

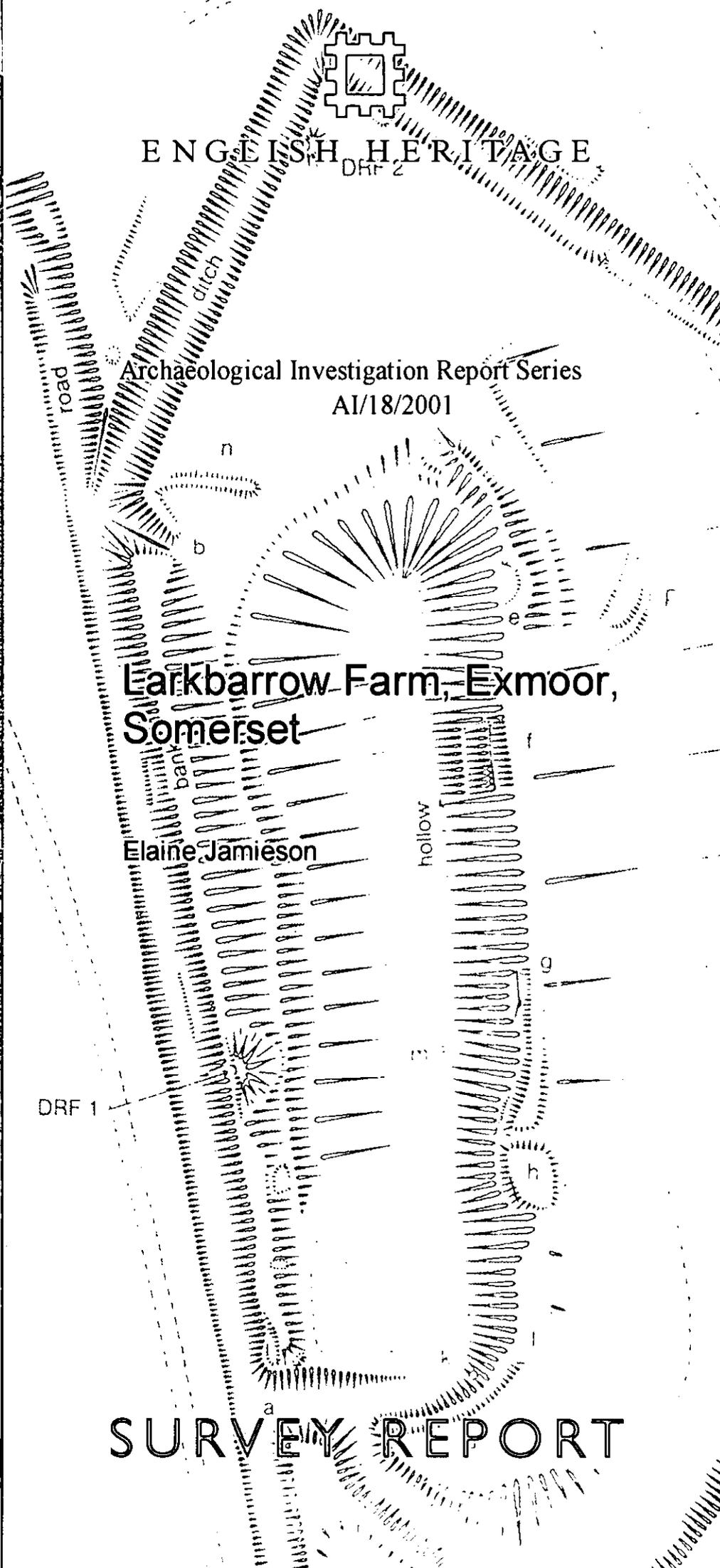
ENGLISH HERITAGE

DRF 2

Archaeological Investigation Report Series
AI/18/2001

Larkbarrow Farm, Exmoor,
Somerset

Elaine Jamieson



SURVEY REPORT

Archaeological Investigation Report Series
AI/18/201



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Larkbarrow Farm, Exmoor, Somerset
An archaeological survey by English Heritage

County:	Somerset
District:	West Somerset
Parish:	Exmoor
OS Map No:	SS 84 SW
NGR:	SS 820 430 (centred)
Surveyed:	November 2000 & February 2001
Report by:	Elaine Jamieson
Surveyors:	E Jamieson, H Riley

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Summary

Fieldwork carried out by English Heritage in partnership with the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) has recorded an interesting range of archaeological features on Larkbarrow Farm. A prehistoric stone setting, two previously unknown standing stones, and two small Bronze Age burial cairns form the earliest monuments in the survey area. In the medieval period Larkbarrow was part of the Royal Forest of Exmoor and was used for the grazing of stock, a use it maintained for many centuries. The area was enclosed by the Knight family in the post-medieval period at which time the farmstead of Larkbarrow was created. Field boundaries, stone quarries, and a large field gutter system combine with mineral prospecting pits and a section of the Simonsbath to Porlock railway to form evidence of the 19th century exploitation of the area. During the Second World War Larkbarrow was requisitioned by the army as a military training ground and artillery range; several slit trenches relating to this war time activity were recorded during survey work.

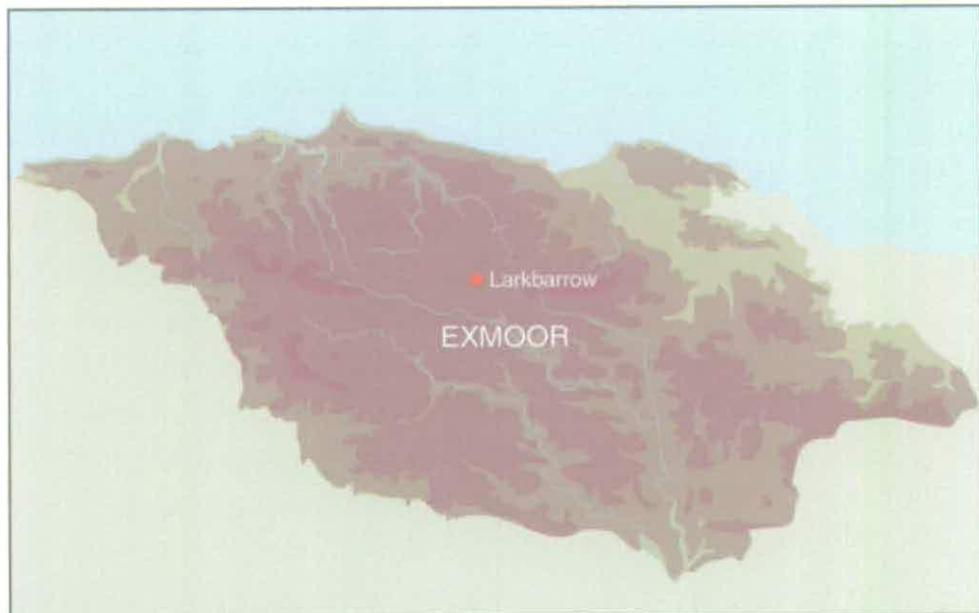


Fig. 1. Location Plan

INTRODUCTION

The ENPA holding of Larkbarrow lies within an area of rough moorland at the north-eastern edge of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor. A survey of the archaeological features at Larkbarrow was requested by the ENPA to aid in the management of the site. The survey was carried out by the Exeter office of English Heritage between the months of November 2000 and February 2001, using a combination of GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment and graphical survey methods.

LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

Larkbarrow Farm, Somerset, lies *c* 5km to the north-west of Exford and rises to an elevation of *c* 430m OD (Fig 1). The survey area stretches northwards from Larkbarrow Corner to Stowford Bottom and is bounded by Manor Allotment to the west and Porlock Allotment to the east (Fig. 2). This upland area, centred SS 82004300, lies towards the centre of the main Exmoor massif and is formed from Middle Devonian Grits (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1969). The area comprises *c* 1.8km² of mainly rough grassland and heather moor and contains many natural springs which combine with large areas of boggy grassland to form the origins of several small streams and combes. The 19th century farmstead of Larkbarrow sits in a sheltered position on the south-eastern slopes of Kittuck Hill, overlooking Long Combe, and lies at the centre of an area of contemporary enclosure fields.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

The prehistoric period

In the prehistoric period Larkbarrow would have looked very different from how it appears today. The open, rolling hills of heather and *Molinia caerulea* (purple moor grass) which now characterize the high moor are in stark contrast to the partly tree covered landscape of the prehistoric period. Evidence from palaeoenvironmental studies carried out on Exmoor clearly shows that woodland existed on the moor before the development of blanket peat on the broad summits (Straker & Crabtree 1995). Pollen analysis has indicated that by the Late Neolithic period this tree cover was composed of oak, alder, hazel or bog myrtle, birch, pine, elm and lime. Direct evidence for these woodlands may come in the form of the roots of small trees preserved beneath the water-logged organic soils north-east of Warren Farm at an elevation of 420m OD (McDonnell 1985b, 6). Environmental research suggests that this tree cover started to decline in the Bronze Age, with an intensification of woodland clearance in the Iron Age resulting in a marked increase in areas of open grassland (Straker & Crabtree 1995).

The Royal Forest

The Royal Forest of Exmoor was one of the sixty-seven royal forests of England and its origins may be traced as far back as the Saxon period. The term 'forest' in its old and legal meaning did not imply an area of woodland or even trees, but simply a district in which deer and certain other wild animals were reserved to the King and protected by forest law (MacDermot 1973, 3). The treeless nature of the Royal Forest is indicated by environmental evidence which suggests that the area was dominated by cotton grass in this period (Straker & Crabtree 1995). There are only two historic oaks known to have existed

within the forest bounds, Hoar Oak and Kite Oak, the former documented as having been used as a boundary marker from the 13th century. Kite Oak is first recorded in the early 17th century and probably stood by Chalk Water, not far from Three Combes Foot. The hill to the west of this area is known as Kittuck or 'Kitoak' and the area to the south, where the farmstead of Larkbarrow now lies, was formerly known as Acmead, the prefix 'ac' meaning oak (MacDermot 1973, 4). It is unclear whether the King ever hunted in Exmoor, but up until 1508 the deer within the forest bounds were considered Crown property and it was an offence punishable by death to illegally hunt or kill them (Burton 1989, 29). During the reign of Henry VII the King's forestal rights were let on lease to a warden or lessee and these rights included a licence to hunt deer in the forest. This practice remained in force until the last lease expired at the beginning of the 19th century.

In 1810, when the lease on the Royal Forest was due for renewal, it was decided by the *Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests and Land Revenues* to survey the property with a view to determining its suitability for growing timber for the navy (MacDermot 1973, 407). The survey concluded that the forest was unsuitable for this purpose, and so the land was put up for sale to the highest bidder. The Royal Forest, which had remained largely unenclosed up to this period, was subsequently sold to John Knight for the sum of £50,000. The King's land had been divided from the surrounding commons by boundary stones and landmarks such as Saddle Stone to the west and Black Barrow to the east. It was only after the acquisition of the Forest by the Knight family that large areas of the Forest began to be enclosed and improved.

19th century improvement

The history of the Knight family on Exmoor is well-documented, (Burton 1989, Orwin 1929), therefore only a brief overview will be given here. In 1820 John Knight purchased c 20,000 acres of the former Royal Forest with a view of exploiting the property himself, and turning the uncultivated Forest into a productive and prosperous agricultural enterprise (Orwin 1929, 47). The Knight family fortune had been accrued over several generations through interests in the iron industry, with the family owning forges and foundries in Shropshire and Worcestershire. Although John had considerable experience in the reclamation of marginal land, having earlier in his life reclaimed a large heathland area in his home county, the task before him was a monumental one (Orwin 1929, 10). The reclamation of the former Royal Forest would require not only a great deal of hard work and determination but also a large injection of capital. The earliest work undertaken by John Knight was the construction of a boundary wall to enclose his newly acquired land; this was soon followed by a road building project to open Exmoor to the outside world. He believed that large portions of the estate could be utilized for the growing of crops,

specifically corn, and began ploughing the land with the intention of bringing it into rotation farming. Under John Knight's plan the remaining uncultivated land was to be turned into summer grazing areas for sheep and cattle, a purpose for which the Forest had been used for many centuries. The former objective was never achieved however, partly due to the unsuitability of the upland landscape and partly to the nature of the Exmoor climate.

The family suffered a financial blow in 1840, when John Knight lost accession to a family inheritance and therefore failed to release the capital required to carry out his grand scheme (Orwin 1929, 49). In the following year John, by this time an elderly man of seventy-five, passed the sole control of managing the Forest to his eldest son Frederic Knight. There was then a marked change in estate policy as Frederic had the idea of colonizing the Forest with tenant farmers as a means of generating resources for the reclamation of the remainder of the estate. He intended to use these tenants as both a source of labour and of capital for the development of his new upland farmsteads. Estate policy regarding these new hill farms was firstly to agree acreage and then to construct boundary fences and the farmhouse in readiness for the arrival of the tenant. The tenant was then given possession to begin the reclamation of the land, including the construction of further boundary walls and gates and the erection of the farm buildings (Orwin 1929, 56). The first farms to be leased were Honeymead, Simonsbath Barton, Emmett's Grange and Cornham, all of which were let on twelve year leases in the period between 1842 and 1844 (Orwin 1929, 50). By 1848 six other farms had been equipped with buildings, Driver, Duredon, Warren, Larkbarrow, Horsen and Wintershead, of which only Driver and Larkbarrow were tenanted at this time (Orwin 1929, 53).

In 1848 Frederic Knight employed Robert Smith as agent for his Exmoor Estate. Smith was a member of a well-known south Lincolnshire farming family and a renowned improver with a particular knowledge of irrigation methods (Orwin 1929, 55). Smith was responsible for drawing up the conditions of tenure for the Exmoor farms and also for advertising the availability of the farmsteads in papers circulated in his native East Midlands. It was as a direct result of the advertisements placed in *The Lincolnshire Chronicle* in August of 1849 and 1850 that the holdings of Warren, Horsen and Larkbarrow were let on lease. In the following two years Wintershead, Simonsbath House and Duredon were also found tenants; with the final holdings of Tom's Hill and Pinkery in occupation by the end of the 1850s. Smith stressed that these upland farmsteads were suitable for sheep and stock farming, not for the growing of corn as John Knight had envisaged. He suggested the products of these farms should be confined to roots and rape-pastures for the feeding of stock; dairy-farming for cheese-making was also attempted by some of the tenants (Orwin 1929, 77). Things did

not go as well as expected however. Most of the initial tenants did not stay long, finding the strain involved in reclaiming these Forest holdings more than they could manage, and many of the farms changed hands within the first few years of occupation.

Larkbarrow Farm

The construction of Larkbarrow Farm began in the mid-1840s and the property was initially let to Farmer Hayes from Exford in 1846 (Thomas 1981). The tenant, however, continued to live in Exford and only two cottages were built on the land in the period up to 1849. James Meadows from Leicestershire took over the farm in 1850, though Larkbarrow's existence as a tenanted farm was short lived as he was reported to have left by 1852 and the property was never re-let (Orwin 1929, 71)

James Meadows appeared to have attempted dairy farming for cheese-making during his brief stay at Larkbarrow with some success. Sir Thomas Acland commented at this time: "*excellent Stilton cheese is made on the north side of the Moor*". Lewis Knight also wrote: "*I have got a cheese, a Stilton, made on the forest, which Frederic thinks will be rich and good*"; these were both references to the cheese produced at Larkbarrow (Orwin 1929, 67). Although root-growing and rotation grasses became the main objectives of most moorland farms, there is a tradition that the tenant at Larkbarrow grew wheat during his occupation, a factor that may have aided in his swift departure.

In the period after 1852 the holding of Larkbarrow reverted to estate management and ranch-farming, with hill-breeds of sheep, was introduced in the mid-1860s. Black-faced sheep were brought down from Scotland as they were considered to be much hardier than the local breeds and fared well on the moor in most weathers. The sheep were raised for their meat and it was normal practice to keep the ewes for five years at which point they were fattened with their lambs and then slaughtered (Orwin 1929, 89). Shepherds from the Highlands and Borders of Scotland were employed to herd the flocks as they had more experience of hill-sheep farming and managing the Scottish breeds than local Exmoor men. Larkbarrow was created as a double herding, with two shepherds employed to manage the flocks. It was run jointly from Larkbarrow and Tom's Hill, the shepherds and their families taking up residence in the vacant farm buildings. The farmhouse at Larkbarrow remained in this use until 1898, when the Larkbarrow shepherd Thomas Davidson was moved to Cornham. The farmhouse then became vacant and was subsequently let as a 'hunting and shooting box', a use in which it remained until the 1940's (Burton 1989, 125). Larkbarrow continued to be run as a herding until 1943 at which time it was requisitioned by the Army to be used as a military training ground. A large area of land around Tom's Hill and

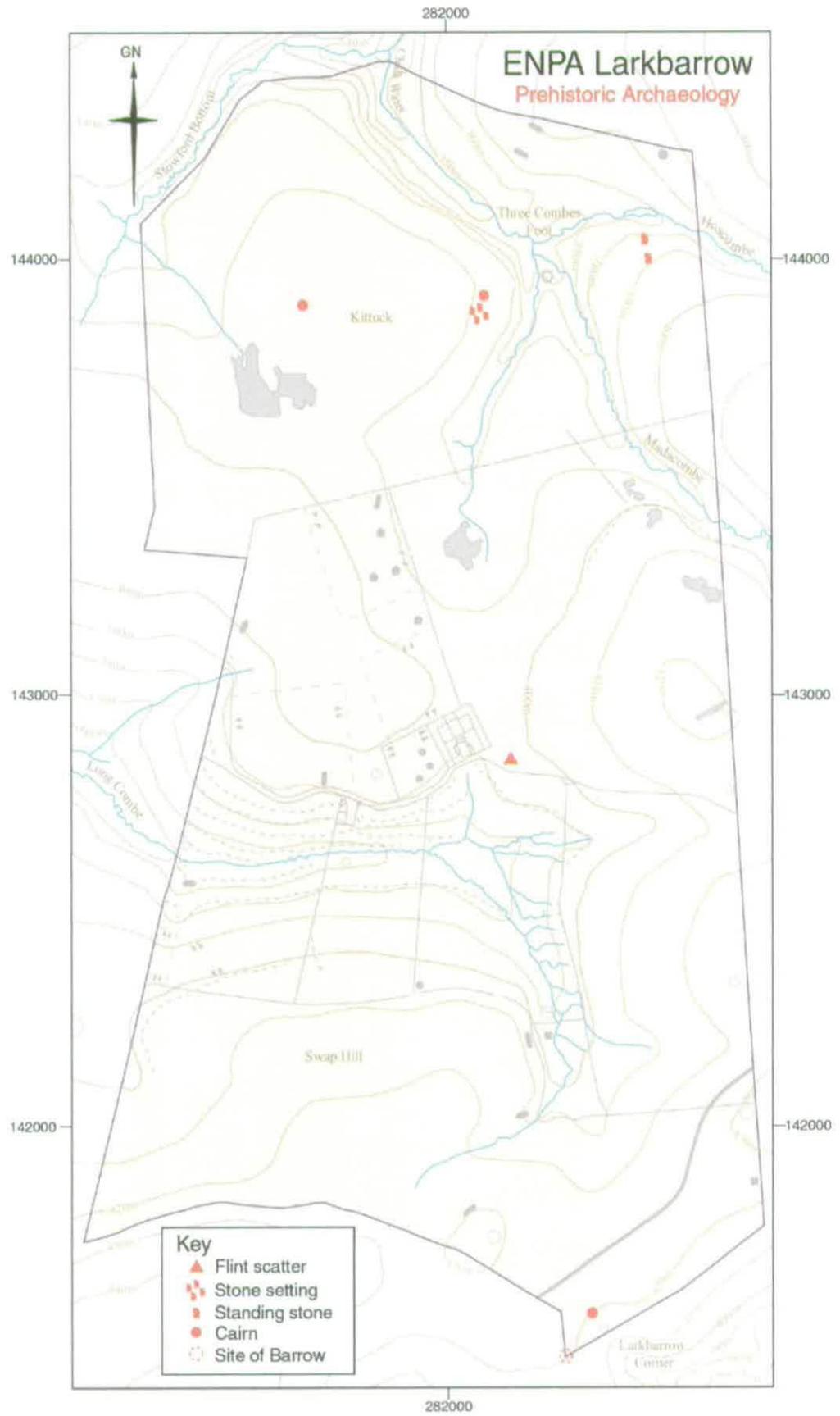


Fig. 3. Larkbarrow Farm. Prehistoric Archaeology

Larkbarrow was used as target practice by American troops in preparation for the possible invasion of enemy forces. Allied training resulted in the area being peppered with unexploded shells of various types, leaving the ground too hazardous to farm in the years following the Second World War. Larkbarrow remained in Knight family control until 1886, at which time the whole of the Exmoor and Brenden estates, totalling some 21,893 acres, were sold to Earl Fortescue and his son Viscount Ebrington (Orwin, Sellick & Bonham-Carter 1997, 141). The area was purchased from the Fortescue Estate by the Department of the Environment in 1981 and transferred to the ENPA (Orwin, Sellick & Bonham-Carter 1997, 197).

Little archaeological work has been carried out over the area. Air photographic transcription at 1:10 000 scale was undertaken when the whole of the National Park was mapped in this way (McDonnell 1985a) and the area was considered as part of the RCHME's lithics survey and archaeological survey of Exmoor (Quinnell and Dunn 1992). No known excavations have been carried out in the survey area.

ARCHAEOLOGY (Fig 2)

The following is a summary of the main archaeological features on Larkbarrow, arranged in broad chronological periods. Detailed descriptions of individual monuments are contained in the appendix. Each period is accompanied by a map highlighting the archaeological features of the period in question.

Prehistoric Landscape (Fig 3)

Flint core-trimmings (SS 84 SW 2) were found in an area just to the east of Larkbarrow farmstead in 1956. These pebble core-trimmings, classified as Mesolithic/Neolithic, were donated to the County Museum, Taunton.

Prior to the recent survey work only one Late Neolithic 'ritual' monument was known within the Larkbarrow survey area (Quinnell and Dunn 1992, 47). This site is situated on the eastern slopes of Kittuck Hill overlooking Three Combes Foot (SS 84 SW 47 & SS 84 SW 128) and consists of a linear grouping of stones apparently aligned on a cairn (Fig 4). This stone setting comprises eight stones, four uprights and four fallen, the largest of the uprights standing *c* 0.5m high. Two of the uprights (J & K) are thought to represent packing stones and protrude only *c* 0.05 and 0.10m through the turf respectively. Three new erosion hollows were identified and mapped during the survey work of which two (M & N) may

represent the former position of stones now missing from the group. The cairn at the northern end of the setting has suffered considerable disturbance and has a large robber trench at its centre. A small mound at the southern end of the setting (C) may possibly represent the remains of a second cairn, though this again has been disturbed and bears the scars of a shell hole in its north-western side. The site as a whole survives in a poor condition; this may partly be the result of military activity in the area as several shell craters are visible in close proximity to the stones and cairn.

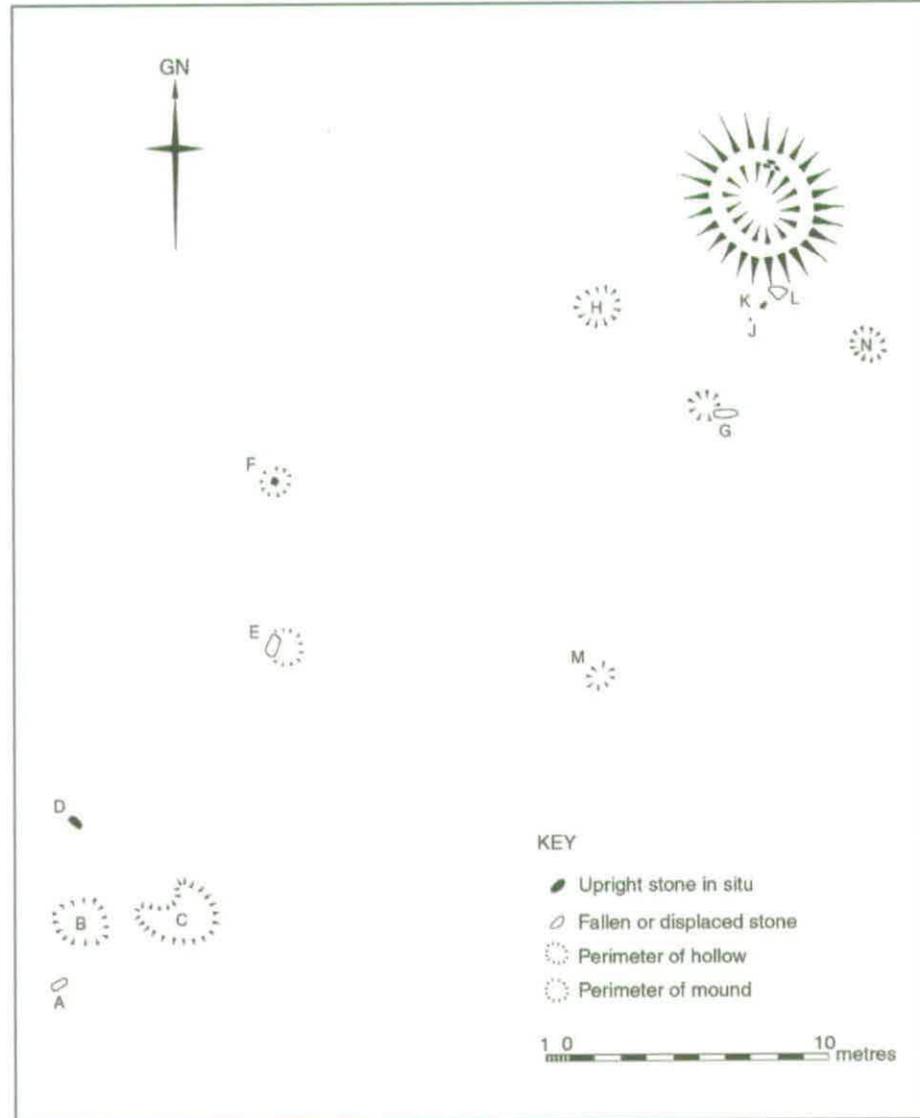


Fig. 4. Kittuck stone setting, English Heritage 1:200 scale survey (reduced).

A further two Late Neolithic standing stones were discovered as a result of the survey work, both of which are located on rising ground above Hoscombe (SS 84 SW 156 & SS 84 SW 157). The southern stone, is the largest of the two and survives in good condition; it is set in a slight hollow and stands c 0.63m high (Fig 5). The smaller, northern stone has a

pronounced lean and stands c 0.2m high, however, its appearance suggests that the top section may have been broken off at some point. There was also a small erosion hollow recorded just to the south of the latter, this may represent the site of a further stone. At present it is somewhat unclear whether these stones are part of the same setting or form the remains of two separate monuments. The northern stone combined with the small erosion hollow to its south may represent the remains of a paired stone setting, alternatively, all the recorded features may form part of a larger, linear stone setting. Further investigation is required if the true nature of this site is to be discovered although vegetation will continue to make the location of any further stones difficult.



Fig. 5. Surveying a prehistoric standing stone above Hoscombe.

Two small cairns (SS 84 SW 8 & SS 84 SW 70) have been identified within the Larkbarrow survey area. Both features are thought most likely to be Bronze Age cairns and as such, add greatly to our knowledge of activity from this period.

A Bronze Age barrow is thought to have stood near Larkbarrow corner (SS 84 SW 24). In the *Survey of Exmoor* undertaken in 1651 it was recorded as one of the principal landmarks used to define the Royal Forest, the forest boundary recorded as passing “*over Larke burrough ball*”. This is the earliest known record of a feature named Lark Barrow as documents relating to 13th century Forest perambulations record the boundary as running directly from “*Osemundebergh*” (Alderman’s Barrow) to “*Spracombesheved*”

(Spracombe). The pre-Inclosure survey of 1815 also defines Lark Barrow as a Forest boundary marker, stating that: *“from Owlamans Burrow the Boundary of the said Forest extends in a south westerly direction along several Boundary stones to a Mound or Burrow called Larks Burrow”* (in MacDermot 1973, 138, 301, 422, 426). The earliest depiction of the monument dates from 1675 and takes the form of a crude map showing Larkbarrow as a large mound, a symbol used to depict all the barrows employed as boundary markers for the Royal Forest. The barrow also appears as a mound on the 1843 Exford Tithe Map, however it is not marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890. Little trace of this feature can be seen on the ground today and evidence suggests that it was most probably a casualty of the mid-19th century enclosures, the barrow material possibly having been used in the construction of the boundary walls.

Medieval landscape

The ENPA holding of Larkbarrow formed the north-eastern corner of the Royal Forest in the medieval period. The area was mainly used for stock grazing during this time, and with few exceptions, was largely uninhabited. This is highlighted in John Leland’s account of his journey from Dunster to Barnstable written in 1540. In this he describes a section of his route: *“From Exford to Simonsbath Bridge a 4 miles, al by Forest, Baren, and Morisch Ground, wher ys store and breeding of young Catelle, but litle or no Corne or Habitation”* (in MacDermot 1973, 6). Activities such as stock grazing leave few, if any, lasting marks on the landscape and it is therefore not unexpected that no archaeological features relating to this were discovered during survey work. The southern extent of the area follows the line of the former Royal Forest boundary, and although the pre-Inclosure survey does mention the existence of several bound-stones along this route, none were found during fieldwork. The old Forest boundary is also recorded as running along the northern edge of the area, from Chalk Water towards Blackbarrow, but again no bound-stones could be discovered. As with the southern boundary, the creation of enclosure walls in the 19th century may have been responsible for the disappearance of any such markers.

Post-medieval landscape (Fig 6)

The post-medieval remains within the survey area are extensive, and are mainly associated with 19th century agricultural improvements and mineral extraction.



Fig. 6. Larkbarrow Farm. Post-medieval Archaeology.

Agricultural improvements

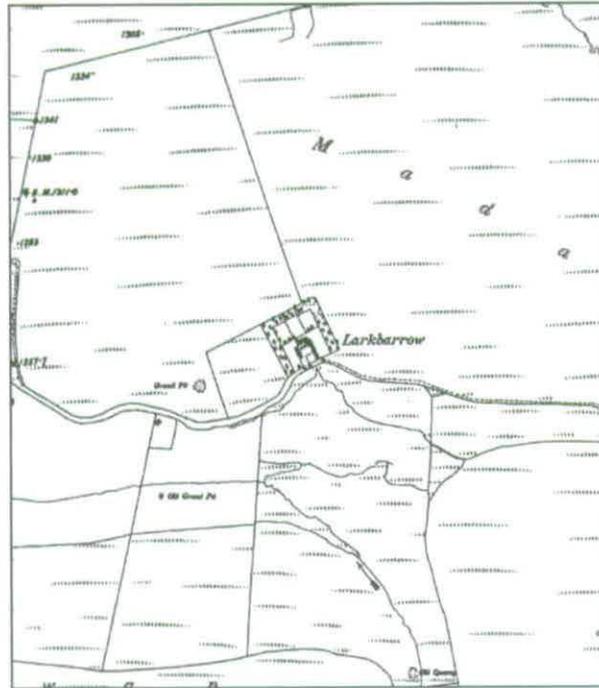
The farmstead of Larkbarrow (SS 84 SW 104) (Fig 7) is situated on the south-facing slopes of Kittuck hill overlooking Long Combe at *c* 395m above OD. The farmyard faces south-east, presumably to gain as much benefit from the warmth of the sun as possible, and is surrounded by a beech plantation established to provide shelter from the harsh Exmoor



Fig. 7. The remains of Larkbarrow farmstead. (NMR15608/19)

winds. The property is accessed by way of a rough track leading from the Wellshead road, east of Larkbarrow Corner. The track passes on the southern side of the farmyard and continues around the slopes of Kittuck to the farm at Tom's Hill. The buildings all survive in a ruinous condition but the original plan is probably close to that shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 (Fig 8), which also shows a small enclosure in the eastern corner of the yard. As Larkbarrow was only used as a model farm for a short length of time, there would appear to have been few, if any, alterations to the original layout of the farmyard. The farmstead follows a typical Knight plan: formed round a rectangular yard the farm buildings are arranged along three of its sides. The farmhouse and dairy are positioned along the north side, with the barn and cartshed forming the western side, and the cowshed or 'shippon' on the east. The farm buildings are typically constructed of local materials; the walls are of rubble construction bound with lime mortar; the farmhouse shows evidence of a cement render finish. None of the roof structures survive but a photograph of the farmstead dating from the 1930's shows the barn and farmhouse as both having hipped roofs, again typical of the Knight family farms on Exmoor (Orwin, Sellick and Bonham-Carter 1997, 163).

The farmstead stands within a landscape of contemporary enclosure fields and boundary walls established during the reclamation of the moor in the mid-19th century. It clearly demonstrates the principles that Robert Smith advocated for laying out hill farms. He recommended that the farmland should be divided into three classes; firstly an area of rough land to be used as summering ground for stock; secondly, an area immediately below this ground intended for arable production. The third class was to consist of the flats and marshes in the valleys, together with some portions of the adjacent hillsides, which were to



*Fig. 8.
Extract from
the 1st edition
Ordnance
Survey map
of 1890.*

be laid out for pasture and water-meadows (Orwin 1929, 56). All three elements are evident at Larkbarrow. The high ground on both Kittuck Hill and Swap Hill formed the summer grazing land, the enclosed areas immediately below this the arable, and the slopes of Long Combe the pasture and water-meadow, or more correctly in this case, the field gutter system. As the occupation of Larkbarrow as an upland farmstead was very brief, it is not surprising that little of the enclosed land appears to have been improved. Only the paddock immediately to the west of the farmstead and the fields on the slopes of Long Combe show clear signs of improvement, the former containing three field clearance cairns (SS 84 SW 174). Aerial photography does, however, show the remains of ploughing in the larger enclosed area to the north and west of the farmstead. This may suggest an attempt at some form of improvement, though little evidence for this survives on the ground today with the area now under rough grassland. Ploughing can also be seen on the northern slopes of Swap Hill, but again this is very slight and impossible to trace on the ground.

The earthwork remains of a field gutter system, sometimes known as a catchwater leat system, can be seen in the improved fields to the south-west of the farm. This forms part of

a much larger system which continues westward along the slopes of Long Combe (SS 84 SW 121)(Fig 9). The channels or 'leats' were culverted through the field banks and were apparently fed by two much larger carriage gutters that conveyed water from the natural springs in Long Combe Head. The warmer water from these springs was fed out onto the pastures in autumn and winter to encourage a flush of grass in the Late winter months. Sheep could then be turned out onto these pastures in early spring when grass was in short supply. The scale of the system in Long Combe is by no means unusual as the main



Fig. 9. The earthwork remains of a field gutter system can be seen stretching into the distance. (NMR 15631/13)

carriage gutters often extended over great distances. One of the most impressive examples of a water management system was at Robert Smith's farm Emmett's Grange, where the carriage gutters extended long distances to supply water to the farthest meadows (Francis 1984).

Two further water management features were recorded during the survey, the first running from a spring on the western slopes of Swap Hill (SS 84 SW 175), and the second from

Madacombe, situated to the north-east of Larkbarrow Farm (SS 84 SW 176). The former survives as a substantial earthwork leat and may possibly have been constructed to feed the main carriage gutter on the north-facing slopes of Long Combe with the warmer water of the Swap Hill spring. The latter appears to have been an attempt to convey water round to the farmstead from Madacombe, the leat apparently abandoned before completion.

An unusual feature recorded during field work was a short stretch of bank running north-west/south-east on rising ground to the east of Larkbarrow Farm (SS 84 SW 177). This spread earthen bank, c 2.6m wide and c 0.4m high, runs under a 19th century enclosure wall and clearly pre-dates the wall. The date and purpose of the bank is, however, uncertain. It can only be presumed that it is related to the 19th century enclosures, as the bank's form and size would appear to negate an earlier date. It may have been related to the initial setting out of the farm, this boundary abandoned in favour of the sequence of enclosure walls that we see today.



Fig. 10. A stone sheep stell was constructed in Three Combes Foot.

The conversion of Larkbarrow to sheep farming in the 1860's, combined with the introduction of Scottish shepherds to manage the flocks, has made a lasting impression on the Exmoor landscape. A stone sheep stell was constructed in Three Combes Foot (SS 84 SW 98) to give much needed shelter to the flock out on the open moor during the harsh Exmoor winters (Fig 10). The head shepherd, Robert Little from Dumfries-shire, recorded in his note book that the construction of the stell was started shortly after March 1878, when severe snowstorms resulted in the loss of 40 sheep at Larkbarrow in a single night

(Burton 1989, 119). The circular enclosure comprises a stone-faced bank, with an entrance in the sheltered south side, surmounted by beech trees.

The remains of Larkbarrow Cottage lie on the south side of the track above Long Combe (SS 84 SW 113). The cottage was most probably constructed in the mid-1840s during the initial setting out of the farm. It is set into the field boundary and survives as grass covered rubble remains, the walls standing to a maximum height of *c* 0.9m. To the east of the cottage, along a rough track, stands the remains of a small square building of rubble construction, most probably the cottage 'privy'.

Large areas of peat cutting on Kittuck Hill and Madacombe were mapped by air photographic transcription (McDonnell 1985). At one time the occupants of every cottage and farmhouse on the Exmoor Estate had a turf (peat) pit and a yearly turf allowance for domestic consumption. A man was expected on average to cut 1,000 turves a day, however, it is reputed that Tom Elworthy cut some 7,000 turves over two days on Kittuck Hill, an extraordinary feat of endurance! (Burton 1989, 232-233). Four low earthen mounds were recorded during field survey work to the north of Larkbarrow farmhouse (SS 84 SW 178) and may represent the remains of turf stacks where the peat was dried before burning.

Stone and mineral extraction

The remains of several quarries and gravel pits were located within the Larkbarrow survey area, almost all of which appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Three large quarries (SS 84 SW 158, SS 84 SW 163 & SS 84 SW 172) are annotated on the 1st edition



Fig. 11. Mineral prospecting pits, Long Combe Head.

'Old Quarry', suggesting they were out of use by the 1890s. The quarries and pits provided a convenient supply of local stone and gravel for use in the construction of the farm buildings and enclosure walls. They may also have supplied material for the construction of the Simonsbath to Porlock Railway trackbed (see below).

Evidence for mineral prospecting was also found during the course of the survey; this came in two forms, prospecting pits and prospecting trenches. Two examples of the former were found (SS 84 SW 160 & SS 84 SW 163), the larger of the two located on the east-facing slopes of Long Combe Head (Fig 11). Three prospecting trenches were recorded (SS 84 SW 162, SS 84 SW 166 & SS 84 SW 179) cut into the slopes of both Kittuck Hill and Swap Hill. All these features may be related to Frederic Knight's attempts at mineral extraction on Exmoor in the mid-1850s, an enterprise which resulted in little success. As part of this scheme Knight also proposed to run a narrow gauge railway from Simonsbath to Porlock Weir, intended as a means of transporting iron ore from the moor. He also saw the railway as a way of moving building materials, lime, and agricultural produce to and from his Exmoor Estate (Orwin 1929,145). Construction of the trackbed began in the latter half of the 1850s, however, due to the failure of the Dowlais Iron Company, and Knight's eventual inability to raise the capital for the project, the railway was never completed. Much of the trackbed survives as a linear earthwork and a well preserved section can be seen snaking through the southern section of the survey area (SS 84 SW 44)(Fig 12).



Fig. 12. A surviving section of trackbed, Simonsbath to Porlock railway. (NMR 15608/14)

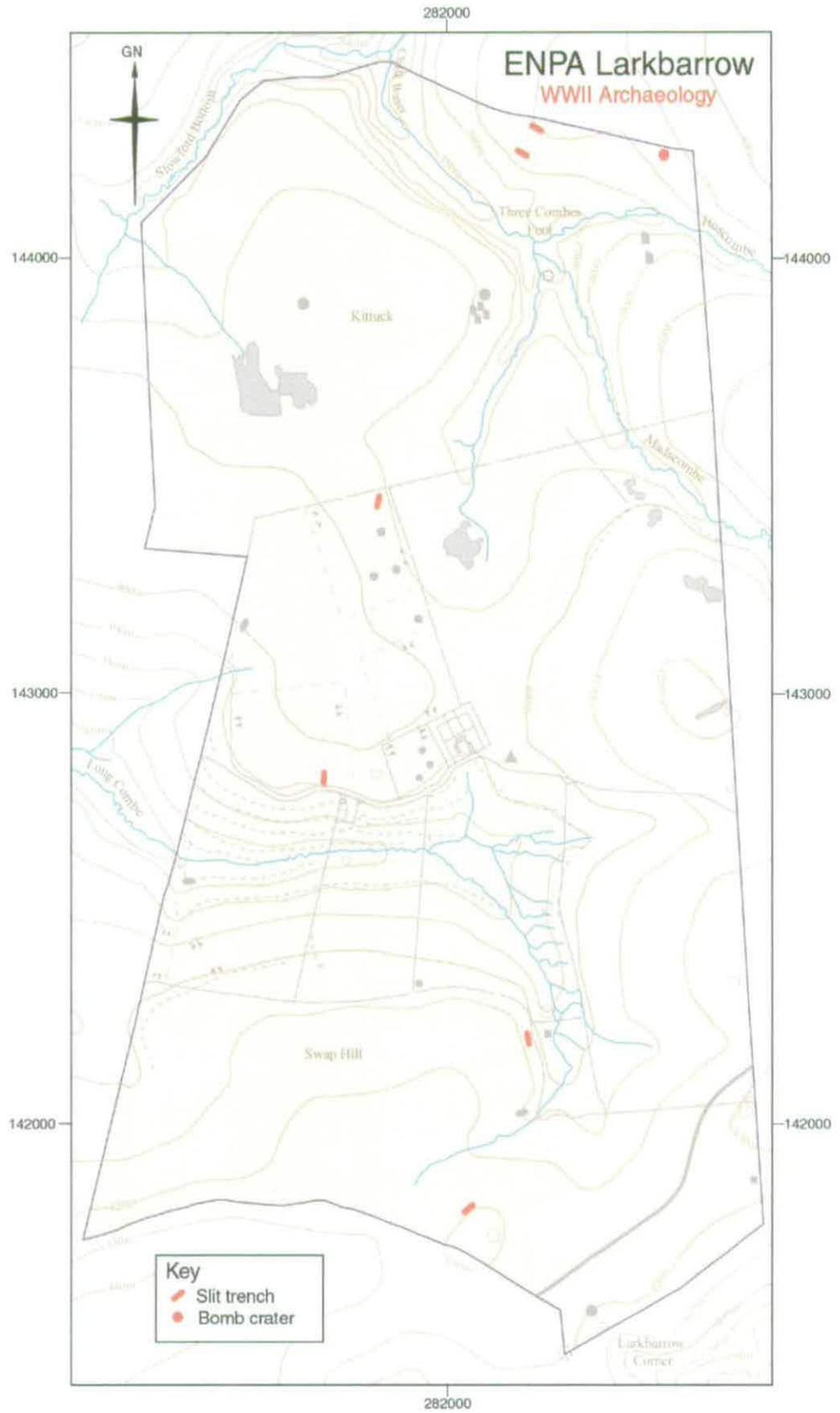
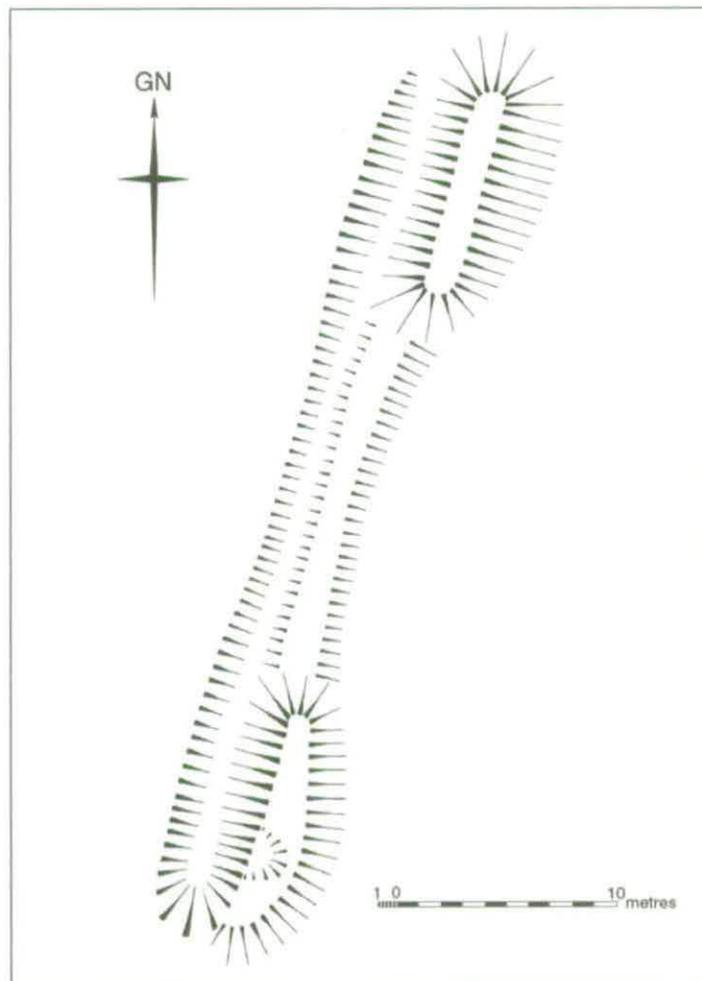


Fig. 13. Larkbarrow Farm. Second World War Archaeology.

The Military Use of Larkbarrow (Fig 13)

During the Second World War a large moorland area around Larkbarrow, Tom's Hill and Brendon Common was requisitioned by the military as a training ground and artillery range. Big field guns were sited on North Molton Ridge and other strategic positions from where, guided by spotter planes, they fired shell after shell in the direction of the old farmsteads and shepherds cottages (Burton 1989, 223). This wartime activity was mainly undertaken by American troops stationed in the West Country who, by the mid-1940s, far outnumbered British military personnel in the area. Larkbarrow's use as a training ground has left a considerable impression on the moorland landscape. The entire area is pockmarked with shell holes, many of which would appear to cluster round the farm buildings and other distinctive features of the landscape, such as boundary walls. The remains of a Second World War observation post (SS 84 SW 03) survive set into the hillside on the north-facing slopes of Elsworthy, overlooking the impact area at Larkbarrow Farm. The farmstead and cottage were severely damaged during this period and remained as burnt-out shells for many years after as a photograph dating from 1954 clearly shows (Orwin, Sellick & Bonham-Carter 1997, 163).



*Fig. 14. Slit trench,
English Heritage
1:200 scale survey
(reduced).*

Larkbarrow's role as a military training ground has left its mark on the landscape in other ways. A total of six slit trenches were recorded during survey work, the largest being c 45m in length (SS 84 SW 151) (Fig 14). These trenches take the form of long rectangular hollows with earthen mounds running the length of their down-slope side. They were almost certainly constructed as practice trenches during military training exercises and occur as either single features (Fig 15) or in pairs. The trenches above Chalk Water (SS 84 SW 154) represent the latter, and are located parallel to one another on steeply rising ground.



Fig. 15. A large slit trench above Long Combe Head.

A large bomb crater was discovered at the very north-east boundary of the survey area (SS 84 SW 180). This could represent one of two things: the crater may be from enemy bombing raids during the Second World War, or, from the clear-up operation undertaken in the years that followed. Enemy planes would often waste bombs on open country and consequently craters similar to that found at Larkbarrow can be seen round Dunkery, Winsford Hill and Hoar Oak (Hurley 1978, 77). Alternatively, after wartime activity ended the area was left littered with unexploded shells of various types which were subsequently cleared by the army bomb disposal team in the 1960s. The crater may therefore represent the location of a controlled explosion carried out to dispose of Second World War ordnance.

CONCLUSIONS

The surviving archaeology of Larkbarrow forms a varied and interesting group, vividly illustrating the changing uses of this moorland landscape from the prehistoric to the modern

day. The value of undertaking a detailed survey in an area such as the ENPA holding of Larkbarrow has been highlighted by the quantity of new sites found during fieldwork. An important new prehistoric site above Hoscombe was discovered as were a wealth of Second World War remains, all of which have been accurately located using modern technology. Some previously recorded features have been re-interpreted or classified for the first time, including two small Bronze Age cairns. The detailed recording of a wide variety of features relating to 19th century improvements has given us a much greater insight into the activities of this period. The importance of water management to improvement farming methods has been clearly illustrated through the detailed survey of an extensive field gutter system on the slopes of Long Combe. The work at Larkbarrow has also brought together a range of evidence, combining ground survey, aerial photography and documentary sources to produce a better understanding of this upland landscape.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Larkbarrow was surveyed at 1:2500 scale between November 2000 and February 2001. All features were surveyed using Leica single frequency differential GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment. This survey was located to the National Grid using OS triangulation pillar co-ordinates.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX: SITE GAZETTEER

PERIOD: Mesolithic/Neolithic

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 2

NGR: SS 8215 4285

DESCRIPTION: Flint core-trimmings have been found near Larkbarrow and donated to the County Museum, Taunton.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: N/A

PERIOD: Post-medieval/Prehistoric

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 8

NGR: SS 8234 4156

DESCRIPTION: A prominent, circular, earthen mound, 6.5m in diameter and 0.5m high. It is covered in heather, moss and grass and despite some surface stone, appears to be largely earthen. The mound is topped by a central tussocky lump, 1m in diameter. To the north-east of this mound is a much smaller, turf-covered mound measuring 5m NE-SW by 3.5m NW-SE and 0.4m high (maximum). The large mound may represent the remains of post-medieval activity but may equally be a small prehistoric burial cairn – it lies close to the site of Larkbarrow Corner where tradition has it that a barrow formed a boundary marker of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor (see SS 84 SW 24).

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The larger mound survives in good condition with slight disturbance on its north-east side, possibly a shell crater. The smaller mound is in poor condition, cut by a track and with a hole at its centre.

PERIOD: Bronze Age

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 24

NGR: SS 8228 4147

DESCRIPTION: The remains of Lark Barrow are now overlain by a junction of field boundaries, one of which marks the

parish boundary separating Exford from Exmoor. The remains lie predominantly within Exford parish and now consist of a very slight swelling some 22m diameter and 0.4m high. The mound is overlain by a farm track running adjacent to the parish boundary, south-westwards from Larkbarrow Corner. The mounding visible within the north-east angle of the field junction, may be partly caused by the field boundaries themselves, but undoubtedly contains barrow fabric.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The feature is poorly preserved and poorly defined.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 44

NGR: SS 800 4086, SS 8471 4499

DESCRIPTION: The track bed of the Simonsbath to Porlock Weir railway survives as an intermittent earthwork. A length of track bed follows the contour (at c 425m) from the forest boundary at SS 8331 4360 around the headwaters of Weir Water, to the Porlock-Exford road at SS 8445 4404. On the eastern side of the road, the earthwork is well-preserved. It runs from SS 8460 4420 to SS 8455 4514. The earthwork comprises a levelled portion 6m wide, with a bank 1m wide and 0.7m high on its eastern edge. A further well defined length of track bed runs through the ENPA holding of Larkbarrow from SS 8272 4212 to SS 8223 4160.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The track bed survives in good condition and is very well defined in places.

PERIOD: Later Prehistoric

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SE 47

NGR: SS 8207 4388

DESCRIPTION: Kittuck stone setting lies within an area of rough grassland on rising ground above Long Combe, at about 395m

OD. The setting comprises 8 stones, 4 upright and 4 fallen, running roughly NE/SW and apparently aligned on a cairn (SS 84 SW 128); two of the uprights (J & K) are thought to represent packing stones. Two erosion hollows (M & N) may represent the former position of stones now missing from the group.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site generally survives in poor condition with evidence of WWII disturbance.

PERIOD: Bronze Age

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 70

NGR: SS 8165 4389

DESCRIPTION: A turf covered stony mound lies in an area of rough grassland and heather moor near the summit of Kittuck Hill. It is a prominent, circular feature, 4.7m in diameter and 0.6m high, with a small area of erosion on the north side exposing some stones; there is no trace of an outer ditch. The mound is most probably a cairn dating from the Bronze Age.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Good, but with some animal scraping on north side.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 98

NGR: SS 8224 4397

DESCRIPTION: A sheep stell lies on a raised spur of land in Three Combes Foot at about 360m above OD. The circular enclosure comprises a stone-faced bank, 18m in diameter and 1m high, with an entrance in its sheltered south side. The bank is surmounted by beech trees. The stell is recorded as having been constructed shortly after March 1878, when severe snowstorms resulted in the loss of 40 sheep at Larkbarrow in a single night.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 104

NGR: SS 821 429

DESCRIPTION: Larkbarrow Farm was built by the Knight family in the mid-19th century and passed to the Fortescue Estates at the end of the 19th century. The farmhouse was used for target practice by the military during WWII and was later demolished. All that remains of Larkbarrow Farm are a few lengths of standing wall (at present being consolidated by the Exmoor National Park Authority) and the footings of former outbuildings. The farmhouse itself survives as spreads of stone rubble, with traces of wall faces and in places concrete flooring. The farm was constructed as a model farm. The farmhouse formed one side of a square courtyard, with ranges of outbuildings defining the other two. The fourth side, apparently defined by a wall, gave access to the adjoining lane. The farm was sheltered by planting belts on three sides: these were defined by field banks which remain and some trees still stand.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The buildings are in a stable condition after consolidation work by ENPA.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 113

NGR: SS 8175 4274

DESCRIPTION: The remains of Larkbarrow Cottage consist of a large pile of stone rubble 1.3m high within the outline of the former building. The building extent can be traced as wall footings, averaging 0.8m high: it measured 13.5m by 8.2m and had at least four internal compartments. To the east

of the structure, and adjacent to the track, is a small, roofless, stone building 1.7m square, with walls standing to 1.2m high. It is clearly associated with Larkbarrow Cottage. Burton states that Larkbarrow Cottage was built to serve Larkbarrow Farm and like it, was used for target practice during WWII.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The buildings are in a stable condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 121

NGR: SS 8175 4265

DESCRIPTION: A field gutter system runs westwards along on the steep slopes of Long Combe, below Larkbarrow farmhouse. The system comprises at least five contour leats, which are culverted through the field walls and fed by two much larger carriage gutters. These carriage gutters convey water from the springs in Long Combe Head and continue westwards along the slopes of Long Combe (SS 84 SW 95 and SS 84 SW 97). This water management system most probably dates from the mid-19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The earthworks survive in a good/fair condition.

PERIOD: Later Prehistoric

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 128

NGR: SS 8208 4390

DESCRIPTION: The remains of a probable cairn lie in rough grassland at about 390m OD on the slight E facing slope of Kittuck Hill. It overlooks Three Combes Foot some 230m to the NE and has extensive views to Black Barrow (SS 84 SW 12) and beyond. It is only a few metres NE of the remains of a probable stone setting (SS 84 SS 47) and may have been associated with it. It is evident as a turf-covered stony mound about 6.2m in diameter and 0.5m maximum height. It has a

central hollow some 3m in diameter and 0.5m in maximum depth, the resulting debris are scattered on the W (uphill) side of the cairn. No large stones are evident within or around the cairn except of L, a loose irregular shaped pointed sandstone block, which is 0.6m long, 0.35m wide and 0.30m thick. It may have come from the cairn or possibly be part of the stone setting.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: This cairn is well defined but has some evidence of animal disturbance on its northern side.

PERIOD: Modern

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 151

NGR: SS 8183 4345

DESCRIPTION: A grass covered linear earthwork lies in rough grassland 500m north of Larkbarrow farmhouse, at around 390m above OD. The earthwork consists of a ditch, 45m in length, 4.5m in width and 0.8m in depth, with spoil heaps running the length of its south-east edge. The spoil takes the form of two mounds, 1-1.3m in height, connected by a low bank, 0.3-0.4m high. The feature is most probably a slit trench constructed during the Second World War when the area was used as a military training ground.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Modern

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 152

NGR: SS 8218 4220

DESCRIPTION: A grass covered linear earthwork, lies 650m to the south of Larkbarrow Farm. The feature comprises a steep sided ditch, 18m in length, 2.2m in width and 1m in depth, with a bank running the length of its eastern edge. This earthen bank, 3.8m in width and 1.4m in height, is formed by the upcast from the ditch. The

feature runs parallel to a 19th century field bank and is almost certainly a slit trench dating from the area's use as a military training ground during WWII.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Modern

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 153

NGR: SS 8205 4180

DESCRIPTION: A grass covered linear earthwork lies 300m to the north-west of Larkbarrow Corner. The feature comprises a shallow trench 0.3m in depth, 3.7m in length and 2m in width with an earthen bank running the length of its north-west side. The bank is 2.6m in width and rises to a height of 0.3m; it is formed by the upcast from the ditch. The feature is almost certainly a small slit trench dating from the area's use as a military training ground during WWII.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Modern

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 154

NGR: SS 8218 4424

DESCRIPTION: Two grass covered linear earthworks SS 8218 4424 lie parallel to each other on rising ground above chalk water. The former consists of a ditch 3.5m in length, 0.4m in depth and 2.4m in width, with an earthen bank running the length of its southern edge; there are signs of animal scratching along the north side of the ditch. The associated bank is formed by the upcast from the ditch and rises to a height of 0.4m. The second feature lies 130m to the south-west and also takes the form of a bank and ditch. The steep sided ditch is 5.5m in length, 2.5m in width and 1.4m in depth, with a

spread earthen bank running the length of its southern side. The bank is upcast from the ditch and survives to a height of 0.5m. These features would appear to be a pair of slit trenches dating from the areas use as a military training ground during WWII

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition in an area of rough grassland.

PERIOD: Modern

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 155

NGR: SS 8170 4279

DESCRIPTION: A grass covered linear earthwork lies set into the hedge bank 60m to the north-west of Larkbarrow Cottage. The feature comprises a steep sided ditch running north-south, 6m in length, 1.4m in width and 1m deep, with earthen banks to the west and east; some revetment planks and wooden posts are visible at the southern end of the ditch. The eastern bank is 5m in length, 1m in width and 0.3m in height; the western bank is 2.5m in length, 0.7m in width and rises to a height of 1m; both banks are formed by upcast from the ditch. The feature is almost certainly a slit trench dating from the area's use as a military training ground during WWII.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Good condition with a fence along its southern edge.

PERIOD: Later Prehistoric

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 156

NGR: SS 8248 4400

DESCRIPTION: A standing stone is located in an area of grassland and heather on rising ground above Hoscombe, at circa 390m above OD. The site overlooks Three Combes Foot and is clearly visible from the stone setting on Kittuck Hill (SS 84 SW 47) 400m

to the south-west. The stone is of local slate/sandstone and is orientated north-south; it is located in a slight hollow and survives in good condition, standing 0.63m high, 0.62m wide and 0.12m thick. The stone is most probably of late prehistoric date and may represent a single monument or, combined with SS 84 SW 157, form part of a larger stone setting.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The stone survives in good condition in an area of rough grassland.

PERIOD: Later Prehistoric

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 157

NGR: SS 8247 4407

DESCRIPTION: A standing stone is located in an area of rough grass and heather on rising ground above Hoscombe, at circa 385m above OD. The stone is orientated north-south and is soundly set but with a pronounced lean to the north. It stands 0.2m high, 0.3m wide and is 0.12m thick but shows signs that the top section may have been broken off at some point. A small erosion hollow was recorded 3m to the south-east and may represent the position of a further stone which has now been lost. The stone is most probably of late prehistoric date and could represent a single monument or, combined with the evidence of the erosion hollow, have formed part of a paired stone setting. Alternatively, both these features may have been part of a larger linear stone setting in conjunction with SS 84 SW 156.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The stone survives in a fair condition within an area of rough grassland.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 158

NGR: SS 8211 4174

DESCRIPTION: The earthwork remains of a 19th century quarry lie on rough grassland 300m north of Larkbarrow Corner. The quarry survives to a depth of 3m at its deepest point, with dimensions of 14m east-west and 26m north-south. It has an entrance in its southern side with spoil heaps running round its outer edge and rising to a height of 1m. There is ground disturbance all round the feature, some of which may be related to the areas later use as a military training ground.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 159

NGR: SS 8238 4153

DESCRIPTION: The earthwork remains of a 19th century quarry lie adjacent to the track 100m to the north-east of Larkbarrow Corner. The quarry survives as a roughly circular feature, 16m in diameter and 2m deep at its deepest point, with an entrance and spoil heap on its eastern side.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 160

NGR: SS 8273 4187

DESCRIPTION: The earthwork remains of a mineral prospecting pit lie adjacent to the Larkbarrow track, 100m north of the Wellshead road. The oval pit is 7m in length, 4.7m in width and 1.5m in depth with a substantial spoil heap along its western edge. A shallow, circular pit lies immediately to the south and survives to a depth of 0.2m. These features may be related to Frederic Knight's attempts at mineral extraction on Exmoor in the mid-1850s.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 161

NGR: SS 8271 4203

DESCRIPTION: The earthwork remains of a quarry survive next to the Larkbarrow track, 260m north of the Wellshead road. The quarry is 22.2m in length, 17m in width and 3m in depth, with an entrance clearly visible on its western side. There are spoil heaps along its southern and eastern edges, which rise to a height of 1m. The quarry almost certainly dates from the 19th century and may have been used to supply stone for the building of boundary walls or possibly for the construction of the trackbed of the Porlock to Simonsbath railway (SS 84 SW 44).

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 162

NGR: SS 8218 4202

DESCRIPTION: A mineral prospecting trench was located 800m to the south of Larkbarrow Farm, on the eastern slopes of Swap Hill, at 410m above OD. The trench, 14m in length, 11.4m in width and 3m in depth at its deepest point, has spoil heaps on its northern and southern edges with a further mound of spoil to the east. This feature is most probably related to Frederic Knight's attempts at mineral extraction on Exmoor in the mid-19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 163

NGR: SS 8224 4221

DESCRIPTION: Two prospecting pits lie adjacent to each other on steeply rising ground above Long Combe Head, on the eastern slopes of Swap Hill. The two pits have a combined length of 16.7m, are 19.2m in width and are both 0.4m in depth. There are spoil heaps on the down-slope, or eastern side, of the pits which rise to a height of 1m. A further small prospect pit was located 19m to the west of the site. These features are possibly related to Frederic Knight's attempts at mineral extraction on Exmoor in the mid-19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition on steeply rising ground.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 164

NGR: SS 8223 4227

DESCRIPTION: A large quarry lies 650m to the south of Larkbarrow farmhouse, cut into the steep eastern slopes of Swap Hill, above Long Combe Head. The quarry has approximate dimensions: 17m in length and 17.7m in width; there are no associated spoil heaps.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 165

NGR: SS 8192 4231

DESCRIPTION: A small, irregular stony mound lies adjacent to a fieldbank, 450m to the south of Larkbarrow farmhouse, on the north-facing slopes of Swap Hill. The turf covered mound, measuring 3.5m north-south by 3m east-west, has large stones visible on the surface and stands to a height of 0.3m. The mound is probably a clearance cairn

related to the 19th century agricultural improvements in the area.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 166

NGR: SS 8136 4254

DESCRIPTION: A mineral prospecting trench lies 750m to the south-west of Larkbarrow farmhouse, on the north-facing slopes of Swap Hill, at c. 370m above OD. The prospect trench, 11.3m in length, 8.2m in width and 3m deep at its deepest point, has a spoil mound at its eastern end, which rises to a height of 1m. The feature is possibly related to Frederic Knight's attempts at mineral extraction on Exmoor in the mid-19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 167

NGR: SS 8136 4260

DESCRIPTION: A quarry lies just above a small stream, on the north-facing slopes of Long Combe, 400m to the south-west of Larkbarrow Cottage. The quarry has a depth of 3m and is 7m in width; a spoil mound standing 1m high lies to the north-east. The quarry possibly dates from the 19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 168

NGR: SS 8137 4266

DESCRIPTION: A small quarry lies on the lower south-facing slopes of Long Combe at about 365m above OD. The quarry has a depth of 0.5m, and is 7.5m in length and 4.9m in width; there is no associated spoil.

The feature most probably dates from the 19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 169

NGR: SS 8175 4261

DESCRIPTION: A small quarry lies on the lower, north-facing slopes of Long Combe, 140m south of Larkbarrow Cottage. The quarry is 2m in depth, 8.5m in length and 9.2m in width; a spoil heap lies to the north-west and stands 1m high. The quarry probably dates from the 19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 170

NGR: SS 8266 4296

DESCRIPTION: A quarry lies adjacent to the field boundary 400m east of Larkbarrow farmhouse, at about 420m above OD. The quarry survives to a depth of 1.2m, is 10m in length and 9m in width; a small spoil heap, 0.3m high, lies on its eastern edge. The feature most probably dates from the 19th century and may be related to the construction of the boundary wall.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 171

NGR: SS 8268 4278

DESCRIPTION: A small quarry lies adjacent to a field boundary, 650m to the east of Larkbarrow farmhouse, at about 415m above OD. The semi-circular quarry has a diameter of 9m and a depth of 0.8m; there are no associated spoil heaps. The feature most

probably dates from the 19th century and may be related to the construction of the field boundary.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 172

NGR: SS 8268 4233

DESCRIPTION: A quarry lies adjacent to the track, 850m to the south-east of Larkbarrow farmhouse, at around 425m above OD. The feature comprises two pits, both 3m deep, with an access ramp to their south, running east-west. The quarry has overall dimensions of 17m n-s and 18m e-w. with a large spoil heap running along its southern edge. The feature most probably dates from the 19th century and may be related to the construction of the track or the boundary wall, alternatively, the quarried material may have been used in the construction of the Simonsbath to Porlock railway (SS 84 SW 44) a section of which lies 200m to the south. The quarry appears to have been re-used as a practice trench during the areas use as a military training ground in the Second World War. Several small pits were recorded round the quarry, which may have been used to store munitions boxes.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Good condition adjacent to the track.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 173

NGR: SS 8271 4206

DESCRIPTION: Two small quarries lie adjacent to each other next to the track, 650m north-east of Larkbarrow corner, at about 430m OD. Quarry A SS 8272 4207 has a depth of 0.8m and is 7.8m in width and 15.1m in length. Quarry B SS 8271 4206 is

1.2m deep, 10.3m wide and 10.6m in length with an entrance in its west side. Neither quarry has any associated spoil heaps. Both features most probably date from the 19th century and may be related to the construction of the track or the boundary walls.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Good.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 174

NGR: SS 8192 4286

DESCRIPTION: Three irregular stone mounds, centred SS 8192 4286, lie within a small improved field 100m to the west of Larkbarrow farmhouse, at around 395m above OD. The turf covered mounds are between 2 and 3.8m in diameter and stand 0.3-0.4m high. The mounds are most probably field clearance cairns dating from the mid-19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Fair condition with evidence of WWII damage.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 175

NGR: SS 8140 4231

DESCRIPTION: A grass covered linear earthwork lies 800m to the south-west of Larkbarrow farmhouse on the north-facing slopes of Swap Hill. The feature is situated at about 400m above OD and comprises a ditch and bank, running to almost 500m in length. It is most probably a contour leat, constructed to carry water from the Swap Hill spring to the field gutter system on the slopes of Long Combe (SS 84 SW 121) dating from the mid 19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Much of the feature is well defined though the southern section, within the improved ground, survives in poorer condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 176

NGR: SS 8241 4341

DESCRIPTION: A grass covered linear earthwork lies 600m north-east of Larkbarrow farmhouse on rough grassland above Madacombe. The feature is situated at about 400m above OD and comprises a ditch and bank running to over 400m in length. The feature is most probably a contour leat dating from the 19th century, intended to carry water round to Larkbarrow farm from Madacombe, possibly abandoned during construction.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Fair condition in rough grassland.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 177

NGR: SS 8236 4352

DESCRIPTION: A linear earthwork lies on rising ground 700m to the north-east of Larkbarrow farmhouse, at around 390m above OD. The feature consists of a spread earthen bank, 2.6m wide and 0.4m high, which can be seen to run under a 19th century boundary wall. The date and purpose of the bank is uncertain. It may be related to the initial setting out of Larkbarrow Farm in the 1840s, with this boundary subsequently abandoned in favour of the sequence of enclosure walls which we see today.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: Good condition within an area of rough grassland.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 178

NGR: SS 8188 4329

DESCRIPTION: Four earthen mounds were located in rough grassland, 400m to the north of Larkbarrow farmhouse. The mounds, approximately 5m in diameter and 0.9m in

height, are set out in a more or less regular pattern following the line of the boundary wall. These features may represent the remains of 19th century peat drying stacks, where turf was dried before being burnt on domestic fires.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The mounds are obscured by dense vegetation.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 179

NGR: SS 8151 4316

DESCRIPTION: The earthwork remains of a mineral prospecting trench lie 500m to the north-west of Larkbarrow farmhouse, in rough grassland at about 400m above OD. The feature consists of a trench, 2.7m wide and 1.4m deep, with a spoil mound, 1.1m high, running the length of its western edge. The trench is most probably related to Frederic Knight's attempts at mineral extraction on Exmoor in the mid-19th century.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Modern

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 180

NGR: SS 8251 4424

DESCRIPTION: A large bomb crater lies 300m to the north-west of Three Combes Foot on rough grassland, at about 385m above OD. The crater, 11m in diameter and 3m in depth, may be related to enemy bombing raids during WWII, as planes would often waste bombs on open country. Alternatively, it could represent the location of a controlled explosion carried out by the military to dispose of WWII ordnance in the years following 1945.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.

PERIOD: Post-medieval

NMR NUMBER: SS 84 SW 181

NGR: SS 8183 4281

DESCRIPTION: A large gravel quarry lies in rough grassland 100m to the north-east of Larkbarrow cottage, at about 395m above OD. This oval feature is 27.2m long and 26m wide with an entrance on its south-west side. A substantial spoil heap standing over 1m high lies to the south-west. The quarry most probably dates from the mid-19th century and would have provided a convenient supply of gravel for the construction of the farm buildings and boundary walls.

SITE CONDITION/THREAT: The site survives in good condition.



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