

SHAUGH MOOR, DARTMOOR.

REPORT BY T.P.TAYLOR.

In January 1978 a thin section was made of a dark soil horizon from a profile at Shaugh Moor, Dartmoor. The report, by R. Macphail and P. Taylor, indicated that the sample represented a buried Ah horizon of a former groundsurface. Since this time, four more samples from Shaugh Moor have been recieved and investigated in thin section. The object of the investigation was to ascertain whether these samples also represent buried Ah horizons or Bh horizons of the present soil profile.

OBSERVATIONS:

- A). All the samples contain few mineral grains in an amorphous organic matrix.
- B). The mineral grains are bleached and show no evidence of leaching (i.e. illuviation).
- C). The pale brown pellety structure, as noted by R. Macphail in the preceding report, is present in all the samples and is typical of Ah horizons. Bh horizons show a similar structure but it is more dense and of a darker colour.

SUMMARY:

Micromorphological observations indicate that all four samples are of similar constitution to the original sample (see preceding report). They are largely organic, show no evidence of illuviation, contain bleached mineral grains (quartz) and have a pale pellety structure. The samples, therefore, represent a buried groundsurface (Ah horizon).

J.P. Taylor.