

Wigford Down

Premier Archaeological Landscape

Dartmoor National Park, Devon

A new survey

March 2020



Southwest Landscape Investigations



Dr Phil Newman MCI(A), FSA

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(Minor amendments June 2020)

Survey and report by:
Dr Phil Newman MCI(A), FSA
Southwest Landscape Investigations
www.philnew.co.uk

on behalf of:
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Summary

An archaeological survey of the Wigford Down Premier Archaeological Landscape (PAL) was requested by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) Historic Environment Team in early 2020. This survey was commissioned to provide an up to date, geographically and metrically accurate record of heritage assets within the open moorland areas of Wigford Down, and has been funded jointly by DNPA, National Trust, and Historic England. This information is required to aid the DNPA and its partners, in fulfilling its aims as set out in its Management Plan 2014-19, and beyond, to ensure that:

Dartmoor's outstanding archaeological and historic landscapes are well managed, understood and enjoyed, and the character of its distinctive historic built environment is conserved and enhanced.

Following a desktop survey, fieldwork was undertaken to establish the character and extent of previously recorded archaeological sites and to assess the accuracy of data held by the DNPA HER. Also, to investigate any sites of potential interest revealed through the desktop survey, but not previously recorded. This included any features that may be visible on 1m LiDAR, as well as on satellite photography.

Survey was carried out using dual-frequency GPS to produce a 1:2500 scale geo-referenced map, to include all known accessible archaeological features within the PAL. These included prehistoric cairns, hut circles, settlements enclosures and reaves; medieval farmsteads, abandoned fields and cultivation evidence; tinworking from the medieval, post-medieval periods.

A number of sites were selected for large-scale survey at scales of between 1:100 and 1:1000, depending on the individual merits of the site. Sites surveyed at large scale, include twelve cairns, a hut circle settlement, individual hut circles, two medieval farmsteads and a tinnerns' reservoir.

Primary documentary sources were investigated where possible and antiquarian publications were utilised as well as cartographic sources.

The reporting stage includes a summary description of archaeology within the PAL, and updated locations, descriptions and comments have been prepared (66 in total) for insertion into the DNPA HER, included here as a gazetteer, and all surveyed sites have been output as .shp files at 1:2500 scale for inclusion in the DNPA GIS. A statement of significance has been compiled, exploring period and categories of assets as well as the holistic overview.

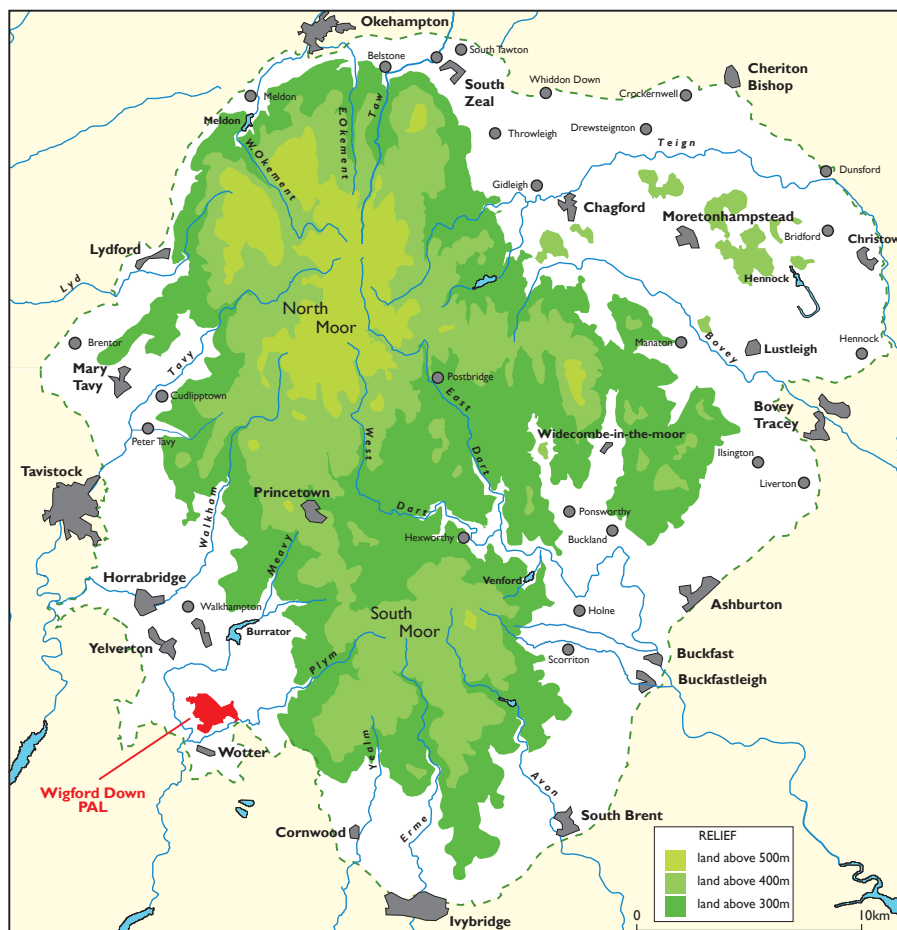


Figure 1 Location of the Wigford Down PAL survey, southwest Dartmoor.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Wigford Down Premier Archaeological Landscape (PAL; see below) covers 182ha of moorland, within the southwest sector of Dartmoor National Park, wholly within Meavy Parish.

Wigford Down is an isolated portion of the Dartmoor upland, surrounded on all sides by enclosed farmland, or on the southwest corner, by steep wooded slopes. The central ridge of the Down runs southwest from its highest, approximately central, point at 273m above OD and gradually develops into the prominent steep-sided spur of land known as the Dewerstone, 1.5km to the southwest, formed by the confluence of the rivers Meavy and Plym. South of the ridge, the slope gradually steepens as it enters the enclosed lands of Cadworthy, leading down to the River Plym, which defines the southern base of the hill. The western side of the down is characterised by moderate slopes which merge into the enclosed farmland leading down to the River Meavy 100m below. On the north side of Wigford Down a broad, deep 770m-long tinwork, known as Greenwell Gert, has hollowed out a valley originally formed by a small stream, and marks the limit of the Down, north and northwest of which lies Catstor Down. The eastern side of the Down is defined by the road from Cadover Bridge to Hoo Meavy, which also marks the limit of enclosed lands of Durrance and Brisworthy to the east, although some enclosure has encroached onto the western side of the road on the slope of Wigford Down.

The geology of the area is dominated by granite. Wigford Down lies mainly within an outlying western peninsula of the Dartmoor Granite Mass, although on the very eastern edge of the Down superficial Quaternary deposits of clay silt and gravels are also recorded. The eponymous 'Wigford Down type', granite found within this corner of Dartmoor, is a form of granite, which has notably smaller feldspar megacrysts compared to the richer forms of the main Dartmoor mass (Knox and Jackson, 1990, 247). Within the PAL study area there is a lack of tors or outcrops, beyond the impressive examples of the Dewerstone and Oxen Tor, which both lie outside the PAL. However, granite is manifest in patches of the Down by the presence of moorstone, which has served as a plentiful supply of building material in this locality over at least 4 millennia. This south-western corner of Dartmoor is well-known for its kaolin deposits and the china clay industry that has, and continues to exploit it, which is extensive on nearby Shaugh Moor. The eastern fringe of Wigford Down has evidence of clay working, though affecting a relatively small area compared with that to the south of the River Plym.

Grazing of sheep, ponies and cattle forms the basis of current land management in the entire PAL, assisted by occasional swaling.

Vegetation cover varies over this very large area, but is dominated by low moorland species, of grass, heather, wortleberry, bramble and gorse etc. Bracken affects some areas of the Down in the summer months from late May onwards. However, as a whole the area is not as densely covered by bracken as some areas of Dartmoor at similar altitude, though several key assets do become overwhelmed in the summer months.

2.0 DARTMOOR'S PREMIER ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES (PALS)

The designation of Premier Archaeological Landscape (PAL), to certain areas of Dartmoor, was agreed as part of the Vision for Dartmoor's Moorland Project in 2005. Under this initiative, 14 areas of the uplands were identified as having high archaeological value, including some of national significance, which require specialist forms of conservation within future moorland management schemes. The agreement, made between the statutory agencies involved, including DNPA, Natural England and English Heritage (now Historic England), states that:

the management requirements of the historically important features, especially archaeology, will take precedence over that required for their ecology. In addition to protecting the historic environment it is also recognised that the PALS will need to be managed in a way to ensure they can be appreciated in their entirety. Future land management will need to be appropriate.

Of the fourteen separate PALS, each has a unique combination of elements contributing to its heritage significance, varying from prehistoric ritual, settlement and land division, through medieval farming to post-medieval mineral extraction. Baseline surveys, which record the archaeological substance of each of the PALS, are an essential basis for their conservation, enabling management decisions to be driven by reliable, consistent data as to location, character and significance of individual features and their group value. With specific reference to the Wigford Down PAL:

This PAL has high heritage value due to the preservation of both its prehistoric and medieval landscape assets. It contains a small though well preserved prehistoric field system with long straight parallel field boundaries (reaves), which cross the landscape, and many sub-divided plots, with a good number of surviving hut circles, some of which may be considered exemplars. Evidence for the later adaptation of this landscape in the medieval period demonstrates how the prehistoric features were fossilised and added to by later settlers who also built longhouse dwellings, two of which have foundations surviving in good condition.

Wigford Down is one of five PALs which hold the designation, mostly on the basis of their parallel reave systems and round-house settlements, dating from the early-mid 2nd millennium BC (others being Dartmeet, Rippon Tor, Shaugh Moor and Throwleigh Common). There is also an impressive group of prehistoric round cairns, as well as elements of medieval farming mentioned above. Nine of the PALs were surveyed to the required consistent standard by the English Heritage archaeological survey team between 2000 and 2009. Rippon Tor and the Upper Erme Valley were surveyed by Southwest Landscape Investigations (Newman 2015; Newman 2018), but the Wigford Down PAL was one of three remaining PALs that had never been subject to a thorough, accurate ground survey of its archaeology. Although OS surveyors located and depicted some key monuments, previous survey has been restricted, mostly, to aerial photographic plotting. Other Dartmoor PALs, as yet un-surveyed, include, Walkhampton Common and Ugborough Moor. These remain a priority for future investigations.

2.1 Other designations

Wigford Down PAL lies within Dartmoor National Park. It is common land and freely accessible to the public as designated Access Land.

Eight heritage assets, or groups of assets, within the PAL are designated as scheduled monuments (SMs), considered of national importance and therefore protected by the state. Within the total SMs, four assets, or groups of assets, are included in the EH 2019 *Heritage at Risk Register* and judged to be in need of conservation measures (SM Nos 1002550; 1002523, 1002548, 1003057).

3.0 PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Devon's earliest map, by Benjamin Donn, published in 1765, shows only blank white space where Wigford Down would be, although by the 1780s, the date of the first Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping old series, surveyed between 1784-6 (Harley & O'Donoghue 1977, Fig. 5) and published 1809, the Down is shown with its ridge of high ground accurately shaded. The extent of enclosure and much of the road network is depicted, although the road from Durance Corner to Catstor Down was not then in place. One feature that is depicted, surprisingly, is Greenwell Gert, a massive tinwork that runs across the northern end of Wigford, discussed below (p. 10). By 1886, when the OS 25-inch County Series for this area was first surveyed, more detail of the tinwork was added and some of the antiquities were included, though this was restricted only to the four sepulchral monuments on the summit of the hill. By the 1904 2nd edition, ten hut circles were added to the map, and whereas on the 1886 version the Wigford Down China Clay Works is depicted as a small affair and labelled as 'disused', by 1904 it had clearly expanded.



Figure 2 Ordnance survey 1st edition 1 inch to 1 mile map Old Series published 1809 (surveyed 1784-6) Sheet 25. Note the extent of Greenwell Gert is depicted (see Tinworking, below).

By 1900, some of the prehistoric cairns had come to the attention of the Barrow Committee of the Devonshire Association (Worth 1900, 48), but most were not recorded until the 1930s and 1940s (Worth 1943). By then, nearly all had suffered disturbance through unrecorded interventions, probably centuries earlier. Judging by the early 20th-century OS mapping, the location of many antiquities on Wigford Down was well known, so it is surprising that no recorded excavations by the Dartmoor Exploration Committee (DEC) have taken place within the hut circles, despite the easy access to the Down and the impressive appearance of some of the huts.

Wigford Down was the focus of a study by Price (1978), who undertook an aerial photo plot, using stereoscopic plotting techniques to prepare a small-scale map of the field systems and other features visible (Price 1978, Fig. 1). His plan appears to contain a good level of detail but it was not geo-referenced and appears to rely on a certain amount of ground sketching. Some analysis was included with Price's report.

Another AP plot was attempted in the 1980s by the RCHME Aerial Photo Unit. This also contains much detail, but unfortunately the survey is somewhat inaccurate and was never ground verified. It includes much that does not exist on the ground, so its usefulness is limited to reconnaissance only. A more reliable use of AP plotting was published by Butler (1994), who provided colour interpretive plans and large-scale drawings of three of the ruined cairns in his published volume.

Period-specific landscape studies that have incorporated features on Wigford Down, include coverage of the prehistoric reaves and settlements by Radford (1952) Fox (1954) and Fleming (1978; 1988; 2008), although no survey of the Down occurred as part of these publications.

The medieval farmsteads on Wigford Down are conspicuous by their absence in Linehan's seminal work on Dartmoor deserted settlements (1966) and were first recorded by Haynes in 1966 with additional detail being added by Price in 1978, who also considered the context and associated medieval agricultural landscape.

Beyond the regular condition inspections of scheduled monuments, visits to any of the sites on Wigford Down by government appointed heritage professionals has been extremely limited, since the OS Archaeological Division updated their records in the 1970s. Both recording/survey and designation are well behind many other areas of Dartmoor as a result, the latter being particularly unsystematic, considering the quality of the assets.

4.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGY - SUMMARY

(nb: detailed descriptions of individual assets are contained in the appendix, with the exception of the parallel reave system and medieval field system, which are covered below. Numbers in brackets refer to DNPA HER numbers, normally preceded by the letters MDV)

The Wigford Down survey was carried out during February and March 2020. The work was slowed by the extremely wet weather in February and Early March, extending the period of continuous wet weather, which had begun in October 2019. However, the survey was greatly eased by a lack of vegetation cover, due to an area of burn off on the northern slope, which had occurred not long before, making many heritage assets more visible than they had been for many years.

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.2 Round cairns

The earliest extant archaeological assets, within the project area are the round cairns or barrows, which may have origins from the late 3rd to mid 2nd millennium BC, covering the late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age. Some were certainly funerary monuments and contained one or more interments (burials/ cremations) although there is no certainty that all were used in this way and some may have had other, more subtle roles. Where interments have been archaeologically excavated on Dartmoor, including at Wigford, traces of human remains rarely survive, but the material possessions of the occupants, such as weapons, pottery and items of personal adornment, often do remain and have been retrieved. These cairns vary greatly in size, form and condition, although the majority were subject to unrecorded investigations in search of artefacts, in the three and a half millennia since their abandonment. This is evident through the existence of pits and other signs of disturbance.

Fourteen cairns have been investigated and confirmed during the 2020 survey, of which 13 have been surveyed at large scale (Figs 4 - 8). An additional feature (2300), previously recorded as a cairn circle, was also surveyed but it is now believed to be a heavily robbed hut circle rather than a cairn. Three categories have been identified, wherein most numerous are straightforward mounds, sometimes referred to as bowl barrows. Although disguised by turf, these mounds were constructed from stone and survive as slightly domed structures. An approximate alignment of six of these cairns, plus one

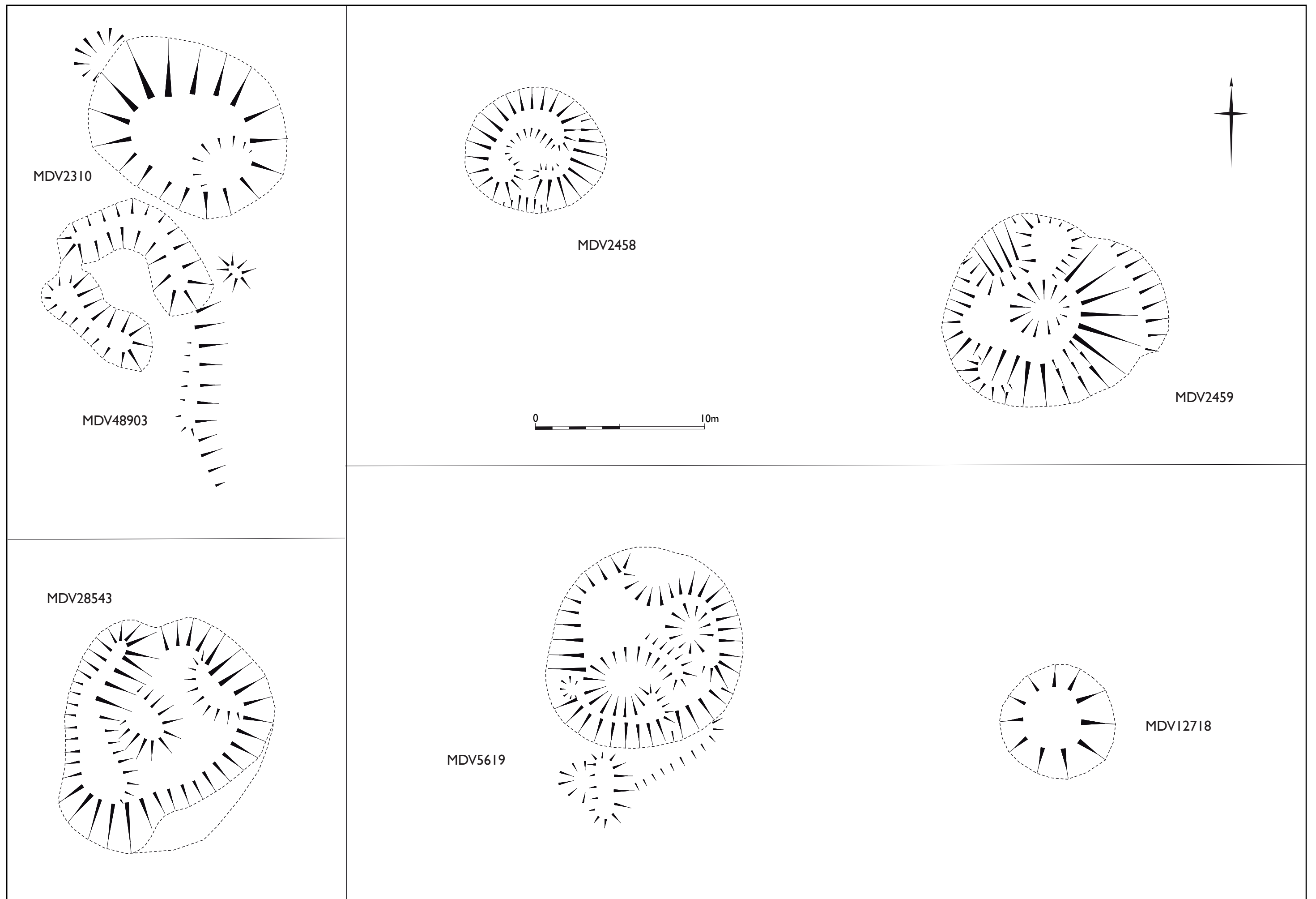


Figure 4 1:200 scale survey of cairns on the eastern slope of Wigford Down. See Fig 3 and 18 for arrangement of cairn alignment.

ring cairn, survives on the eastern side of the Down, extending 430m between the 230m and 260m contours (Fig. 4). All six have been disturbed where the fabric of some has become spread and misshapen as a result (28543; 5619). The largest has a diameter of between 12m and 14m with smaller examples of 6m.

A further, much larger, example of a cairn, which was, probably, originally of similar appearance, is sited on the approximate summit of the Down (2312)(Fig. 5), and is one of a group of cairns at this location. Very little of the character or extent of this structure remains to describe but a scarp of approximately 0.5m high in the form of an arc on the northwest side of the feature may indicate part of the original outer circumference of a raised bowl barrow. Over half of the structure has been removed on the southeast side, where nothing of substance remains, but a rough robber scarp delineates the edge of the disturbance. It probably had an overall diameter of 26m or more. All that survives within the raised area is stony, turf-covered, undulating ground containing several small robber pits. In 1943, R. H. Worth reported that this cairn was much disturbed and topped by a wartime observation post. Apart from the disturbance, no evidence of this episode can be identified today; a stony heap in the approximate centre of this feature represents modern interference. Prior to that time, the cairn must have been a more substantive structure, and was the only 'tumuli' on 'Wifford Down' to be listed in the VCH (Page 1906, 627).

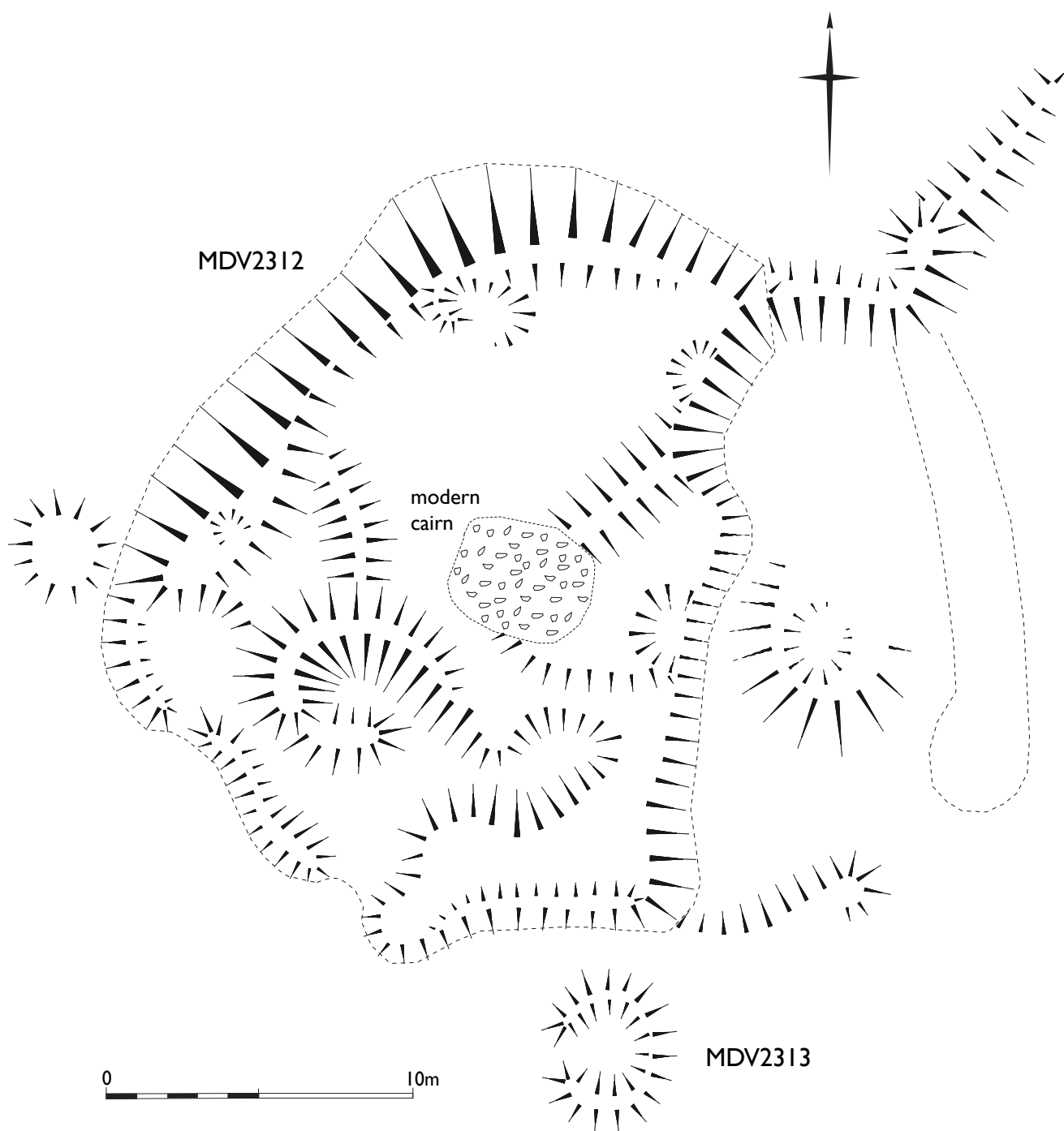


Figure 5 A large very disturbed cairn on the summit of Wigford Down.

A denuded and much ruined circular kerbed cairn (2367), just south of the summit, was probably once also buried beneath a stony mound, which has since been almost totally removed (Fig. 6). Four large *in-situ* upright slabs and one fallen, are all that remain of the retaining kerb of this cairn, which had an internal diameter of 6.4m.

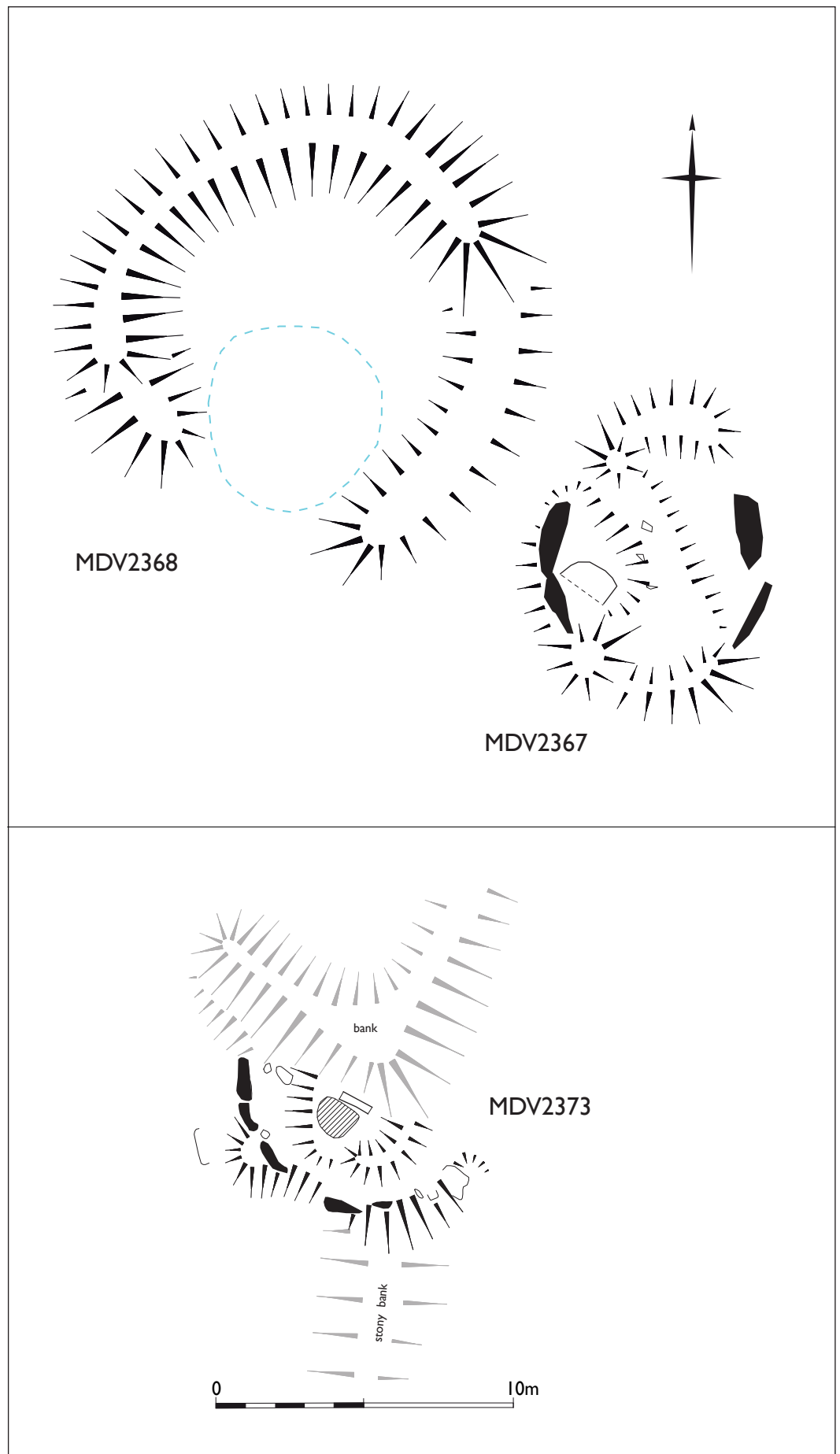


Figure 6 (top) A ring cairn and a very ruinous kerbed cairn, south of the Wigford Down summit. (lower) A disturbed cairn with a central cist and outer retaining kerb. Badly disturbed when built into a wall.

A few metres to the west of the kerb cairn, is a fine example of another category of cairn, namely the ring cairns. These are less common on the Dartmoor uplands, and their remains are often more subtle and less frequently disturbed. These are essentially stone rings, arranged rather than built, that have become covered by turf over time. They are rarely complete circles and usually have an opening or breach somewhere within the circumference. This example (2368) (Fig. 6) comprises an penannular earthwork bank with a base width of up to 4.6m wide and 0.5m high. The bank has a 5m-wide opening with bull nose terminals on the southwest circumference, suggesting it may be an original feature. The overall external diameter of the cairn is 16.8m with an internal maximum of 9m.

Among the alignment of cairns on the east side of the Down, is another ring cairn candidate (48903) (Fig. 4). This is a rather subtle and incomplete, approximately circular, or penannular, feature with an overall diameter of 8.8m. Its status as a ring cairn is questionable on account of its rather inconsistent form and small proportions. It also has a linear bank, which extends from the terminal on the western side of the opening and is not a normal feature of cairns.

An approximately oval earthwork hollow, artificially embanked around its perimeter, lies on the summit of Wigford Down (Fig. 7). The hollow now retains water during wet conditions, and its original purpose has become a subject for debate as it has been previously described as a ring cairn, a pound, an enclosure and a pond, though its location, adjacent to a heavily robbed prehistoric cairn (2312) may be significant and an association between the two is possible. R. H. Worth described the feature as a ring cairn, though he also mentions that a bowl barrow that the ring bank once surrounded had been removed for roadstone (Worth 1943, 54). This seems unlikely because the large scale OS map of the 1880s, depicts and describes the feature as an enclosure, so its appearance then was similar to that which it has now. It is likely that the barrow Worth was describing was the one a few metres to the north (2312), which certainly had been extensively robbed. The surface of the rainwater pond measures 22m by 12m. The interior is level and so the water that accumulates during wet periods does not exceed a depth 0.15m and evaporates rapidly. This is surrounded by a turf-covered stony bank, which has overall dimensions of 31m by 20m by up to 4m wide and up to 0.4m high. On the south side of the bank, water, when overflowing from the pond, has eroded the soil away, exposing a stony base.

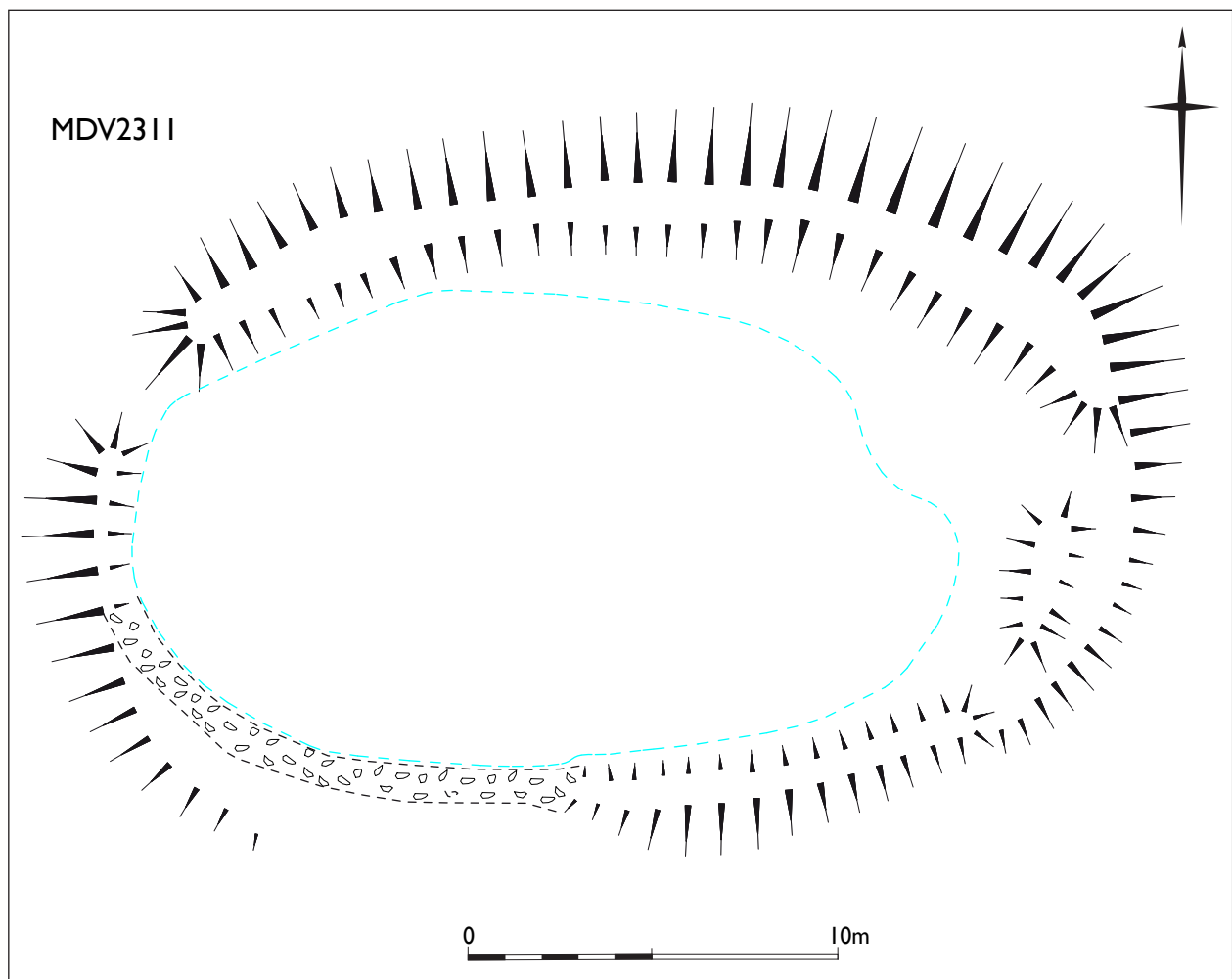


Figure 7 An elliptical earthwork on the summit of Wigford Down, considered to be a ring cairn, which contains water at times of downpour.

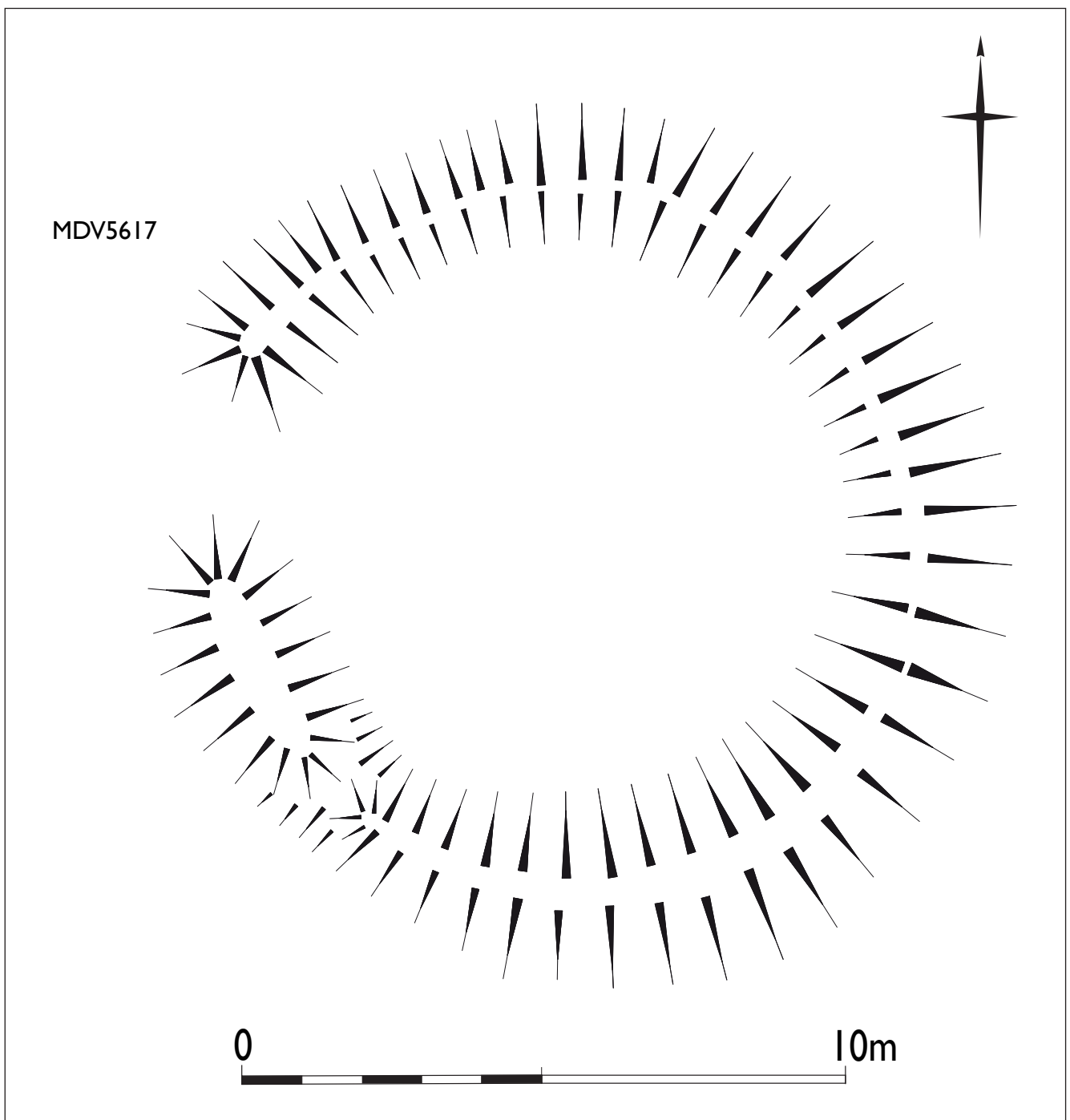


Figure 8 1: 100 scale survey of a circular earthwork, previously recorded as a hut circle, but is potentially a ring cairn.

A circular structure, previously recorded as a hut circle, (5617) though of an untypical construction method, compared with other huts in this locality, may be a candidate for ring cairn status (Fig. 8). The circle is large, regular and undisturbed and appears to have been constructed from small stones, now evenly covered by turf. One partly exposed section shows that some of the stones were laid in courses and the walls contain no orthostats. The external diameter is a constant 14.4m, with a measurable internal diameter of 8.8m and the bank does not appear to be spread, standing to a height of only 0.4m. A 1.7m-wide opening cuts through the western arc of the wall, but no door jambs are present, standing or fallen. The construction method of the circle and state of survival is comparable to ring cairns elsewhere on Dartmoor, such as on Stall Moor, which would offer a more likely interpretation for this asset. Although a further, alternative explanation for such a regular well-preserved circular structure could be that it was a more recent military asset, its vegetation-covered appearance on a 1946 AP, would rule out a WW2 gun pit or the like of.

Only one cairn on Wigford Down (2373) has visible evidence of a human interment (Fig. 6). This is a badly disturbed cist with displaced coverstone and vestiges of a retaining circle surviving *in situ*. Although previously opened and disturbed, it was re-excavated by R. H. Worth in 1900, but produced only two small sherds of pot. Only five slabs of the retaining circle survive set approximately on edge *in situ*, suggesting the overall diameter of the complete circle was 8.35m. The long slabs

of the central cist are also *in situ* and the chamber appears intact. A large, flat cover stone is displaced, lying to the south of the chamber. Approximately 60% of the cairn remains visible due to its location being chosen as the point where a later wall has a right angle corner with an adjoining wall branching from it, covering the northern portion of the cairn and several of the kerb stones have been robbed by wall builders.

4.1.3 Reaves and settlements (Fig. 3)

The purpose and origin of the reaves has been thoroughly discussed by others and there is no requirement to repeat or extend that discussion here. It is sufficient to state that reaves were linear boundaries, or land divisions, constructed from stone, now mostly ruined, spread and turf covered, which divided some areas of the landscape into strips of various extent and have been dated to the early to mid second millennium BC. Surviving reaves are usually as straight as the topography allows, though often ignoring it, running across river valleys and over the rocky outcrops of tors. They frequently run in close parallel, hence the term 'parallel reaves' and many parallel reaves following a similar axis can be defined as a system. These systems appear to follow a design, or evolved as a scheme, rather than through piecemeal unplanned expansion. Cross-reaves, at 90° to and between the parallel reaves, were often used to form rectilinear plots that vary in extent. Many hut circles (the evidence of prehistoric round houses) in the vicinity of reaves may be identified as having a close chronological relationship with them, either isolated examples or forming neighbourhood groups nestling between the reaves, sometimes within small plots linked to, or incorporating, the reaves.

The prehistoric landscape, was not entirely made up of reaves and associated settlements; other, less regular forms of hut settlements within sub-circular, amorphous enclosures, or a completely open plan, often isolated, also survive. The construction style of these enclosures was usually very similar to that of the reaves. They were not usually physically incorporated into reave systems, nor formed part of the scheme, though they may have been contemporary with, or in some cases, later than the reaves, when components of the reave systems may have been adopted within their construction. Alternatively their construction and early period of occupation, may pre-date the reaves, which were laid out around them.

Reaves and enclosure walls that have survived are always constructed from stone, either in the form of buried walls built from stacked stones, or as lines of upright orthostats arranged to form a barrier, with smaller stones filling the gaps. Survival and condition depend on environmental variables, including past human intervention. For some, the upstanding granite boulders, although displaced, remain very visible and appear unscathed. However, reaves and walls were often robbed of their usable stones, in which case what remains is a linear rubble line formed by smaller stones, which have become partly or fully turf covered over time. The depth of the turf covering may vary, making some reaves difficult to observe on the ground; differences in vegetation are sometimes the main visible clue as to their presence and alignment. In lower-lying or wet ground, the reaves may have become overwhelmed by peat or by bog, where little or no trace is currently perceivable.

Wigford Down is especially valued for its prehistoric parallel reave system and associated settlements. Although all the reaves and some elements of the settlements on the Down, together may be seen to have a layout representing a scheme, this can be divided into separate elements within that layout for descriptive purposes.

Perhaps the most significant element of the Wigford Down reave system is the Eylesbarrow Watershed Reave (48901), which can be traced from the Eylesbarrow Cairns 5.8km northeast of Wigford Down. It runs across the head of Sheepstor Brook and Ringmoor Down before entering Wigford Down, thereby connecting its apparently free-standing parallel system to other components of the prehistoric landscape within the Plym valley. It ascends the eastern slope of the Down, then runs approximately level, just below and to the east of the summit ridge for 525m before making its southern descent through the enclosed land of Cadworthy to the River Plym, where it probably terminated. On the eastern slope of Wigford, below this reave, there is no trace of contemporary land division, but to the west it acts as a terminal for four additional reaves joining it at right angles on the northwest side, all of which are components of a well developed parallel reave system (2219).

These parallel reaves run northwest to meet, a second reave (referred to here as the central reave) that runs on a similar northeast-southwest course, to the Eylesbarrow Watershed Reave, though with deviations, between 300 and 400m away, on the western crest of the summit and confined only to Wigford Down. These two reaves, and the parallel reaves adjoining them form the framework for several other parts of the system. For example, near the southern extremity of the study area (2219), a series of irregular ruined walls attached to either side of the central reave have created a number of small attached enclosures, dispersed among which are the remains of four or possibly five hut circles, arranged in two pairs, forming a neighbourhood group contained within this sub-system.

Northeast of this group, attached to the western side of the central reave, is an irregular 'D' shaped enclosure (12896). This

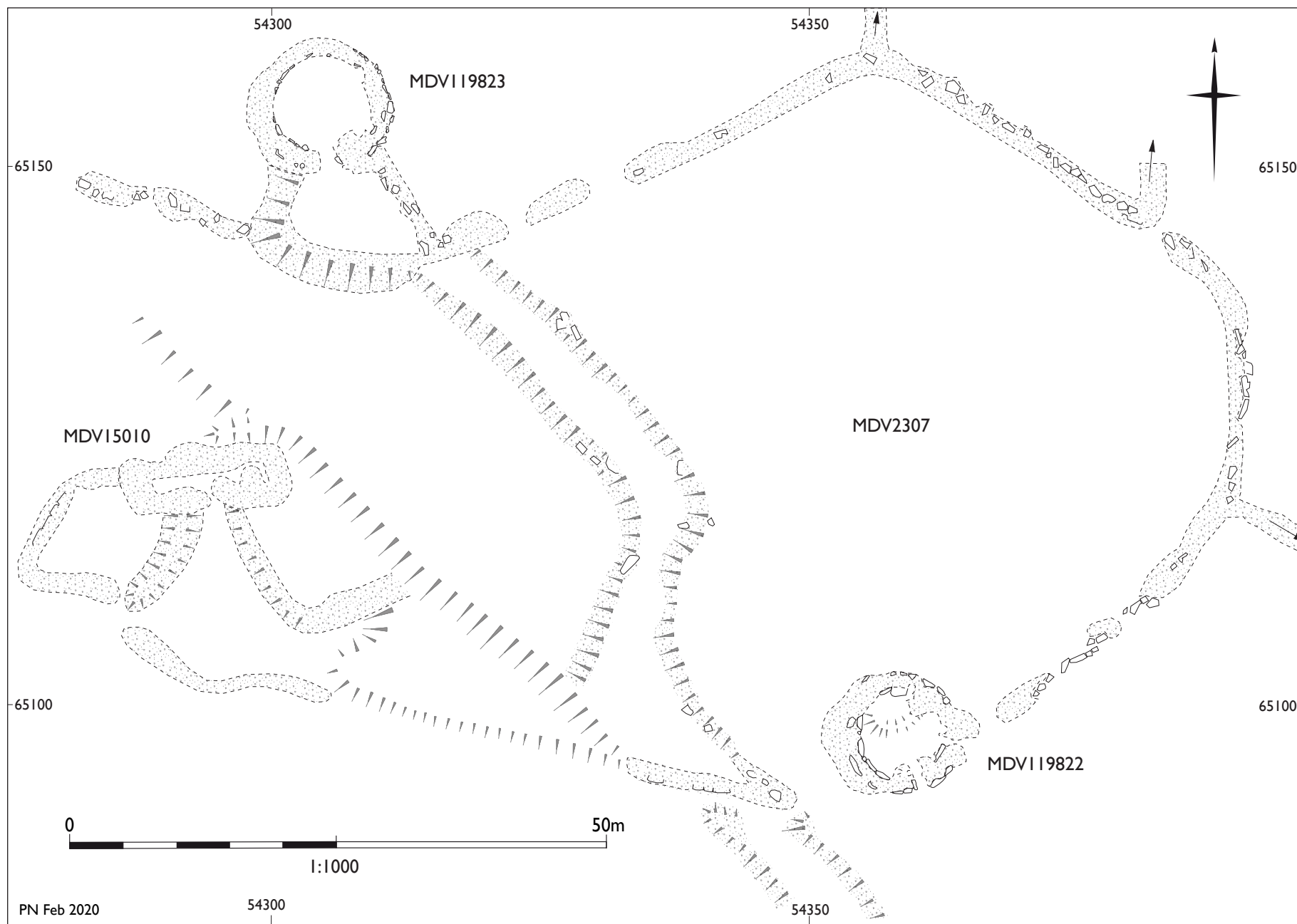


Figure 9 1:1000 scale earthwork survey of a prehistoric hut settlement, overlain by elements of a medieval settlement.

in turn contains a smaller inner enclosure with a single hut circle (119820), and a second very disturbed hut (119820) lies just to the north. This set of features is clearly an add-on to a reave already in existence.

The main parallel reave system lies on the slope west of the central reave and extends for 800m down the slope before being truncated by a medieval tinwork, though additional traces of the system are visible on LiDAR imagery on the north side of the tinwork. More evidence survives in the enclosed land of 'Great Waste' (see p. 11) to the north of the PAL boundary, which lies outside the present study. All of these components have a common southeast to northwest axis.

From the central reave, five parallel reaves and small traces of others, extend northwest. These have been subdivided in places, including one area where the three subdividing reaves are, unusually, set at an angle creating parallelogram shaped compartments.

Just to the north, the linear and angular nature of the system at this level is interrupted by the presence of a settlement (2307)(Fig.) with two attached enclosures, each containing a hut circle. The walls of the two enclosures and a connecting lane associated with the settlement are curved and do not conform with the layout of the reaves, in fact one of the reaves approaching from the southeast was forced to terminate when its course coincided with the enclosure. The settlement may therefore have been built earlier than the reaves but was still occupied when the parallel system was added around it. Unusually, the lane, defined by two, spread parallel banks, only served the northern of the two huts (119823) and excluded the other (119822).

Further down the slope, the reave system was partly overlain or fossilised by medieval enclosures, and traversed by many later leat channels associated with tinworking. Some sections of reave have become obscured, but enough remains to illustrate the complexity of the system, particularly at the far northwest portion, where five equidistant parallel reaves have been subdivided at right angles into smaller plots, creating an irregular grid. Some of the walls contain many large boulders, often still *in situ* and upstanding. Three hut circles within this distinctive zone are all attached to a single reave running down the centre of the area described. There is also what appears to be a narrow driveway cutting through the area enclosed by the reaves, though following the same axis as the subdivisions.

A rectangular medieval enclosure of 5.4ha overlies part of the reave system. It follows the same axis as the reaves and has fossilised some sections into its boundary bank on all four sides. The enclosed area has been 'improved' and cultivated, leaving only subtle fragments of the former prehistoric boundaries within it. However, three large and well preserved hut circles have survived within this area, although much stone appears to have been removed from them.

Also following the southeast to northwest axis of the system is a narrow, sunken path or lane, which extends for 300m between a right angle junction in the reaves, just WNW of the summit cairn, and the later medieval enclosure. It is embanked along both sides and is 0.5-0.9m deep. At its broadest point the hollow measures approximately 6m, though it narrows to barely 2m. It is uncertain if this path or lane was part of the prehistoric reave system, or was a later adaptation of a reave associated with the medieval development of the Down and the large enclosure to the northwest.

On the eastern side of Wigford Down, adjacent to the outer boundary of the enclosed land is a small settlement of five huts (2372) and a small enclosure. This is the only settlement evidence on Wigford Down that has no obvious association, either physical or chronological with the reave systems, though there is no reason to suggest that the two were not occupied contemporaneously.

4.1.4 Hut circles

Twenty-four hut circles have previously been recorded within the PAL and have been re-evaluated for the present report; four have been surveyed at 1:100 scale. In terms of size, most can be considered to be among the larger huts found on Dartmoor, which, where measurable, have an internal wall to wall diameter of 7.5 to 9m. However, the condition varies. Most of the huts were constructed using flat-sided slabs set upright or on edge to form an inner and outer lining for the walls, with the gap between being filled with smaller stones and soil. Two of the surveyed examples (119822; 119823) (Figs 10 & 11) demonstrate this, with components of the inner and outer wall faces surviving. This style of construction is visible at several of the other circles (2219; 119819; 12704), though most have many absent stones and several huts of similar size have no structural stone *in situ* at all, where it has to be assumed they have either been robbed or at least some stone is buried. These huts survive as substantial circular earthworks often with a large amount of stone still present, albeit displaced (2305; 2306; 2372; 2397; 119818). Several of the huts have visible entrance openings through the wall, with, in some cases, stone door jambs *in situ*.

Hut Circle

MDVI 19822

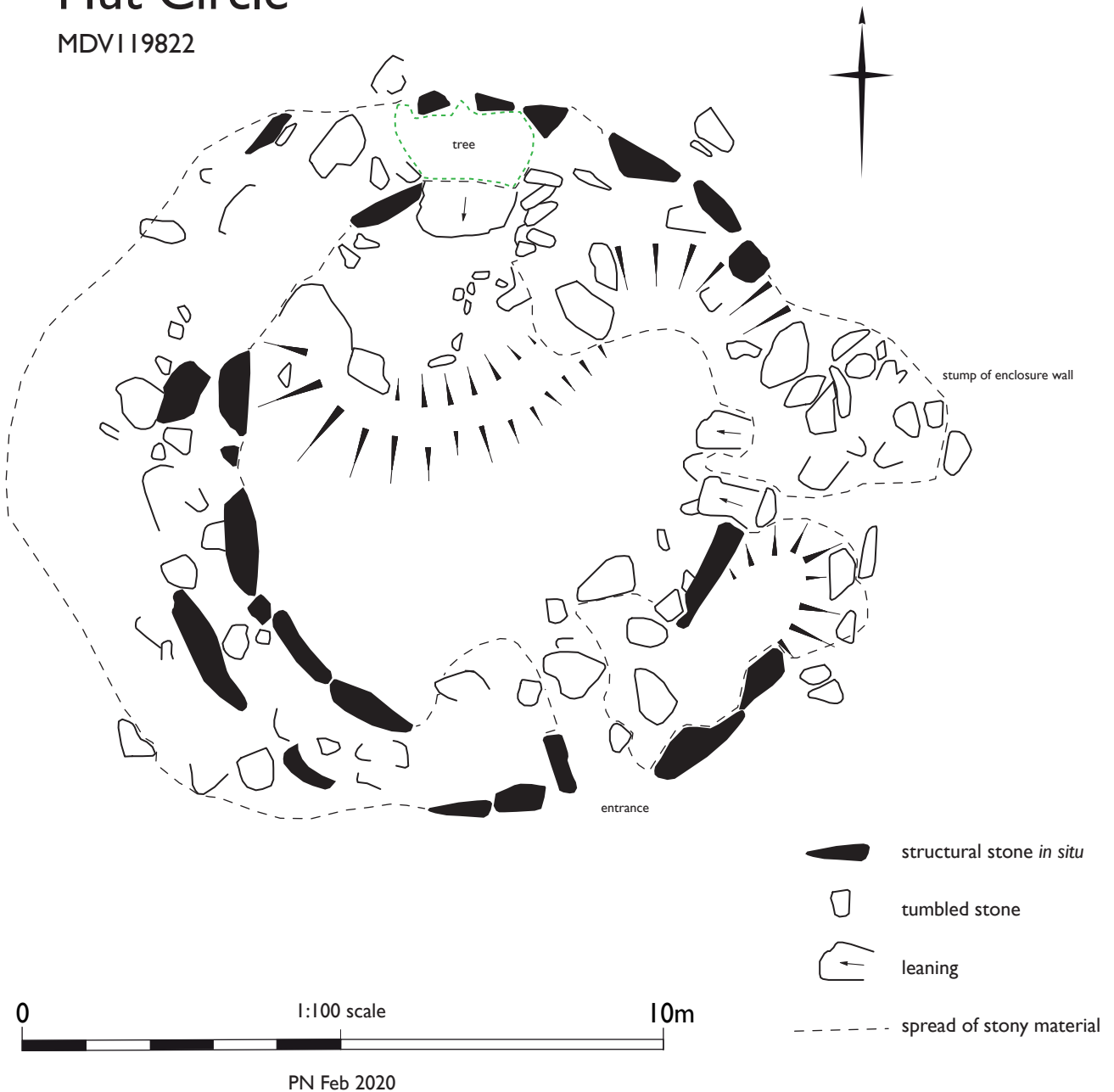


Figure 10 1:100 survey of a hut circle associated with an enclosed settlement.

Many hut circles are quite clearly associated with the reave system, either freestanding and contained within the reave sub-divisions, or attached or built into the reaves and cross reaves. Where free-standing it is not possible to state any chronological relationship with the reaves with certainty, but for those attached to reaves it would appear that for at least some, the reaves were in existence first. In the northern part of the system, two large huts (12704; 119824) were built into wall junctions and a third (119825) was built against a reave. It seems unlikely that the rigid scheme of the reave system was laid out to accommodate all three of these huts if they pre-existed. The southern settlement (2219), although associated with the reaves, appears to have evolved slightly more organically, where walls have been installed to accommodate existing huts (40209 for example), or both are contemporary. One particularly robust hut circle (2375) with upstanding walls is built against an enclosure wall, which was utilised by the hut builders as the back, north wall of the hut. Clearly in its present state this hut was built onto an existing wall. However, it is notable that the attached enclosure was reused and strengthened at a later date, probably during the medieval period. It is possible that the hut was similarly altered or rebuilt and re-occupied in the same period.

The central enclosure (2307) (Fig. 9), which, as already noted does not fit with the scheme of the reave system, has two hut circles. One of these (119822) was incorporated into the walls of an enclosure while the other (119823), which was contained within a second enclosure attached to the first, has short sections of wall to join the hut to the enclosure and provide a forecourt in front of the doorway.

Hut Circle

MDVI 19823



Figure 11 1:100 survey of a hut circle associated with an enclosed settlement.

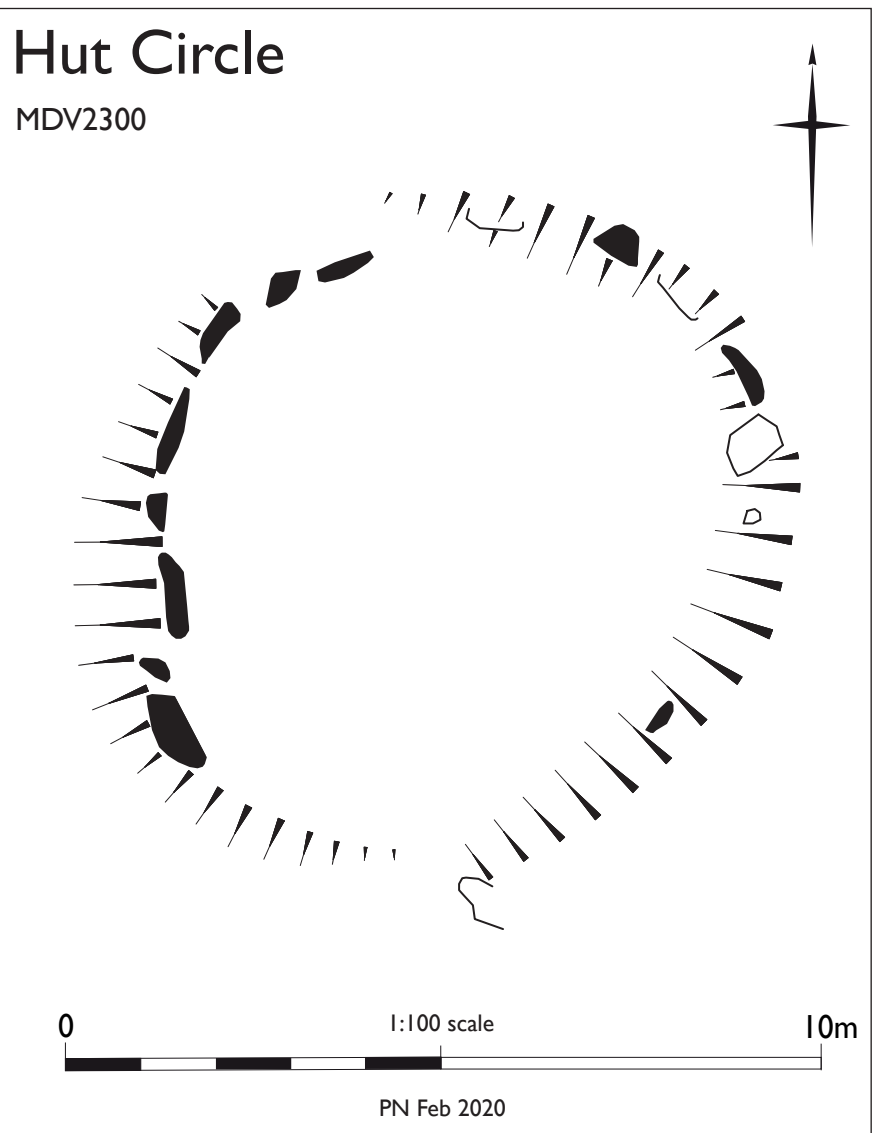


Figure 12 1:100 survey of a free standing hut circle, formerly believed to be a cairn circle.

4.2 Medieval

4.2.1 Settlement and land use

Any human activity following the decline of prehistoric settlement and farming on Wigford Down until its re-occupation in the medieval period, has left no obvious field archaeology, and about which we can only speculate. The reaves are believed to have been abandoned by the mid-second millennium BC, but it is also the case that round houses continued to be the dominant design of dwellings, well into the Iron Age and the 1st century AD, and some excavated examples have proved to have been reused for various purposes into the medieval period and beyond (Worth 1935, 124-5), though some others have not (Gerrard 2016, 27-28). None of these scenarios have yet been proven for Wigford Down. However, by the middle ages, humans were again settling and farming on the Down, for which exceptionally good field evidence survives. Two ruined settlements, with associated field systems and evidence of cultivation exist, but unfortunately, as with most deserted medieval sites on Dartmoor, both are undocumented, so the precise date of their inception, and for how long they endured are not known. Farm settlements in this locality, with origins in the medieval period, and still occupied, include Greenwell, first documented in 1181 (Gover et al 1931, 231). Cadworthy is known to have been in existence by 1285 (Gover et al 1931,) but 'Cadworthy' was also mentioned in the Exon Domesday of 1086 (Whale 1903, 706), and Durrance, is first known from 1486 (Gover et al 1931, 231).

Archaeological excavations at deserted sites elsewhere on the moor have produced much useful information on dating, mainly from pottery, so an inferred chronology is now possible for undocumented abandoned sites. Although clearly each site had its own story, this data provides a framework, which suggests that the excavated settlements were established after 1200 and if abandoned within the medieval period, this had probably happened by 1450 (Allan 1994, 145). Although not totally satisfactory, and both dates should be seen as flexible, this is the best guidance available where documents are lacking.

The construction method for the boundaries differs greatly from that of the prehistoric reaves and enclosures. New medieval boundaries were mostly created by digging a ditch, the upcast from which was used to construct an adjacent bank

that would act as the foundation for a hedge. Some of these, usually the ones that endured, had stone facings added to one or both sides of the bank, often much later than the original construction, but others were abandoned in their original condition. In such cases, the ditch will be partly silted.

When establishing enclosures in areas already occupied by abandoned reaves, the builders sometimes utilised these pre-existing boundaries, though it may only have been the sections of reave that survived in good upstanding condition that were worth selectively re-furbishing to fit in with new schemes. This was done by adding a ditch to the outside of the reave and piling the upcast onto the reave to strengthen it. Where the stony reaves were replaced and obscured by hedge banks long ago, the axis and rectilinear layout of the fields in these locations is often the clue that reveals the underlying prehistoric system. However, the rectangularity of the reave systems as a whole did not always suit the medieval settlers who often ignored them and overlaid them with a new layout. Both scenarios survive on Wigford Down.

The medieval enclosures and land improvements are divisible into three areas on Wigford Down (40211). The largest and clearest area comprises an approximately rectangular enclosure of 5.4ha on the northern side of the Down, which follows exactly the southeast to northwest alignment of the parallel reaves and has fossilised former reaves on at least three sides. The boundary bank of the enclosure is substantial, surviving to over 1m high in places and a ditch is visible on the exterior on the northeast, southeast and southwest sides. Following the full length of the exterior on the northwest side is a 5m-wide, embanked lane or driveway, which opens out into unenclosed moor beyond the west corner. A second area of enclosed land, attached to the northwest side of the rectangular enclosure, was formed by adapting and reinforcing a reave that extends from the enclosure's western corner and another reave which joins it at right angles. The area contained by these walls has not been improved and there is no evidence of clearance within it. A shorter bank, which forms the northeast side of this second enclosure was partly adapted to form a dam for a tinnerns' reservoir (128061), of late medieval or post-medieval date, and it would appear that the tinwork itself (28270) has transected the northern side of the enclosed area. The interior of the larger rectangular enclosure has been cleared of most of the evidence for reaves though faint vestiges survive along with four hut circles. Cultivation of the whole plot is evident by the slight earthworks of straight ridge and furrow (28269), with a distance between the furrows of 4 to 5m.

The central western and upper slope of Wigford Down is occupied by medieval fields (40211) with a much more random layout, which pay no heed whatsoever to the existing prehistoric boundaries, some of which became effaced as a result, though it is no longer clear how complex the prehistoric system was at this location. Both of the surviving settlements are located within these fields, and probably represent two separate holdings, each sited close to a water supply.

The southern section of this fieldscape is a trapezium shaped enclosure of 7ha, enclosed on the north, west and east sides by a substantial bank and ditch, while the south side consists of a deep wide ditch of up to 6.5m wide with a bank on the inside for only part of its extent. The ditch extends for a further 370m to the east, just south of the summit where it fades into a simple low bank. It then heads northwest where it meets the remains of the summit cairn (2312), then, although difficult to trace, it heads northeast and is visible for another 26m north of the summit reave. This upper bank was too insubstantial to have formed an effective boundary, but it may have been a setting out line delineating the eventual size of the holding and it is intriguing that the summit barrow, which must have still been a substantial monument, was chosen as a point on the boundary.

The trapezoidal field also has a dog-leg partition bank, which divides it approximately into two. A longhouse (15009) described below) with small attached pen, is built against and at right angles to the western boundary. Field clearance and attempts at cultivation are evident in the western half of the field, with many stone heaps, small and large, and stone lines. This evidence of clearance is also visible outside the field on the west and south. Very faint ridge and furrow is discernible within and to the west of this field on certain APs but is extremely difficult to see on the ground. Where it is visible it comprises very subtle stony ridges. The northern limit of this activity is defined by a curving alignment of small stony cairns. The continuation of the ridge and furrow to the west of the enclosure wall make it very likely that this cultivation and clearance pre-date both the enclosure and the longhouse associated with it (15009).

North of this field, a short bank connects it to another more substantial bank, which runs approximately west to east for 300m. The eastern end, of the bank terminates at another single-building settlement and forms the southern edge of a series of sub-divided fields to the north. These include several fields containing ridge and furrow, one of which has the appearance of strip field. It is long and narrow at 250m by 52m, with parallel but curving long sides. The curve does not follow the contour as is common with ploughed areas, but runs uphill. Other fields to the west also contain ridge and furrow but do not conform to this shape making it something of an anomaly, but the ridge and furrow is very clear in both fields.

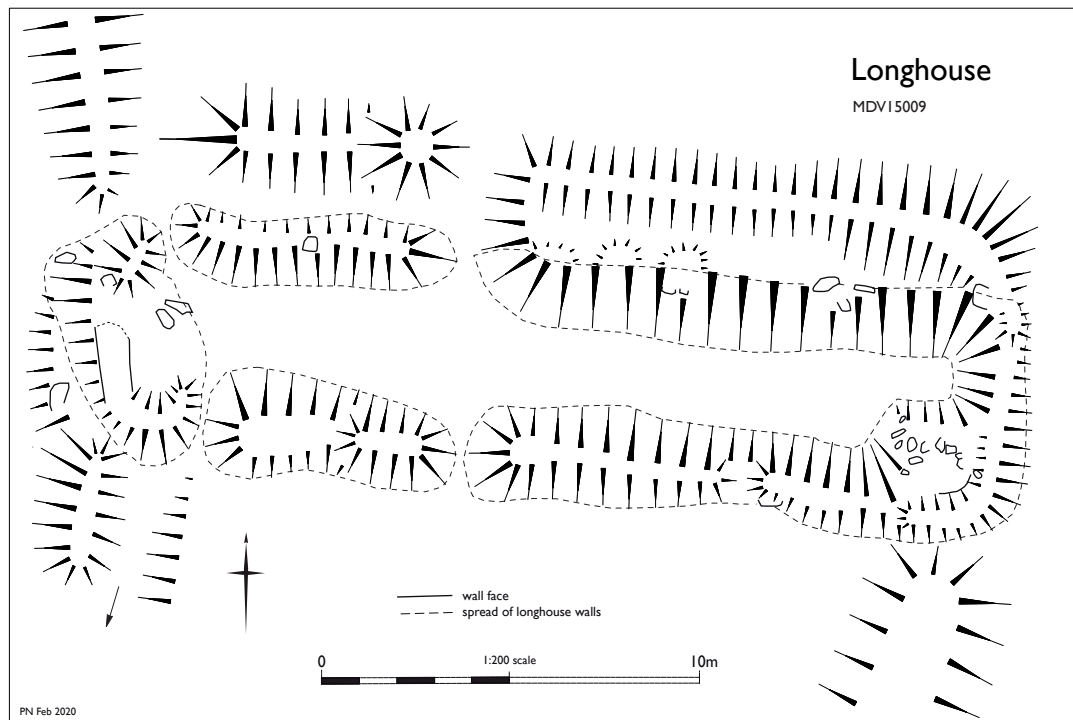


Figure 13 1:100 survey of a medieval longhouse on the western slope of Wigford Down.

At the far southern end of Wigford Down, amidst the fields of the prehistoric settlement (2219), there is evidence of land 'improvement', in the form of over 50 clearance heaps (128075) and the refurbishing of some prehistoric walls. On the east side, these refurbishments were clearly part of the northwestern expansion of Cadworthy, although that continued no further and the field was later abandoned, but to the west it appears the work was partly completed with only two walls being strengthened.

4.2.2 Buildings

The two ruined rectangular dwellings associated with the medieval fields, both comprise well-preserved foundation ruins. The larger of the two (15009)(Fig. 12), is oriented east to west with an attached 0.0260ha enclosure on the south side. The building has all the features of a classic Dartmoor longhouse; it is hollowed into the slope and has opposing entrances slightly to the west of centre, indicating the position of a cross passage, which traditionally divided the buildings into a living compartment and byre. In this case the latter was probably on the western, lower end. The internal dimensions were probably about 22.8m by 4.8m. A very spread, low earthwork bank, which runs parallel with the exterior of northern wall may represent the line of a narrow fenced plot, or possibly the base of a timber lean-to structure.

The smaller building (15010) (Fig. 13) has some of the walling remaining exposed, though the majority is now turf covered and survives as an earthwork. The overall internal dimensions were probably about 12.6m by 3.7m of which an inner room on the eastern end occupies an area 2m wide. The building had an entrance on the south side only, and therefore lacks a cross passage. A rectangular plot attached to the southwest corner of the building is bounded by a low turf and stone bank, enclosing an area of 9.6m by 8.6m.

The two buildings used a similar construction method. Stone foundation walls were banked around the edges of the hollow, though now spread and turf covered, and the interiors of the sunken structures have slumped, with sides now sloping. There is little evidence of collapsed stone walls at either site and it is likely that the walls above foundation level were constructed from materials other than stone, including timber.

Both settlements had nearby access to a water supply. To the south of the longhouse a shallow natural gully runs down the slope from the east, just south of the field boundary, down which a natural supply of water runs, feeding the very boggy area to the west at the head of a stream, referred to by Hemery as Blacklands Brook (Hemery 1983, 181). The smaller settlement, utilised a spring, which emanates a few metres to the north of the house and would also have served the prehistoric settlement (2307) over 2000 years earlier.

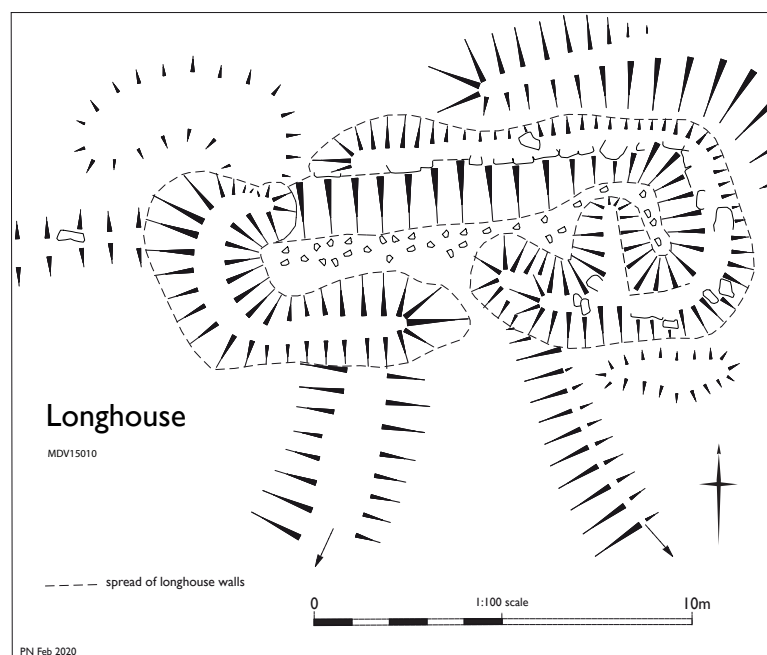


Figure 14 1:100 survey of a medieval building on the central slope of Wigford Down at the site of a prehistoric settlement (Figure 9).

4.2.3 Cultivation and clearance

Although cultivation of Wigford Down occurred, to an extent, within the well-established fields containing ridge and furrow described above, it is also likely that this landscape was still very much work in progress when the settlements were abandoned because of the strong evidence of clearance on several areas of the Down, which is usually a precursor to cultivation and ploughing. The clearance cairns are mounds of stones that were piled at intervals within the areas being cleared. The size varies: some are very large with one example of 26m long by 5.6m wide, though such are rare. Most are approximately circular with a diameter between 1m and 9m with an average of 4m. The clearance cairns are concentrated into three separate areas. The area to the south of the Down, where the evidence of field banks indicates efforts to intake land were occurring, has the largest concentration of over 50 clearance cairns (128075), spread over an area of approximately 3.6ha containing much prehistoric activity. Just south of the trapezoidal enclosure is another group of 14 heaps (103631) covering 1ha and within the enclosure itself, 26 have been recorded. Several more are found to the west of the longhouse, including a large mound of 9m diameter. Unfortunately, the area beyond and to the west was obscured by gorse at the time of survey, so more evidence may exist there.

4.2.4 Tinworking

The northern boundary of the PAL is defined by the edge of a large and impressive tinwork (28270). Known as Greenwell Gert, it extends from Catstor Down to Shady Combe Cottage, including a 790m section running across the northern edge of Wigford Down. At 55m wide, around 8m deep (moorland section) and just under 1km long, this is one of the largest single tinworks in Devon. Such is its impact on the landscape, that it is the only Dartmoor tinwork to be depicted on the published OS 1st edition (old series) maps surveyed between 1784-6 (Harley & O'Donoghue 1977, Fig. 5), where on the same map series, none of the extensive Vitifer workings in Manaton parish, or those at the head of Doe Tor Brook in Lydford parish, are marked. It is likely also that the deep gully heading west beyond Shady Combe, which today carries the road down to Hoo Meavy Bridge, is a continuation of this tinworking and would add a further 570m to its overall extent. The precise nature of the tin deposits and the working techniques used to exploit them area uncertain, but it could have been worked for stream (alluvial or eluvial) tin by streamworking techniques, or as a lode tin openwork, or perhaps both at different phases. An investigation of the interior is constrained by the floor of the working containing much miry ground and tree growth.

Earthwork remains of eight leats (28271) supplied water to the south side of the tinwork, each representing separate phases of working. They cut across the northern slope of Wigford Down and would have diverted and stored water from two seasonal water sources issuing from springs on the Down – the same sources previously used by prehistoric and medieval

settlers on the Down for their domestic supplies. Earthwork remains of three well-preserved tinnners' reservoirs stored the water prior to use in the tinworks. A shallow, wet, natural gully, which runs east to west downhill on the western slope of the Down represents the most significant source, and is today responsible for the large expanse of boggy area that is found just to the west. The heads of two leats (lower and higher), which diverted water from this channel are located at SX 54084 64878. The lower of these two, is partly effaced by the boggy ground but further north it splits into three separate channels between the 220m and 210m contours, each of which can be traced to the edge of the tinwork. The middle of these three was served by a linear reservoir (128062) just above the tinwork edge. The higher leat splits into two, the upper of which cuts across a large medieval enclosure and probably served the very top eastern portion of the tinwork. The other leat can be traced to the point where the tinwork is crossed by the modern road. A second supply was the small spring, which has its source just below the medieval settlement (15010). From there a leat diverted the water northwest to what is now a very wet area, but below this is another tinnners' reservoir earthwork (128074)(Fig. 15) and the point of commencement for three more leats. One heads downhill and can be traced to a third reservoir (128061) at the edge of the tinwork. The other two run across the large abandoned medieval enclosure and their final destinations are uncertain, though it is possible they may have continued along the contour, through meadows just south of Durance, for use in tinworks at the head of Lovaton Brook. Although varying in scale and extent of survival, all these leats were essentially ditches, most of which follow approximately the contours of the hillsides. The upcast from the digging of the ditch was always placed along the lower edge, to give it greater capacity. Some are now silted to the extent that only the upcast bank remains visible while others still have a discernible ditch. The three reservoirs are all intact, with clear upstanding earthwork banks forming dams, with sluice openings. All three are morphologically different but each is an exemplar of the type, varying between the crescentic bank of 22m across, with central opening (128074) (Fig. 15), a curving linear bank over 60m long (128062) and the 'V'-shape bank of 36m across (128061). Each has clear outlet channels leading from the sluice opening. A broad earthen bank on the north side of the tinwork, is also likely to be the part remains of another reservoir.

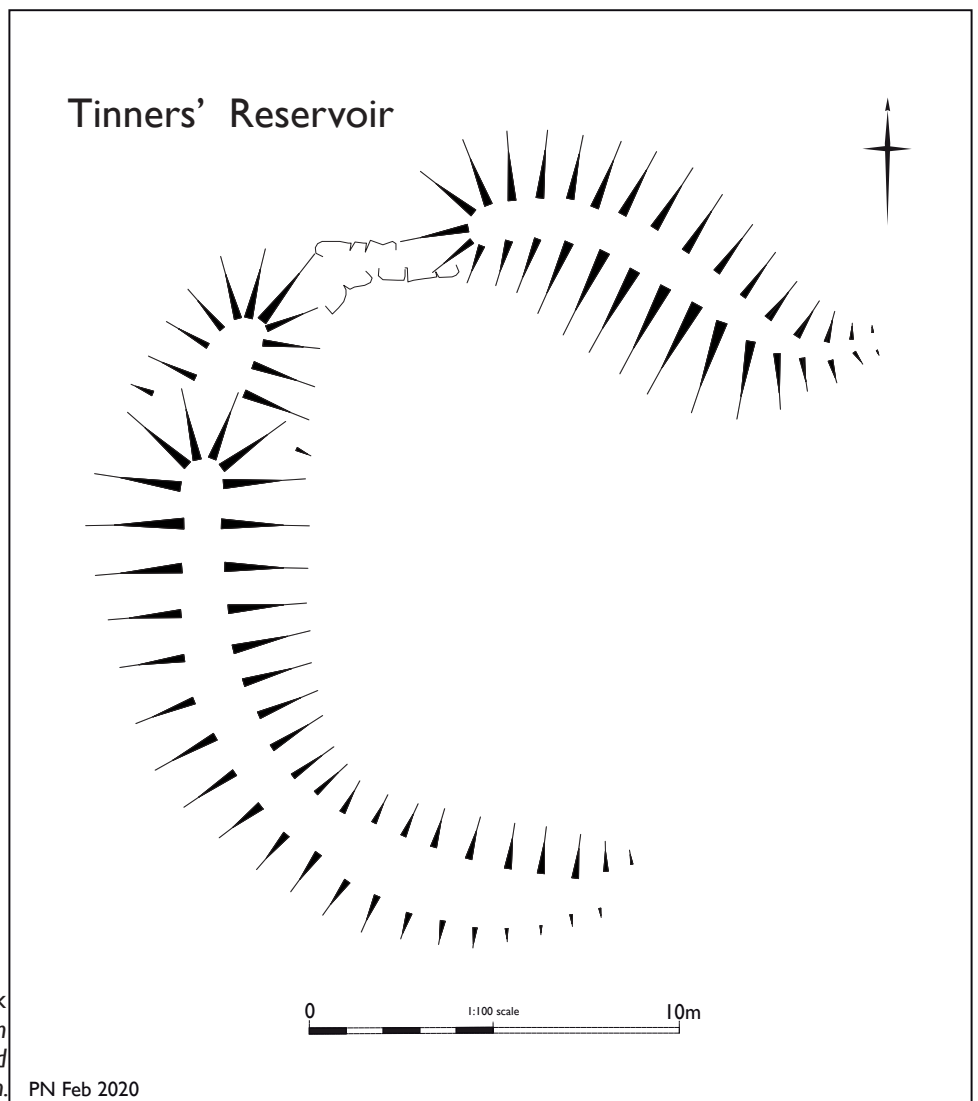


Figure 15 1:100 earthwork survey of a tinnners' reservoir on the western slope of Wigford Down.

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The leats all cut through the boundaries of the medieval field system, and across the ridge and furrow earthworks, suggesting that cultivation had already become abandoned when the upper section of the tinwork was active. Continuations of at least three of these leats are visible to the north of the tinwork, and in enclosed pasture beyond the modern road, where they are particularly clear on LiDAR imagery. They were transected by the tinwork as it expanded, thus originally pre-dating this upper section. Their origins therefor may not have been associated with this tinwork.

As with most medieval tinworks, it is impossible to pin down a date for the earliest activity at Greenwell Gert, although Greenwell is a modern name for the working. However, a tinwork named 'Shyttryk' alias 'Durants Mead' is recorded in Meavy parish, in 1479 and 1538 (Greeves 1983, 341). Durants is an alternative spelling of the modern settlement name Durance, just to the north of Wigford Down, and close by the northwest extent of the gert. 'Shyttryk' is an earlier version of 'Shadrick', a name associated with two small plots of land called 'Shadrick Combe' recorded on the Meavy Tithe Apportionment of 1840, (Fig. 16) located within the gert where it exits the northwest corner of Wigford Down; today this is the location of Shady Combe Cottage, which is the modern corruption.

Tinworks with the name 'Catistor' 'Catestor East', 'Catestor West' within Meavy parish, mentioned in the 16th and 17th centuries (Greeves 1983, 309) are also clear references to Catstor Down and may be associated with the upper end of the tinwork, beyond the boundary of the PAL.

Figure 16 An excerpt from the Meavy Tithe Map of 1840 showing the location of Shadrick Combe and Shady Combe Cottage.

On the Meavy Tithe map of 1840, Wigford Down is divided into four areas of ownership. The largest of these, owned by Edwin Scobell, covers the whole of the western side of the Down, and includes Dewerstone Rocks. The eastern boundary of this holding, which runs approximately NNW to SSE, dividing it from the eastern side of the Down, runs in a roughly straight line between Greenwell Gert and a point just north of the Cadworthy enclosures. Seven granite boundary stones (12806-9) of between 0.8m and 1m high mark this line intermittently, each inscribed with an upper case letter 'L' for Sir Ralph Lopes. Lopes also owned the remaining two areas on the northeast and southeast sides of the Down and although no

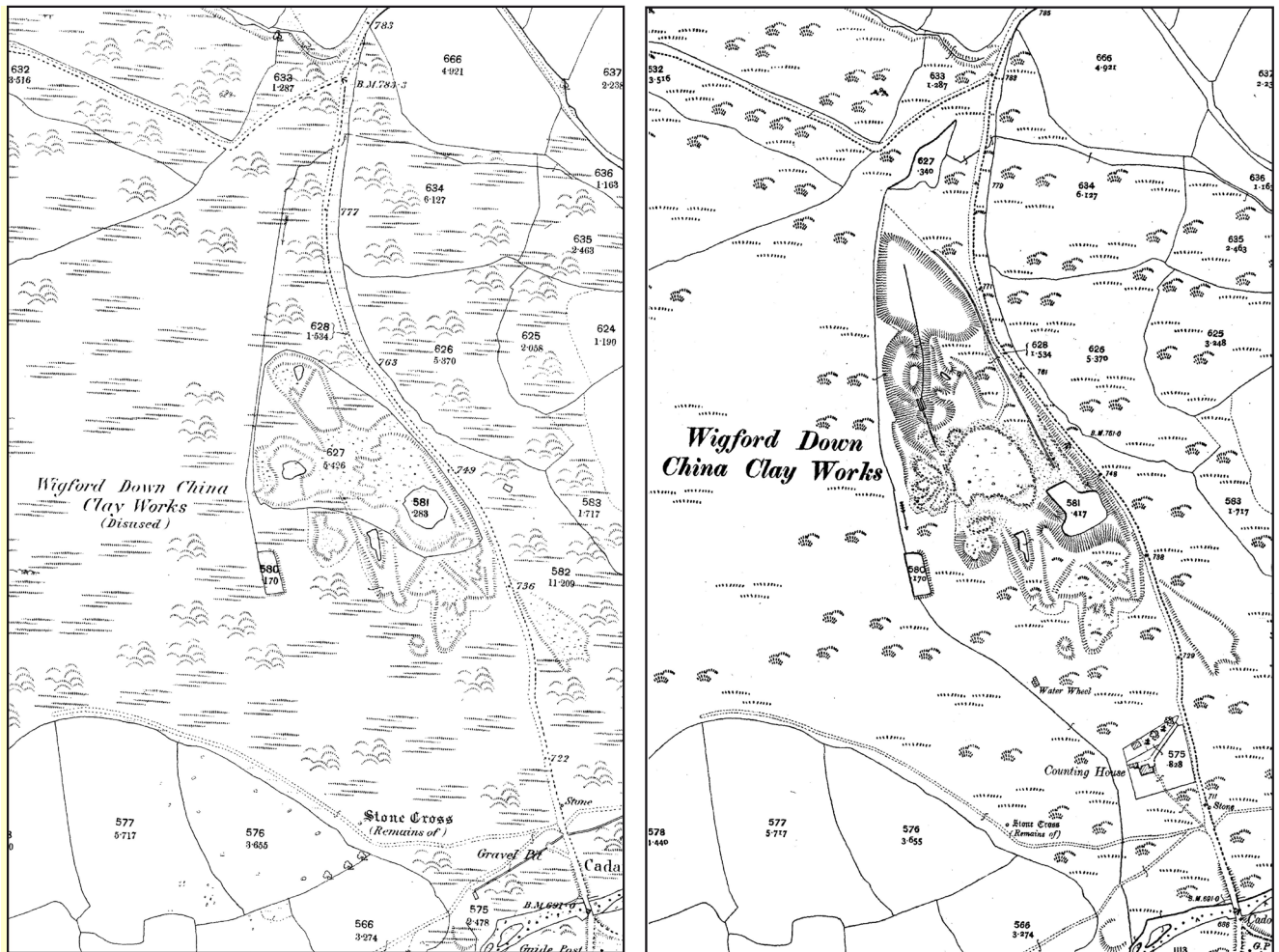


Figure 17 OS 25-inch 1st and 2nd series maps show early development of the Wigford Down China Clay Works in 1886 (left) and 1904 (right).

marked stones are associated with the boundary between these two, it follows the course of the Eylesbarrow Watershed Reave, until meeting a circular mound annotated with the word 'Burrow'. This was certainly the highest of the prehistoric barrows (2310) that form an alignment up the eastern slope. From there the boundary continues to 'Durrance Rock', a small outcrop incorporated into the boundary of the fourth plot. This is the triangular enclosure on the northeast slope of the Down (which currently lies outside the PAL). Its boundary is shown as a pecked line on the 1840 map, suggesting the wall was yet to be built, and hence its title of 'Great Waste'. It was fully enclosed later than 1840.

Eight granite boundary stones (128063; 128064), each inscribed with the upper case letters 'BA' demarcate an area on the northern sector of the Down, for which no definitive explanation has yet been proposed. Four of the stones form a 303m alignment along one of the prehistoric reaves from the Goodameavy road. The fifth is built into the enclosure wall of 'Great Waste', and the three others follow the eastern outline of the enclosure. It is uncertain what the BA inscription stands for or what date these stones were installed. 'Buckland Abbey' is one proposition that has been offered to explain the inscription (Brewer 1986, 82), but the style and relatively unweathered appearance of the lettering would place them much later than the monastic period. However, as discussed above, the course of the modern wall followed by this boundary, enclosed an area of open common known as 'Great Waste', which was delineated on the 1840 Tithe map, although the enclosure wall did not exist at that time. It seems these stones set out an earlier scheme of ownership, which at one time included land on the northern end of the Down, but had been modified by 1840.

4.4 Clayworking

Remains of 19th-century china clay workings are located on the eastern lower slope of Wigford Down. The site, known by the name of the Wigford Down Clay Works, was begun in 1860 by Watts Blake and Bearne, who worked it for over 30 years before closure in 1898. It reopened in 1928 (Wade 1982, 13, 19), with the changed name of Brisworthy Clay Works and continued operating until 1937. The remains consist of four closely spaced though separate quarry pits and associated spoil

heaps. The pits have become completely water filled and are now utilised by a local angling club. The activity was restricted mainly to the western side of the road, though small spoil heaps and a mica dam are present to the east as well. Around the western perimeter of the works, a cut ditch may have served as a leat or a storm drain. To the north of the works a series of linear banks and ditches are associated with the clay working and probably represent the management and diversion of water. From here, a leat (80471), to supply water to the clay works was cut up to the northern side of the River Plym and through the enclosures of Brisworthy, though only a short stretch of it lies within the PAL. The 25-inch Ordnance survey maps of 1952 show many buildings and installations at the site, including tanks, mica runs and settling tanks and to the south an area of small buildings is annotated as a 'Concrete Works', though most of this has now been erased, other than some concrete bases. However, there are earthwork remains of a probable wheelpit (49050). The masonry of the wheelpit is obscured and the pit probably backfilled but it survives as an earthwork hollow. A level-topped linear earthwork, extending 30m northwest of the pit, has a silted channel running along its length and is likely to represent the remains of a launder bank. A water wheel is depicted on the 2nd edition 25-inch OS map, 60m to the northwest, although nothing now remains at that location.

4.5 Military and other later assets

Military activity is first recorded on Wigford Down from July 1873, when the first Dartmoor Autumn Manoeuvres took place. Encampments were set up on Roborough Down, Ringmoor Down, Saddlesborough, Yennadon and Wigford Down, when over 12,000 men and 2000 horses took part (*The Standard* 24 JUL 1887s, 4). Wigford Down had 2000 cavalry as well as artillery camped there and was in the thick of the action when the so-called battles of Cadover Bridge and Wigford Down were fought, especially the latter, for which stirring accounts of the action were published in several newspapers (e.g. *Broad Arrow* 9 AUG 1873, 185). These manoeuvres became regular events although accounts of the later occasions are less common. Archaeologically, these episodes have left little obvious evidence, so clearly any damage or alterations they made to the landscape were remedied, or they are very subtle.

The extent of 20th-century military activity on the Down is not well reported but it is known that an observation post was established on the summit cairn during WW2, though no trace of the apparent structure survives, other than the damage reported by Worth. However, a clear, circular earthwork ring, first recorded by Butler in 1994, with a 3m internal diameter and an opening in the western circumference, sits 2m south of the main cairn, and has been previously recorded as a ring cairn (2313), as which it is rather small (Fig. 5). Though an obvious earthwork, it was not noted by either Worth or Grinsell (1978) and there is no certainty that it has prehistoric origins so an alternative might be that it was the foundations for a stone or sandbag construction shelter.

Two ruined, subtle rectangular structures of unknown origin have also been noted. One (128073) was built into the junction of two reaves in the southern settlement, comprising a crude stone-lined hollow. The other (128072) is a similar feature sitting in a linear hollow associated with a field system. A satisfactory explanation is not available for either, beyond a possible association with military training.

5.0 DISCUSSION and SIGNIFICANCE

Dartmoor National Park contains the largest area of upland in southern Britain, with thousands of hectares of open moorland. A lack of intensive farming, development, or modern industries has allowed exceptional conditions of preservation for archaeological features from the 3rd millennium BC to the second world war. The legacy is an accumulated cultural landscape, providing material evidence for many aspects of human expression and the sometimes complex relationships between periods of occupation and the diversity of activities that occurred. The archaeology of the Wigford Down area reflects several periods and types of human activity that are perceivable through field investigation on Dartmoor, from 2nd millennium BC round cairns, hut circles, settlement and reaves, through medieval agricultural expansion, medieval/post-medieval tin working and 19th-20th century clay working. All lie within the modern context of a national park, whose remit includes conservation and protection of the cultural remains within it.

Within the Wigford Down PAL there are 14 prehistoric round cairns. Cairns of the size and various construction types found on the Down, are a familiar feature on Dartmoor and were once common all over Devon, though in the hinterland and lowlands their survival is extremely rare. There is group significance in the cluster of the summit cairns, together with the rare hillside alignment of six cairns on the eastern slope. Each cairn is also significant as an individual component of both the

overall prehistoric landscape layer as well as the multi layered character of Wigford Down. But, unfortunately, the Wigford cairns have fared badly in terms of preservation, as nearly all have suffered extensive disturbance. The largest cairn (2312) set on the summit of the Down has suffered the worst, with much of its fabric being carted away. The original appearance or height of this cairn are not known precisely, but with a probable diameter of at least 26m, it would have been very substantial landmark within prehistoric southwest Dartmoor, comparable with others on elevated ground within the district, including Eylesbarrow and Penn Beacon.

The two kerbed cairns, one with a cist (2373), have also been subject to interference. The latter was partially destroyed when built into the course of a medieval boundary, but had probably already been rifled hundreds if not thousands of years earlier, in search of valuable contents. There was certainly little left to find beyond two pot sherds when the site was excavated by the DEC in 1890. This is still the only asset on Wigford Down to have had a recorded archaeological intervention. The other kerbed cairn (2367) has only four upright stones *in situ* with little else remaining at the site. Its description on the schedule (1002521) as having an 'oval mound' and 'in good condition' is rather optimistic.

The ring cairn (2368) to the south of the summit is perhaps the best preserved of the sepulchral features on the Down and does appear undisturbed. An elliptical, banked feature (2311), close by the summit cairn, remains something of an enigma, though also recorded as a ring cairn. Ring cairns are, as their title suggests, usually circular so its appearance is unusual, but also it has been noted that it has a hollowed centre, which often fills with water. This has drawn a recent suggestion from Greeves that it may be a 'sacred pool' (Greeves 2019, 24-6). It certainly seems logical that the banks were built to retain water rather than being a component of a conventional cairn, as suggested by Worth, but the water currently fills to approximately only 0.15m during periods of wet weather and evaporates rapidly, whilst material evidence to prove any connection with the 'sacred' is, perhaps, something for future research.

An alignment of cairns running up the slope from the east side of the Down is clearly a deliberate arrangement and somewhat unusual, but of a type seen elsewhere on Dartmoor on the northern slopes leading to Buckland Beacon for example (Newman 2015, 14). Again these Wigford cairns have all been disturbed, some more extensively than others.

As already mentioned, Wigford Down is one of Dartmoor's five areas of exemplary parallel reave systems, among which, although covering only a relatively small area, compared with Rippon Tor or the Dartmeet/Holne Moor systems, it is comparable with Throwleigh Common or Shaugh Moor, both of which are also more compact. It is also one of the better preserved systems, with much detail surviving as upstanding stony banks, including cross reaves dividing the parallel reaves into smaller plots and narrow droeways running between them. There are also some enclosures as well as settlement evidence which, although clearly associated with the reaves, do not fit precisely into the layout scheme. The reaves and settlements extend into the land on the north slope of the Down, but outside the PAL, and a perusal of available LiDAR and simple map regression, strongly suggest that the system once extended well into the land now occupied by pasture associated with Durance.

The Wigford Down reave system does not sit in isolation and has clear connections with other elements of the prehistoric landscape in the locality, including the Eylesbarrow Watershed Reave providing an element of commonality between Wigford and the land to the north of Brisworthy and beyond. A connection with the adjacent Shaugh Moor reave system to the southwest also seems likely, where, although the axis of the two systems are at 90 degrees, the terminal reaves appear to converge very close to each other on opposite banks of the River Plym, suggesting both were part of a designed scheme or agreed strategy.

Reaves and the parallel systems of which they form a part were first recognised on, but are not unique to, Dartmoor. Research by Yates (2006) has demonstrated that coaxial land divisions dating from the 2nd millennium BC can be found at many places elsewhere in the British Isles. Although vestiges of these remains have been identified in lowland areas, they are usually poorly-preserved, small, isolated patches, or fossilized within later field systems. It is in the uplands and coastal zones where their survival is at its best and although other moorland examples are known, Dartmoor still provides the clearest, best preserved and most expansive examples, all the more impressive because of their associations between separate reave system, with hut settlements, and the many other aspects of prehistoric archaeology, including the ritual and burial monuments.

Like the reaves, upstanding stone hut circles are also common on Dartmoor, but elsewhere in the UK their survival is less frequent, even on the upland areas. A few survive on Bodmin Moor and at such places as the Cheviots in northern England, but Dartmoor has over 4000 examples, which collectively makes Dartmoor's hut circles the most significant concentration

in Britain. Wigford Down PAL contains 24 confirmed hut circles, arranged into groups associated with separate areas of either the reave system or enclosed settlements. Some of the larger examples of up to 9m diameter were constructed using large slabs set on edge to form shell walls onto which a timber and thatch conical roof rested, and are comparable with examples archaeologically excavated at Kestor (Fox 1954; Gerrard 2006) and Holne Moor (Fleming 2008).

As far as is known, antiquarian excavations of hut circles within the PAL did not take place, which means their archaeological integrity may be undisturbed, although it is of course likely that some may have suffered unrecorded interventions. However, a certain amount of stone robbing has occurred, particularly where the huts are close by, and served as quarries for later stone walls.

The earliest archaeologically dated stone hut circle on Dartmoor so far is c.1800BC at Shaugh Moor, but this should not preclude the existence of even earlier examples elsewhere on the moor. It was also evident that some of the houses underwent several episodes of occupation over more than a millennia (Wainwright & Smith 1980, 119). A similar sequence has been obtained from other excavations, demonstrating that the round house format was still in use in this region about 1600 years later, including at Shapley Common during the Iron Age (Gibson 1992), and most recently the excavation of a hut circle at Kestor, with origins in the Middle Bronze Age, was re-occupied in both the Early Iron Age and in the Roman period (Gerrard 2016, 57). Precise dating for the origins and occupation of any of the settlement and hut circles at Wigford Down is not yet possible, given the lack of data we have, but it seems most likely that they came into existence in the 2nd-millennium BC and were occupied by pastoralist farmers who created small coaxial reave systems associated with some of their settlements. Continued, or intermittent re-occupation of the houses as late as the Iron Age is a possibility that must also be considered. Despite many hundred hut circles being excavated on Dartmoor, mostly in the 19th century with limited technical expertise, only a small number have been excavated to a modern standard, and only a tiny percentage of these have benefited from modern scientific methods. Although a finite resource, Dartmoor's hut circles may have much more information to reveal under the right conditions.

Dartmoor National Park contains the most significant assemblage of Early to Middle Bronze Age, upstanding stone monuments anywhere in the British Isles, and perhaps in Europe. A statement as to the significance of any one part or section of that assemblage must acknowledge its contribution to that greater part. Apart from any individual merits of the monuments within the Wigford Down PAL, collectively, each is also a component of what is arguably the most significant 2nd Millennium (Bronze Age) landscape in Britain. However, the remains from a secondary layer of farming and settlement on Wigford Down, laid down in the medieval period, present a particularly striking insight into a later phase of human exploitation of this land and the re-use of existing assets. There is no way yet of knowing when the enclosures and dwellings of the prehistoric landscape became abandoned, it could have been as late as the Iron Age or Roman period, and it is almost certain that grazing continued into the early medieval period, so the land was perhaps managed to some extent, whilst not permanently occupied, before the onset of medieval activity.

Two medieval dwellings were established on the western side of the Down, probably sometime in the twelfth or thirteenth centuries, judging by evidence from similar sites elsewhere. There is every reason to suspect that the beginnings of enclosure and cultivation of the west side of the Down were contemporary with the settlements. These settlers chose to modify the remnants of the reave system on the north side of the Down, re-purposing the reaves to create new, regular shaped enclosures, but in the southern and central areas the fields were remade, ignoring and in some cases effacing evidence of earlier reaves and constructing earth hedge banks with ditches. Cultivation following clearance became well established in several of the fields, but in other areas there are unfinished boundaries, clearance heaps or cairns, and evidence of only very undeveloped cultivation. Clearly the medieval agricultural landscape of Wigford Down was very much a work in progress when abandoned.

This area, and areas like it around the fringes of the upland, often represent an interface, where the gradual creep of medieval farming enclosures, expanding from the lower ground, faltered before halting. The marginality of the higher, more exposed ground made permanent cultivation and occupation more demanding, making these places more prone to desertion, whether through climatic, economic or social forces, than more productive areas. These locations are significant for the information they provide, framing a period of development that has elsewhere been overwhelmed by later change and their physical survival illustrates an important phase in the advancement of agriculture and settlement. Some of the nuances in the evidence are, however, extremely subtle and not so easily appreciated by the general observer.

Tinworking has provided an additional layer of fascination to the area, with one of Devon's largest tinworks cutting a

colossal swathe through the northern boundary of the PAL. Greenwell Gert is an extremely deep, wide, unusually long tin work, and an excellent exemplar of how massive the tinnners' impact on a landscape could be. A series of leats and three storage reservoirs on the south side of the working are significant examples, all being more or less intact and demonstrating very clearly the importance of water to the tinworking processes. They overlay the medieval fields to provide yet another temporal stratum to this already complex landscape.

As a whole, the undoubted significance of the archaeology on Wigford Down has not been recognised through scheduling. Curiously, a large area containing hut circles, enclosures and reaves on the north slope of the Down has been scheduled, though it lies outside the PAL and is not in itself representative of the quality of the Wigford Down parallel reave system, which the schedule acknowledges it is a part of. Considering their national significance, reave systems on Dartmoor are underrepresented in the schedule, with only Holne Moor, Throwleigh Common, Kestor/Shovel Down designated as complete systems, while much of Rippon Tor (the largest system), Shaugh Moor and the whole of Dartmeet and Wigford are unprotected through the scheduling system. Scheduling that has been carried out on Wigford has been very selective, concentrating entirely on prehistoric cairns and hut circles, and in the case of an important prehistoric and medieval settlement, the outline of the scheduled area is approximately 70m too far to the southwest.

A revision of the scheduling in this area is badly needed and should take into account the extent of surviving detail in the prehistoric reave system, with associated hut circles and settlement, as well as the significance of the accumulated effect on the landscape of medieval agriculture and settlement, and tinworking.

Abbreviations

AP	Aerial Photograph
CRO	Cornwall Record Office
DNPA	Dartmoor National Park Authority
DEC	Dartmoor Exploration Committee (of the Devonshire Association)
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HER	Historic Environment Record (Devon and Dartmoor)
LiDAR	Light Distance And Ranging (remote sensing survey)
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAL	Premier Archaeological Landscape
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
SM	Scheduled Monument
VCH	Victoria County History, Devonshire (Page 1906)

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Figure 19 Cist with coverstone within a much disturbed kerb cairn (2373).

Figure 20 Elliptical earthwork (ring cairn?) containing water on the summit of Wigford Down (2311).



Figure 21 A badly disturbed round cairn (2312) on the summit of Wigford Down.



Figure 22 A large stone hut circle (2307) set within an enclosed settlement.

Figure 23 A hut circle (2305) associated with the reave system on Wigford Down in an area adapted for cultivation in the medieval period.



Figure 24 A typical section of a prehistoric, stony enclosure wall (2307).



Figure 25 A large stony hut circle (40209) near the southern end of Wigford Down.

Figure 26 Earthwork remains of medieval rectangular building (150110).



Figure 27 (left) An inscribed boundary stone. One of seven stones inscribed with a letter 'L' marking the boundary of the Maristow estate.



Figure 28 (right) A stone inscribed with the letters 'BA'. One of eight marking a boundary on the northern sector of Wigford Down.

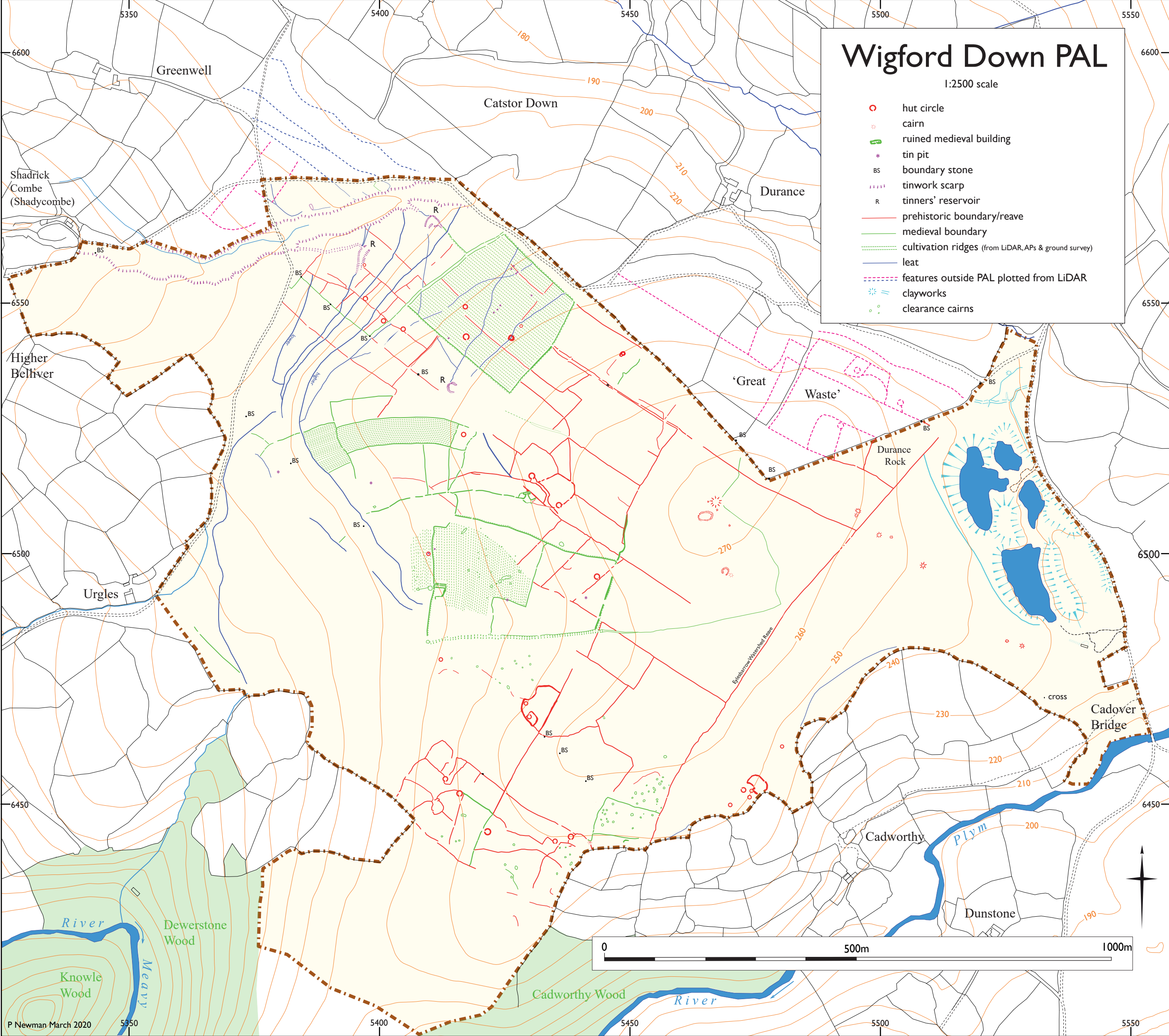


Figure 3 1:2500 scale survey of archaeological features on Wigford Down 2020, plotted onto 1896 OS map base. Contours derived from OS open source © Crown copyright and database right (2020). For individual monuments see Figure 18.

APPENDIX					
HER No.	Monument Type	Description	E	N	SM No.
2219	PARALLEL REAVE SYSTEM	A parallel reave system extending across Wigford Down, incorporating the Eylesbarrow Watershed Reave (MDV48901), which served as the system's eastern terminal, and extending NW across the Down to Greenwell Gert, and south towards Dewerstone. The system comprises a series of coaxial reaves running on a SE to NW axis, which are in turn divided into smaller compartments by short cross reaves. At least eight hut circles have a definite association with the reaves, being attached to them or with connecting walls, and several freestanding huts are likely have been contemporary, though no association is visible. (see main text pp 5-7) for full discussion).			
2224	HUT CIRCLE	An isolated hut circle on the eastern slope of Wigford Down, 30m west of the modern, outer enclosure walls. The spread circular earthwork has an overall diameter of 8.2m and comprises a stony turf-covered bank of up to 2m wide and 0.4m high, no <i>in-situ</i> structural stones are visible and the position of an entrance is currently obscured.	254804	64615	
2300	HUT CIRCLE	A free-standing hut circle contained within a medieval enclosure on the western slope of Wigford Down. Previously recorded as a cairn circle (Worth 1932, 118) though this is unlikely. The circle sits on a levelled platform of approximately 9m diameter. Eleven stones of the circular wall, mostly slabs, survive <i>in situ</i> , some of which remain upright. No obvious entrance location is visible. It is likely that a high percentage of the stone from the walls has been robbed.	254168	65237	1002551
2305	HUT CIRCLE	A freestanding hut circle set within a parallel reave system (MDV2219) on the NW slope of Wigford Down. The area was later enclosed, cleared of stone and cultivated in the medieval period, although the hut circle was allowed to remain. The circle comprises a stony, turf-covered bank with an overall footprint diameter of 13.6m with walls spread to 3.5m and 0.4m high. An entrance opening survives in place within the southern arc of the wall.	254173	65431	1002548
2306	HUT CIRCLE	A freestanding hut circle set within a parallel reave system (MDV2219) on the NW slope of Wigford Down. The area was later enclosed, cleared of stone and cultivated in the medieval period, when the hut circle was allowed to remain, although the building was bisected by a tinnern's leat, separating an arc of wall on the NW side from the main body of the hut. Some structural stone remains set into the banks but overall the hut is very disturbed, The overall footprint of the circle is just under 13m and the walls are very spread, up to 4m.	254262	65430	1002548
2307	HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT	A hut circle settlement of two attached curviform enclosures, a walled lane and two hut circles. The settlement is set within a complex parallel reave system with a common SE to NW axis. However the curved enclosures do not fit comfortably within this system and it is likely this settlement already existed when the reaves were constructed around it. The enclosure walls comprise mainly low stony earthwork banks but in places many larger granite boulders survive, often set upright and still <i>in situ</i> . Each of the enclosures has one hut circle. One of these (MDV119822) was incorporated into the walls of the southern enclosure, while the other (MDV119823) was contained within the open space of the second enclosure. It has short sections of wall to join the hut to it and provide a forecourt in front of the doorway. Two curving though parallel walls, 6m apart, form the two sides of a lane which extends from an area close by the southern of the two huts, towards the northern hut, apparently serving only that hut and excluding the other.	254330	65149	1002550
2310	ROUND CAIRN	A disturbed, turf-covered round cairn on the eastern slope of Wigford Down. It is part of a scheduled group of four and is one of eight cairns that form a rough alignment on the eastern side of the down. It is less than 1m distant from a smaller, possible ring cairn to its south (MDV48903). The footprint of the cairn is more elliptical than circular, measuring 13m by 9.3m and it stands to 0.6m high. A small pit on the NW arc of the mound indicates some insignificant disturbance in the past.	254955	65085	1002522
2311	CAIRN	An approximately oval earthwork hollow on the summit of Wigford Down, which has been artificially embanked around its perimeter and occasionally retains water during wet conditions. Previously described as a ring cairn, a pound, an enclosure, and a pond, its original purpose is lost to us though its location, adjacent to a heavily robbed prehistoric cairn (MDV2312) may be significant. The surface of the rainwater pond measures 22m by 12m. This is surrounded by a turf-covered stony bank, which has overall dimensions of 31m by 20m by up to 4m wide and 0.3m-0.4m high. On the south side of the bank, water, when overflowing from the pond has eroded the soil away, exposing a stony base to the bank. Although one stone remains approximately upright to 0.3m, the remainder are arranged in a random manner. The idea that the bank was built to retain water is doubtful because the water, when present, is only about 0.15m deep and evaporates rapidly in warm weather.	254648	65074	
2312	CAIRN	A very ruinous and badly disturbed stony cairn on the summit of Wigford Down, one of a group of cairns at this location. Very little of the character or extent of this structure remains to describe but a scarp of approximately 0.5m high in the form of an arc on the NW side of the feature may indicate part of the original outer circumference of a raised bowl barrow. Over half of the cairn has been removed on the SE side, where nothing of substance remains, but a rough robber scarp delineates the edge of the disturbance. All that survives on the surviving raised area is stony, turf-covered undulating ground containing several small robber pits. According to the OS record for this site (1950) the destruction was caused when the site was repurposed in World War 2. A 1.1m-tall stony heap in the approximate centre of this feature represents modern interference.	254671	65102	
2313	CAIRN	An earthwork ring of approximately 5m by 4m with a spread bank of 2m, located 1.6m to the south of a large, disturbed cairn (MDV2312) on the summit of Wigford Down. The ring bank stands to a height of 0.2m and has a narrow opening on its western side. Although of ring cairn form, this feature is rather small, and the fact that this location is known to have been occupied by the military during WW2 raises the possibility that it represents a military asset and not a prehistoric earthwork.	254673	65087	
2367	KERBED CAIRN	Four large <i>in-situ</i> upright slabs and one fallen, are all that remain of the retaining circle of a kerbed cairn, just south of the summit on Wigford Down, which had an internal diameter of 6.4m. Much of the substance of the cairn itself has been removed leaving slight undulations in and around the monument.	254701	64957	1002521
2368	RING CAIRN	A ring cairn, south of the summit on Wigford Down, which stands close to a very ruinous kerb cairn (MDV2367). The ring cairn comprises an annular earthwork, which, although now protected by a turf covering, is probably a stony bank. The overall maximum diameter of the ring is 16.7m and the average spread of the bank is 4.2m, standing to a height of up to 0.5m. An opening in the bank on the SW circumference is 4.5m wide with bull nose terminals. The interior has a slight depression near the opening, in which water frequently accumulates.	254691	64965	1002521
2372	HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT	A prehistoric settlement on Wigford Down, NW of Lower Cadworthy, comprising four ruined hut circles and a small enclosure, partly effaced by a modern wall. The two larger hut circles have internal diameters of between 6.5 and 7.5m, but two smaller less well-preserved huts also remain. All the huts consist of turf covered earthwork banks, with stony walls remaining <i>in situ</i> at several points. The enclosure is a rough D shape, covers 0.0836ha and has walls of turf and stone.	254735	64520	1003057

2373	CIST	A badly disturbed prehistoric cist with displaced cover stone and vestiges of a retaining circle surviving <i>in situ</i> . Approximately 60% of the feature remains due its location being chosen for the point where a later wall has a right angle corner with an adjoining wall branching from it, covering the northern portion of the cairn. Only five slabs of the retaining circle survive approximately upright <i>in situ</i> , suggesting the overall diameter of the complete circle was 8.35m. The long slabs of the central cist are also <i>in situ</i> and the chamber measures 1.1m by 0.28m approximately by 0.3m deep. A large, flat, intact cover stone of 1.4m by 1.17m, with a rounded end, is displaced to the south. Some material from the turf covered cairn is still visible, but much disturbed and depleted.	254420	64424	1002552
2375	HUT CIRCLE	A stony hut circle built against a contemporary enclosure wall, both of which are components of a prehistoric settlement, on the southern ridge of Wigford Down. The hut is not circular but has one straight side where the north wall is part of the enclosure wall. The overall dimensions of the hut are 12.9m by 12.9m and the walls are spread up to 3.9m. The walls are now mostly turf covered but a fair amount of large structural stones remains visible, especially along the north wall. The position of an entrance is visible on the southern outer circumference, indicted by a narrow gap in the earthwork.	254159	64522	1002549
2397	HUT CIRCLE	A detached prehistoric hut circle associated with field systems (MDV2219) nearby on the southern area of Wigford Down. The ruined stony walls are banked with earth to a height of 0.6m and the circle has an approximate diameter of 10m with walls spread to 3.5m. An entrance opening is visible on the south side.	254350	64425	
2444	WAYSIDE CROSS	Wigford Down Cross. A granite cross which stands to approximately 2.4m high, sitting on a circular plinth of 1.3m diameter, surrounded by an earthen ring bank. The cross has been skilfully fashioned, both the shaft and cross arms have a regular square section. A cement join in the shaft suggests either a repair or replacement shaft. (See Historic England Heritage list for detailed description of the cross). The cross has been restored at least twice. William Crossing reported that the top section was discovered during the army manoeuvres of 1873 (Crossing 1902, 49).	255355	64847	1326404
2458	ROUND CAIRN	A turf-covered round cairn on the lower, eastern slope of Wigford Down, one of eight cairns that form a rough alignment on the eastern side of the down. The spread of the cairn is approximately circular with a diameter of 8.5m, and it survives to approximately 0.4m high. A 2.7m diameter circular depression at the centre of the cairn and an eroded trench cutting, are evidence of an unrecorded intervention of unknown date.	255252	64826	
2459	ROUND CAIRN	A turf-covered round cairn on the lower, eastern slope of Wigford Down, one of eight cairns that form a rough alignment on the eastern side of the down. The spread of the cairn is approximately circular with a diameter of 11.6m, and it survives to approximately 0.4m-0.5m high. A circular depression of 3.6m diameter in the centre of the cairn is evidence of an unrecorded intervention of unknown date.	255282	64815	
5617	HUT CIRCLE	A circular structure, previously recorded and scheduled (1002549) as a hut circle, though it has an untypical construction method, compared with others in this locality. The circle is large and regular and appears to have been constructed from small stones, now evenly covered by turf, and although sited on slightly sloping ground, no effort was made to level the interior. One partly exposed section shows that some of the stones were laid in courses and that the walls contain no orthostats. The external diameter is a consistent 14.4m, with a measurable internal diameter of 8.8m and the bank does not appear to be spread, standing to a height of only 0.4m. A 1.7m-wide opening cuts through the western arc of the wall, but no door jambs are present, standing or fallen. The construction method of the circle and state of survival is comparable to ring cairns elsewhere on Dartmoor, which would offer a more likely interpretation for this asset. Although a further, alternative explanation for such a regular well-preserved circular structure could be that it was a more recent military asset, its vegetation-covered appearance on a 1946 AP, would rule out a WW2 gun pit or the likes of.	254215	64445	1002549
5619	ROUND CAIRN	A disturbed, turf-covered round cairn on the eastern slope of Wigford Down. It is part of a scheduled group of four and is one of eight cairns that form a rough alignment on the eastern side of the down. The spread of the cairn material is approximately circular with a maximum diameter of 12m. The mound stands to 0.5m-0.6mm high but its upper surface has been heavily disturbed in the past with two depressions providing evidence of digging. The largest of these depression has a diameter of 5m.	254996	65037	1002522
12704	HUT CIRCLE	A hut circle built against a right-angle junction with a parallel reave system (MDV2219). The walls are of upright slabs, many of which survive <i>in situ</i> up to height of 0.5m, now set within a turf-covered stony bank. The overall diameter of the hut circle is 11m, with a spread of up to 2.6m. An opening through the ruined wall on the SE circumference, probably represents the position of the entrance.	253972	65508	
12718	ROUND CAIRN	A turf-covered round cairn on the eastern slope of Wigford Down. It is part of a scheduled group of four and is one of eight cairns that form a rough alignment on the eastern side of the down. The spread of the cairn material is approximately circular with a maximum diameter of 7m.	255021	65033	1002522
12896	ENCLOSURE	An enclosure of 0.0392ha attached to the NW side of a reave. The enclosure has an irregular D shape, with one straight side formed by the reave, which is slightly lynched. The condition of the walls varies between a broad robust stony bank on the SW side to a more subtle earthwork near the NE corner. A smaller rectangular enclosure on the interior measures 20m by 15m and contains one hut circle (MDV119819). A second (possible) poorly preserved hut circle is contained within the NW area of the main enclosure (MDV119820).	254323	64701	
12897	HUT CIRCLE	A hut circle located amidst a parallel reave system (MDV2219) on the SW facing flank of Wigford Down. The hut is free standing but sited only 1.3m west of a reave running SW to NE. The circle comprises a moderately well-preserved stony bank, with many edge-set structural slabs of the inner walls surviving <i>in situ</i> . The overall diameter of the earthwork is 11.5m, with spread walls of up to 3.25m. A clear entrance opening survives on the SSW circumference.	254434	64955	
15009	DESERTED SETTLEMENT	The well preserved foundations of a large east-west oriented medieval longhouse with attached 0.0260ha enclosure on the south side, which itself is attached to a north-south field wall bank forming part of a contemporary field system (MDV40211). The building was hollowed into the slope and the stone walls were banked around the edges, though now spread and turf covered, and the interior of the sunken structure has slumped, sloping sides. There is little evidence of collapse and it is likely that the walls above foundation level were constructed from a material other than stone, including timber. The internal dimensions were probably about 22.8m by 4.8m. Opposing entrance openings, slightly to the west of centre, indicate the position of a cross passage, which traditionally divided the buildings into a living compartment and byre. In this case the latter was probably on the western end.	254121	64934	
15010	DESERTED SETTLEMENT	A deserted medieval building set within a contemporary field system (MDV40211), but also occupying the same location as a prehistoric settlement (MDV2307) and parallel a reave system, some elements of which have been fossilised into the medieval phase. The rectangular building foundations were cut into the slope and built from granite. Some of the walling remains exposed, though the majority is now turf covered and survives as an earthwork. The internal sides and ends of the earthwork have slumped into the hollow and are sloping, though externally they remain upstanding in places to 0.2m high. The overall internal dimensions were probably about 12.6m by 3.7m of which an inner room on the eastern end occupies an area 2m wide. There is very little loose masonry associated with the building suggesting that above foundation level the walls were constructed from timber or other organic materials. The building had an entrance on the south side only, and therefore lacks a cross passage. A rectangular plot attached to the SW corner of the building is bounded by a low turf and stone bank, enclosing an area of 9.6m by 8.6m.	254294	65120	1002550
19424	LEAT	Although recorded as a cornditch, this linear earthwork ditch, with a bank of upcast on the downslope side, is more likely to be a leat, which collected water from the large marshy area on the west side of Wigford Down, and diverted it across to the head of small tributary at SX 53739 64718, into which the water was deposited. To the north it can be traced up the slope near some modern houses, where it has been re-dug quite recently. Whatever the original purpose of this earthwork, it was probably later adapted to divert water from the marsh away from the modern houses and still fulfils this purpose.	253680	64866	
28077	ENCLOSURE	An approximately elliptical enclosure measuring 28m by 20m at the centre of a prehistoric reave settlement. The enclosure comprises a stony turf covered bank, incorporating some large boulders, and has four additional walls radiating from it which divide the larger rectangular enclosure within which it is contained (part of the reave system) into four self-contained enclosures.	254117	64495	

28269	RIDGE AND FURROW *	Ridge and furrow earthworks associated with medieval cultivation on Wigford Down. The earthworks are clear within two areas on the west side of the Down, which are enclosed by earthen banks (centred SX 54229 65486 and SX 54032 65244). The furrows are between 3.5m and 5m apart and follow the outlines of the field boundaries. They do not form an 'S' shape and no headlands are visible. A further area of cultivation is visible within a trapezoidal enclosure to the south (SX54072 64989), where apart from clearance mounds, there is evidence extremely subtle linear cultivation, of which only a small area is visible on the ground but is clear on certain colour APs (GetMapping Millennium Map 1999-2000). It is likely the cultivation preceded the enclosure in this latter case.	254030	65249	
28270	STREAMWORKS	A very large and deep tin openwork, known as Greenwell Gert, that extends from Catstor Down to Shadycombe Cottage, including a 790m section running across the northern edge of Wigford Down. At 55m wide, around 8m deep (moorland section) and just under 1km long, this is one of the largest single tinworks in Devon. The precise nature of this working is uncertain, but it could have been exploited for stream (alluvial) tin through streamworking techniques, or as a lode tin openwork, or both at different phases. It is notable that the interior has very little in the remains of spoil, though is now heavily choked with miry ground and tree growth. A series of at least seven leats (MDV28271) and three reservoirs (MDV128061; 128062,128074) diverted and stored water to the upper section of the working on the south side. A tinwork named 'Shyttryk' alias 'Durants Mead' is recorded in Meavy parish, in 1479 and 1538 (Greeves 1983, 341). Shyttrick is an earlier version of 'Shadrick', a name also associated with two small plots of land called 'Shadrick Combe' recorded on the Meavy Tithe Apportionment of 1840, located within the gert where it exits the northwest corner of Wigford Down; today this is the location of Shady Combe Cottage, which is the modern corruption. In a document of 1769, 'East Shitterick', 'Higher Shidderick', 'Easter Shiderick' and 'Deep Shiderick' (CRO ME2794), all probably refer to different tin bounds within this enormous tinwork, although it is unlikely they were being worked by that date. Tinworks with the name 'Catistor' 'Catestor East', 'Catestor West' within Meavy parish, mentioned in the 16th and 17th centuries (Greeves 1983, 309) are also clear references to Catstor Down and may be associated with the upper end of the tinwork, beyond the boundary of the PAL.	253871	65651	
28271	LEAT	Earthwork remains of eight leats cut across the northern slope of Wigford Down. They were used to divert water from two seasonal sources flowing out of springs on the Down, for use in the Greenwell Gert tinwork (MDV28270). A shallow, wet, natural gully, which runs east to west downhill on the SW slope of the Down represents the most significant source, and is today responsible for the large expanse of boggy area that is found just to the west. The head of two leats (lower and higher) which diverted water from this channel are located at SX 54084 64878. The lower of these two, is partly effaced by the boggy ground but further north it splits into three separate channels between the 220m and 210m contours, each of which can be traced to the edge of the tinwork. The middle of these three was served by a linear reservoir just above the tinwork edge (MDV128062). The higher leat splits into two, the upper of which cuts across a large medieval enclosure and probably served the very top eastern portion of the tinwork. The other leat can be traced to the point where the tinwork is crossed by the modern road. Continuations of at least three of these leats are visible to the north of the tinwork, and in enclosed pasture beyond the modern road, where they are particularly clear on LiDAR. They were clearly been transected by the tinwork, thus originally pre-dating it, when their origins may not have been associated with this tinwork. A second source of water was the small stream which has its spring just below the medieval settlement at SX 54269 65147. From there a leat diverted the water NW to what is now a very wet area, but below this is another tinnners' reservoir earthwork (MDV128074) and the point of commencement for three more leats. One heads downhill and can be traced to a third reservoir (MDV128061) at the edge of the tinwork. The other two run across the medieval enclosure and their final destinations are uncertain. All the leats that run through the enclosure have cut through the ridge and furrow and are clearly later. Although varying in scale and extent of survival, all these leats were essentially ditches, most of which follow approximately the contours of the hillsides. The upcast from the digging of the ditch was always placed along the lower edge, to give it greater capacity. Some are now silted to the extent that only the upcast bank remains visible while others still have a discernible ditch.	253924	65430	
28543	ROUND CAIRN	A disturbed, turf-covered round cairn on the eastern slope of Wigford Down. It is part of a scheduled group of four and is one of eight cairns that form a rough alignment on the eastern side of the down. The spread of the cairn is uneven though was once circular with a diameter of up to 14m, and it survives to approximately 0.5m high. The upper surface is uneven, probably caused by an unrecorded intervention of unknown date.	255085	64976	1002522
40206	ENCLOSURE	These features recorded in the HER from aerial photographs are not particularly convincing on the ground and are not visible on LiDAR.	254138	64791	
40207	HUT CIRCLE	A ruinous stone hut circle on the western slope of Wigford Down. The hut appears to be isolated associated only with fragmentary field wall remains. Much stone of the circular walls is visible, but although some <i>in-situ</i> structural stones survive most are tumbled or displaced. The overall diameter of the remains is 9m with low spread walls of 2.2m. The floor is approximately level but no entrance opening could be identified.	254122	64788	
40209	HUT CIRCLE	A large hut circle on the southern ridge of Wigford Down. The overall external diameter of the hut is 11.3m with an internal diameter of 8m. The building sits on the junction of three enclosure walls, was partly cut into a slight slope and has a level floor. Many large structural stones of the double skinned walls survive <i>in situ</i> , and many others are displaced. An entrance with surviving granite door jambs is visible on the southern circumference. The hut was one of four huts in a spread settlement set amid a series of enclosures.	254131	64550	1002549
40211	FIELD SYSTEM	A complex system of medieval enclosures and land improvements on the northern and central western slope of Wigford Down, which includes two separate field systems, with evidence of cultivation in the form of clearance and ridge and furrow. See main report (pp 15-17)for detailed description.			
48901	REAVE	The Eylesbarrow Watershed Reave can be traced from the Eylesbarrow Cairns 5.8km NE of Wigford Down. From there it runs across the head of Sheepstor Brook and Ringmoor Down before entering Wigford Down. Within the Wigford PAL this reave ascends the NE slope then runs approximately level for 525m before making its southern descent through the enclosed land of Cadworthy to the River Plym where it probably terminated. The remains comprise a linear stony bank, now low and spread up to 2m in places, with many small breaches caused by crossing footpaths. The reave is not straight and a number of small deviations in its alignment, particularly toward the southern section give it an irregular appearance on the plan. The reave acts as a terminal for four additional reaves joining it on the NW side, which are components of a well developed parallel reave system (MDV2219).	254829	64909	
48903	RING CAIRN	A possible ring cairn on sloping ground to the east of the summit on Wigford Down, close to another, larger, cairn to the north (MDV2310). The ring cairn comprises a low uneven penannular bank of up to 3.4m wide and 0.4m high. The external diameter of the cairn is 8.8m. An opening of 1.4m on the SE of the circumference, may be an original feature. A low linear bank of over 10m long extends southwards from the eastern terminal of the opening.	254952	65076	
48904	CAIRN	Cairn near the summit of Wigford Down and part of a cluster of other sepulchral features at this location and incorrectly recorded as a ring cairn in the HER. The feature comprises a mound of approximately 6m diameter by 0.4m high. A hollowed pit in the approximate centre of the mound indicated an unrecorded intervention.	254698	65056	
48959	CHINA CLAY WORKS	Remains of 19th-century china clay workings on NW lower slope of Wigford Down. The site, known by the name of the Wigford Down Clay Works, was begun in 1960 by Watts Blake and Bearne, who worked it for over 30 years before closure in 1898. It reopened in 1928 with the changed name of Brisworthy Clay Works which continued operating until 1937. The remains consist of four closely spaced though separate quarry pits and associated spoil heaps. The pits have become completely water filled and are now utilised by a local angling club. Around the western perimeter of the works, a cut ditch may have served as a leat or a storm drain, though it is not visible on APs of 1946. To the north of the works a series of linear banks and ditches (127076) are associated with the clay working and probably represent the management and diversion of water.	255286	65058	
49050	WATER WHEEL	Earthwork remains of a probable wheelpit associated with the Wigford Down Clayworks north of Cadover Bridge. The masonry of the wheelpit is obscured and the pit probably backfilled but it survives as an earthwork hollow. A level-topped linear earthwork, extending 30m NW of the pit, has a silted channel running along its length and is likely to represent the remains of a launder embankment. A water wheel is depicted on the 2nd edition 25-inch OS map (1906) 60m to the NW, although nothing remains at that location.	255406	64815	

103631	CLEARANCE CAIRN	A group of 14 clearance cairns, covering 1ha (SX 54279 64753), just south of and within the trapezoidal medieval enclosure (MDV40211) and a further 25 covering 1.4ha within the enclosure itself (SX4230 64983). The clearance cairns comprise mounds of stones, usually partly or fully covered by turf and heather, that were piled at random intervals within the areas being cleared. Most are approximately circular with a diameter between 1m and 9m with an average of 4m standing up to 0.5m high.	254211	64833	
119818	HUT CIRCLE	A large prehistoric hut circle attached to enclosure walls within a field system on the southern ridge of Wigford Down. The wall comprises a ruinous stony, turf-covered ring, containing several exposed though mostly displaced boulders, while others appear to have been robbed. The walls are up to 0.6m high and 4m wide. The external footprint of the structure has a diameter of almost 13m. The exposed extent of the floor is approximately 5.6m, though much reduced by the inward collapse of the walls. A clear entrance opening survives on the southern quadrant, though jambs are absent.	254379	64437	
119819	HUT CIRCLE	A prehistoric hut circle within a small enclosure, which is itself within an outer enclosure (MDV12896). Much of the stone of the walls survives, though many stones are displaced, especially on the north side. The internal diameter is approximately 6.2m.	254381	64435	
119820	HUT CIRCLE	A possible hut circle sited within a small enclosure (MDV12896), where an arc of spaced stoned marks the southern edge of an approximately circular earthwork cutting.	254291	64701	
119821	HUT CIRCLE	A hut circle sited just to the west of a medieval field bank, into which a later tin trial pit has been sunk, destroying most of the interior. Only a small arc of stones from the original wall survives <i>in situ</i> , though other sections of wall are buried by the spoil from the pit.	254097	65000	
119822	HUT CIRCLE	A large hut circle which is part of a settlement on the NW slope of Wigford Down (MDV2307). The hut which is incorporated into a substantive stone enclosure wall was constructed with an inner and outer wall facing comprising contiguous upright granite slabs, several of which survive <i>in situ</i> standing to a maximum of 0.8m high. Many other wall stones have fallen or become displaced. The internal diameter of the hut was 7.6m across the level floor and the walls are up to 1.7m thick where inner and outer survives. The space between the inner and outer slabs was filled with smaller stones and earth. This is now spread and extends as a turf-covered earthwork beyond the circumference of the hut. A probable entrance opening with one door jamb <i>in situ</i> , is on the SSE circumference of the circle. A particularly large slab on the N circumference has a tree rooted around it, which is gradually forcing the slab to lean inwards. This slab also forms part of a later structure which has been built into the interior of the hut, the evidence for which is a low curving earthwork partitioning off the northern arc of the wall and some stone structural remains of a crude wall. The structure probably measured approximately 4.4m by 3.4m. A large edge-set slab forming part of the SW outer arc of the outer wall has been inscribed with the letters JTPC. The date or meaning of the inscription is not known.	254358	65096	1002550
119823	HUT CIRCLE	A large hut circle which is part of a settlement (MDV2307) on the NW slope of Wigford Down. The hut stands on sloping ground within the southern half of a stone enclosure, connected by two short ruinous walls forming a courtyard between the hut and the south wall of the enclosure. The hut was constructed with an inner and outer wall facing, comprising contiguous upright granite slabs, several of which survive <i>in situ</i> standing to a maximum of 0.8m high. Many other stones have fallen or become displaced. The overall thickness of the wall is 1.6m where measurable and the interior diameter of the hut was 8.8m. The space between the inner and outer slabs was filled with smaller stones and earth. An entrance opening with one door jamb <i>in situ</i> , is visible on the southern circumference of the circle.	254304	65154	1002550
119824	HUT CIRCLE	A hut circle built against a right angle junction of two reaves. One of six large huts associated with the parallel reave system on the north slope of Wigford Down (MDV2219). The hut has a levelled floor and the walls contain many very large structural slabs. The hut has an interior diameter of 7.8m with an overall diameter of the spread walls is 13m	254007	65463	
119825	HUT CIRCLE	A hut circle built against a reave. One of six large huts associated with a parallel reave system on the north slope of Wigford Down(MDV2219). The hut has a levelled floor and the walls have many structural slabs. The hut has an interior diameter of 6.5m with an overall diameter of the spread walls is 10.6m	254047	65448	
119826	HUT CIRCLE	A very ruinous free-standing hut circle comprising a circular platform with seven earthfast stones representing all that remains of the walls. These stones are all quite small and are not arranged into a precise circle. One of four roughly plotted huts recorded by Butler within this medieval enclosure. HER NGR is also incorrect and refers to a tin pit.	254282	65454	
119827	HUT CIRCLE	A free-standing hut circle associated with a reave system (MDV2219), but now standing within an abandoned medieval enclosure (MDV40211). The hut circle is a rather sparse ring of stones within spread walls. The external diameter is 11m and walls spread to 2.7m. The floor is level but there is no obvious entrance opening.	254171	65493	
119828	HUT CIRCLE	Two apparently conjoined circular stony earthwork rings are possible hut circles, but their construction method of rubble circles of smallish stones, now turf covered is not typical of prehistoric huts in this district, though they may have been robbed and very disturbed by wall builders constructing a 19th century enclosure. Neither circle has any evidence of an entrance. The walls, such as they are, are very spread to over 3m, though less than 0.3m high. The larger circle has an outside diameter of 8.8m, but the spread of the walls makes the interior only 3m. The smaller circle is 6.3m external diameter.	254484	65398	
127076	RESERVOIR	To the north of the Wigford Down clay works, a series of linear earth banks and ditches are associated with the 19th to 20th century clay working episode and probably represent the management and diversion of water. A leat (MDV80471), to supply water to the clay works was cut from the northern side of the River Plym and through the enclosures of Brisworthy, though only a short stretch of it lies within the Wigford PAL.	255250	65327	
128061	RESERVOIR	The earthwork remains of a large tinnerns' reservoir adjacent to the southern edge of Greenwell Gert tinwork near the modern road. The main damming bank has a V-shaped footprint of 30m by 34m and the banks are 0.6m-0.8m high and 4.7m wide. A central opening indicates the position of the sluice from which two separate channels can be traced into the tinwork nearby. A second earthwork bank defines the southern edge of the reservoir hollow, into which water was delivered from a leat, the silted earthwork channel of which can be traced across Wigford Down.	254106	65665	
128062	RESERVOIR	The earthwork remains of a large tinnerns' reservoir adjacent to the southern edge of Greenwell Gert tinwork. The damming bank is slightly curving, 60m long by up to 5m wide and 0.5m-0.6m high, with a sluice opening near the northern end. A second bank of over 40m by 0.8m high, defines the eastern edge of the hollow, which is still capable of retaining water in wet conditions. Below and west of the sluice a substantial channel was cut to divert water 135m to the west into the tinwork, and two banked leats performed the same function to the north of the reservoir. The dry and silted remains of a leat may be traced from the southern end of the reservoir and across Wigford Down, where seasonal runoff and boggy areas would have supplied the water.	253968	65605	
128063-128064	BOUNDARY STONE	Eight inscribed granite boundary stones marking out a plot of land on the north side slope of Wigford Down. The stones comprise crude, uncut moorstone, all less than 1m high, each inscribed with the letters BA in capitals. Four of the stones are in a line following the course of a reave, and were originally components of the reave, set between 80m and 120m intervals, starting from SX 53844 65552, then SX 53901 65496, then SX 53980 65434 and SX 54076 65357. The fifth stone is set against a later enclosure boundary 757m ESE of the forth, at SX 54706 65229. Three more stones follow the line of the modern enclosure known as 'Great Waste' from its corner at SX 54772 65149 (recumbent), SX 55086 65267, SX 55209 65343. Although several theories have been advanced as to what these stones are marking, including that it might be lands of Buckland Abbey, it remains uncertain what the BA inscription stands for or what date these stones were installed. However, the course of the 'Great Waste' boundary, which enclosed an area of former common, was delineated on the 1840 Tithe map, although the enclosure walls may not have existed at that time. It seems these stones set out an earlier scheme of ownership, which followed the southern outline of the Great Waste but had been modified by 1840.	254773	65148	

I28074	RESERVOIR	The earthwork remains of a tanners' reservoir on the western slope of Wigford Down, associated with the large tinwork known as Greenwell Gert 365m to the northwest. The damming bank has a crescentic footprint with a diameter of 18m. The bank is up to 6m wide and 1.1m high. An opening near the central arc of the bank with disturbed vestiges of a stone wall still <i>in situ</i> , marks the position of the sluice. Water was collected from seasonal runoff and boggy areas to the south and south east of the feature, and a feint silted leat running from its north side can be traced northwest to a second reservoir near the tinwork.	254143	65332	
I28066	TIN PIT	A dispersed group of tin prospecting pits on Wigford Down, Eight pits have been identified, each comprising a conical pit of up to 3m diameter and a small, turf-covered spoil heap on the downslope side.	254236	65492	
I28067 I28068 I28069	BOUNDARY STONE	Seven upright granite boundary stones of between 0.8m and 1m high, placed in an alignment across Wigford Down, marking the boundary between separate landholdings. The line follows a similar route as is marked on the 1840 Meavy Tithe Map separating the lands of the Maristow estate (Sir Ralph Lopes) on the east side and that of Edwin Scobell to the west, including Dewerstone. Each of the stones is inscribed with the upper case letter 'L' for Lopes on the western face. The boundary is still current, with the land to the west now belonging to the National Trust. The locations of the stones are as follows: (MDVI28067) SX 53432 65596; (MDVI28068) SX 53733 65274; SX 53822 65180; SX 53969 65055; (MDVI28069) SX 54329 64634; SX 54359 64601; SX 54412, 64545.	253969	65053	
I28071	HUT CIRCLE	A possible hut circle surviving as a robbed earthwork, partly absorbed into the bank of a tanners' reservoir. The circle has an overall external diameter of 8m with banks spread to 2.6m. No visible stone has survived in the bank and no entrance is discernible.	253969	65576	
I28072	RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE	A ruinous rectangular feature sunk into a gully on Wigford Down. It is 2.5m long by 1.5m wide by 0.2m high with a narrow opening on both ends. It is built from small stones and turf covered. Its purpose or date is not known.	254455	65336	
I28073	RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE	A crude, stone-lined rectangular hollow has been sunk into a junction of two reaves. The internal dimensions are between 2.3 and 3m on the long walls by 1.1m wide by 0.3m deep. Its date and purpose are unknown but a shelter is a possibility.	254206	64560	
I28075	CLEARANCE CAIRN	A concentration of over 50 clearance heaps, spread over an area of approximately 3.6ha in an area of much prehistoric activity at the southern end of Wigford Down. The clearance cairns comprise mounds of stones, usually partly or fully covered by turf and heather, that were piled at random intervals within the areas being cleared. Most are approximately circular with a diameter between 1m and 9m with an average of 4m standing up to 0.5m high.	254473	64482	
I28297	RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE	Slight earthwork remains of a probable rectangular structure on the ridge of Wigford Down, south of the summit, which appears to have been attached to a reave. The ruined walls survive as a low turf-covered bank of 1.3m wide and 0.2m high, with a very small amount of stone visible. The structure has a rectangular footprint with interior dimensions of approximately 5.4m by 2.7m. No visible entrance has survived. No date is known for this feature, though the extremely spread character of the walls would suggest medieval.	254447	64672	
The above reports were compiled as part of the 2020 survey. The observations may not be in complete agreement with any previous record associated with these HER numbers					