linear - possible stream	Stream
24	LiDAR	Linear	Probably naturally formed channels between the streams
25	LiDAR	Linear	Probably naturally formed channels between the streams
26	LiDAR	Linear	Probably naturally formed channels between the streams
27	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Possible Tree Throw. Hollow 2m x 1.5 m rectilinear
28	LiDAR	Stream	Stream
29	LiDAR	Area of linears oriented north-south, possibly geological	Appears likely to be natural terracing
30	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
31	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
32	LiDAR	Possible feature. May be natural ground level change	Nothing visible on the ground but very vegetated, bracken etc.
33	LiDAR	Linear	Appears to be a change in slope/level
34	LiDAR	Possible depression	Probably spring head
35	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
36	LiDAR	Linear possible track	Track/path
37	LiDAR	Linear - natural combe?	Appears to be natural
39	LiDAR	Linear - possibly part of	Modern services markers indicate this is a modern

		boundary continuing north	pipeline
40	LiDAR	Linear	Small stream
41	LiDAR	Linear	Small Stream
42	LiDAR	Linear	Probably natural/geological
43	LiDAR	Trackway not shown on maps	Appears likely to be a modern forestry track utilising in part historic routes
44	LiDAR	Possible mound	No clear feature - possibly a large splayed fallen tree
45	LiDAR	Linears	Very slight rise where path cuts across but very wet area - feature possibly defined by streams appears to be no continuation north or south
46	LiDAR	Possible depression or hollow	Tree Throw
47	LiDAR	Linear	Located on steep slope. Probable modern forestry access
48	LiDAR	Linear	Probably natural landform
49	LiDAR	Linears	Probably natural landform
50	LiDAR	Possible track	Modern path
51	LiDAR	Linear	Unclear on ground but may be natural change of level where hill slopes to path
52	LiDAR	Linears	Probable natural/geological part of hillside

APPENDIX 2: MAP SHOWING FEATURES ALREADY IDENTIFIED ON THE ENPHER AND FEATURES IDENTIFIED BY THIS SURVEY

The map below shows all of the archaeological or potential archaeological features identified within the survey area. Features already within the ENPHER are labelled with their HER number (See Table 1) while features identified by this survey are labelled with numbers corresponding to Table 2.



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