

The Longstone Landscape Project

2014-2015



**LONGSTONE
LANDSCAPE**
COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT



The Longstone Landscape Project

2014-2015

Report on Progress

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Summary

This report brings together all of the elements of the Longstone Landscape Community Archaeology Project 2014-15. It presents results of fieldwork in brief, where they are available in full elsewhere, or to give detailed results if a separate report does not exist. It signposts linked reports throughout and can be used as a reference to any element of work carried out under this project. Where fieldwork is ongoing this is noted and it is intended that a supplemental report would be produced in due course to record any additional data. The report concludes with recommendations for further work, which the Longstone Landscape project group would like to facilitate over the next two to three years.

The Longstone Landscape Community Archaeology Project has been highly successful, not only in engaging the community with their moorland archaeological heritage but also in producing high quality archaeological fieldwork data which, as part of the Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record, provides an extremely detailed insight into this historic landscape.

Introduction

The Longstone Landscape Project is named after the Longstone, the tallest prehistoric standing stone on Exmoor. It began in 2013, combining the interests of Parracombe Archaeology and History Society, North Devon Archaeology Society and members of the communities of Parracombe and Challacombe in researching an area of moorland on Challacombe Common, located on the boundary between the parishes.

The landscape around the Longstone contains extensive archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic (5000 years ago) until recent times. Aside from the Longstone, the Chapman Barrows, a linear barrow cemetery, demonstrates the significance this landscape had for Exmoor's Bronze Age people. A group of standing stones known as the quincunx, due to its arrangement of five stones, is also found within this area. Nearby a long enclosure, possibly dating to the Neolithic period, suggests the importance of this area even before the first Bronze Age barrow builders. Occupation of a farmstead at Radworthy, on the Challacombe side of the Chapman Barrows may have begun before the Norman Conquest and continued into the post-medieval period. The Chapman Barrows complex and Radworthy are two of Exmoor's Principal Archaeological Landscapes (PALs) (No's 3 and 4), designated for their exceptional preservation of archaeological remains.

Over the course of two years over 40 volunteers have been involved in archaeological survey and research on these sites and have shown how significant this moorland landscape is. Although much has been achieved, work is continuing and there remain many questions still to be answered. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership.

Methodology

The Longstone Landscape project began with a public open meeting in Parracombe in November 2013 to which anyone with an interest in the history and archaeology of the local area was invited. Members of Parracombe Archaeology and History Society were instrumental in arranging this initial meeting and it was attended by over 40 people. It provided an opportunity to discuss possible areas of Challacombe Common which would benefit from further archaeological investigation, and what this might entail. This was led by archaeologists from Exmoor National Park/Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership and members of the Parracombe Archaeology and History Society (PAHS) committee. As a result of this meeting there was a clear consensus in favour of further archaeological work on Challacombe Common, with a number of people expressing an interest in being involved.

A further meeting was held in January 2014 during which known data on the area was displayed in the form of maps, aerial photographs, HER data and LiDAR mapping. A walk over the area to be considered as part of the project took place and a project name 'Longstone Landscape Project' was suggested. A core project team evolved as a result of these meetings; project leaders were self-appointed based on an expressed interest or knowledge of aspects of the 'Longstone Landscape'. A volunteer co-ordinator was appointed to ensure contact was maintained with all interested volunteers and to make the task of booking fieldwork dates and getting volunteers signed up to them much easier. The key areas identified for study and research were:

1. Chapman Barrows
2. Chapman Barrows - east
3. Quincunx
4. Radworthy
5. Mortuary Enclosure
6. Mesolithic Springheads

Additionally the following were suggested:

7. *Butter Hill walkover*
8. *Longstone Photography*

A project design for the whole of the Longstone Landscape project was developed establishing the aims and objectives as follows:

- Engage a cross section of the local community, including schools, with the unique and valuable archaeological remains located 'on their doorstep'.
- Enable participation and learning about archaeological techniques such as field survey, geophysical survey and excavation.
- Promote a greater understanding of Exmoor's archaeology and the story of the evolution of the moorland from prehistory.
- Provide support for volunteers before arrival on site to enable them to gain fully from the experience.
- Provide an opportunity for all members of the public to find out about the achievements of this project, through open days. Volunteers may decide on other ways to tell the community about their achievements e.g. visitor centre displays, talks to local groups, local publications.
- Enhance current records of archaeology held within Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record (ENPHER).

- Inspire a sense of ownership and understanding of the past which encourages enjoyment in learning about the past and lead to more active participation in conservation issues.
- Promote a range of volunteer opportunities within Exmoor National Park for those with interests in cultural heritage.
- Ensure that the Parracombe Archaeology and History Society is empowered to continue a range of archaeological activities to research, record and understand their heritage, as well as being able to play an active role in future conservation work.

Following the appointment of volunteer project leaders, project designs were developed for each of the projects (1-6 above). A range of archaeological techniques and methods were agreed upon and a number of training sessions carried out. Methods and techniques applied as part of the Longstone Landscape Project 2014-15 were:

- Measured survey, profiles,
- Photographic survey
- Peat depth survey
- Boundary survey
- GPS survey
- Geophysical survey – magnetometry, resistivity, GPR
- Documentary research
- Fieldwalking

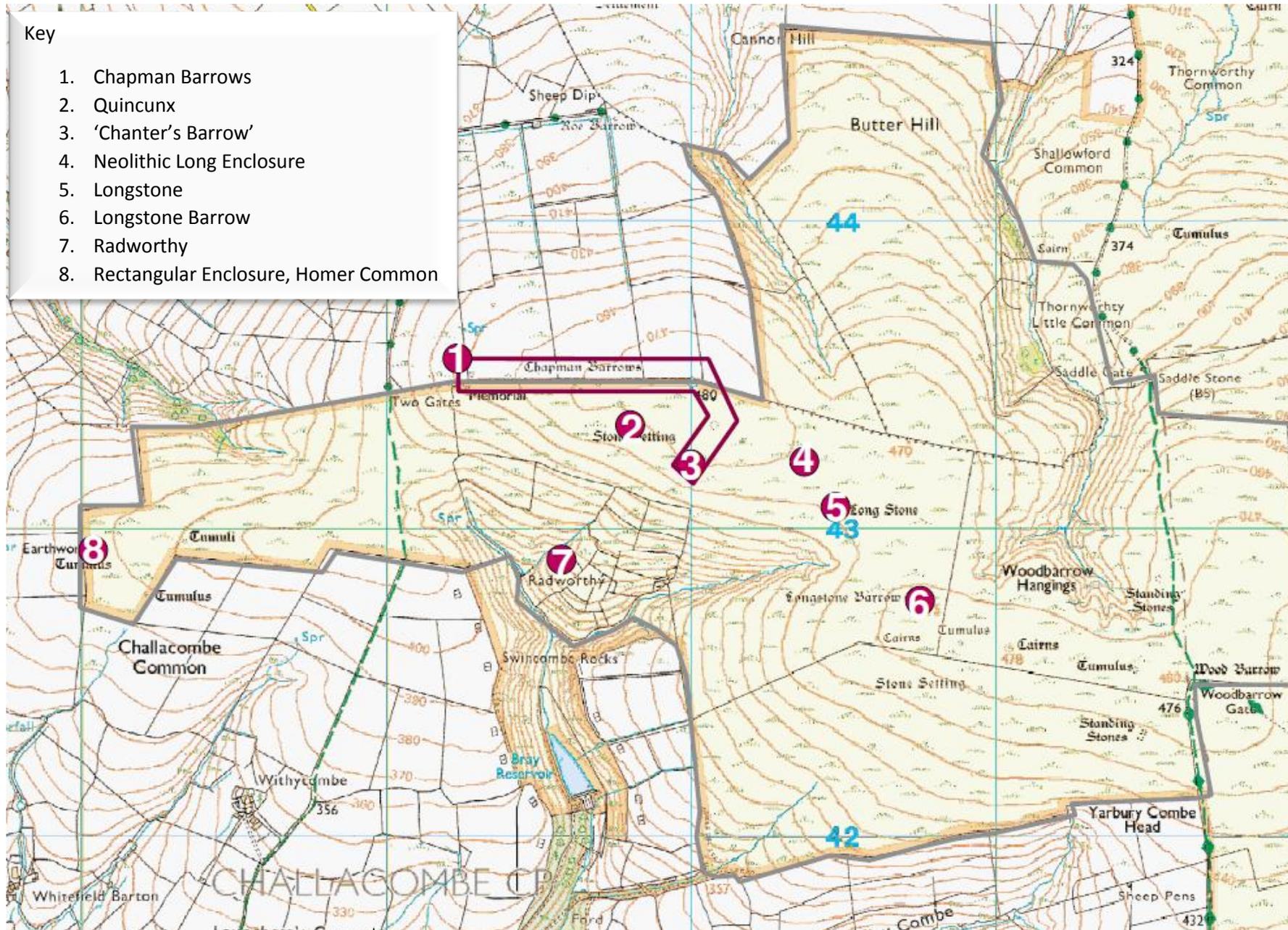


Figure 1: Map showing location of Longstone Landscape Project sites ©Crown Copyright and database rights 2015 100024878

Project sites and areas

Where detailed reports have been provided to Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record (ENPHER) only a summary of conclusions are presented in this report. Where no separate report exists, conclusions are presented in full.

Barrows

Measured Survey

The Chapman Barrows were the focus of initial study in the form of measured survey, profiles and photographic survey. Longstone Barrow was later included. Survey training sessions were carried out to facilitate this and a group of volunteers trained to undertake this. The project leaders were Linda Blanchard and Jill Jones. As of November 2015, six surveys had been completed (Chapman Barrows Nos. 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 and Longstone Barrow).

These surveys utilised basic equipment: Drawing Boards and tripods, pencils, rulers, set squares and compasses. They were completed as divorced surveys i.e. they didn't pick up points which could be accurately tied to the British National Grid. Data collected through the photographic survey record sheets will be passed to ENPHER for integration into the appropriate HER record. Archive material including original survey drawings will be offered to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon.



Figure 2: Carrying out a barrow survey and an example of a survey drawing produced by the Longstone Landscape Project

Geophysical survey

Geophysical survey was carried out on two of the Chapman Barrow group and Longstone Barrow. This work was led by Jimmy Adcock for GSB Prospection over two fieldwork seasons (Apr-May 2014 and Apr 2015). Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained for this work as all of the barrows subject to survey are scheduled. Volunteers assisted in carrying out three geophysical techniques: Magnetometry, Resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). This survey work represented the first time that GPR had been carried out on Exmoor's archaeology and presented outstanding results, particularly on Chapman Barrow II (nicknamed Chanter's barrow as it was subject to antiquarian excavation in 1905 by the Reverend JF Chanter).

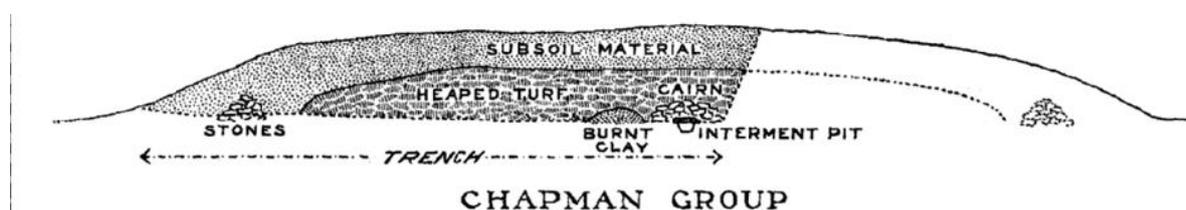


Figure 3: Section drawing of Chapman Barrow II after excavation in 1905 (Transactions of the Devonshire Association No.37)

Results of the survey of Chapman Barrow II confirmed the presence of an inner stone kerb or ring cairn (GSB 2014), recorded in the profile drawing published by Chanter from his excavation into the barrow in 1905 (Transactions of the Devonshire Association No.37). This has allowed greater confidence to be placed in Chanter's excavation reports on this and other barrows.

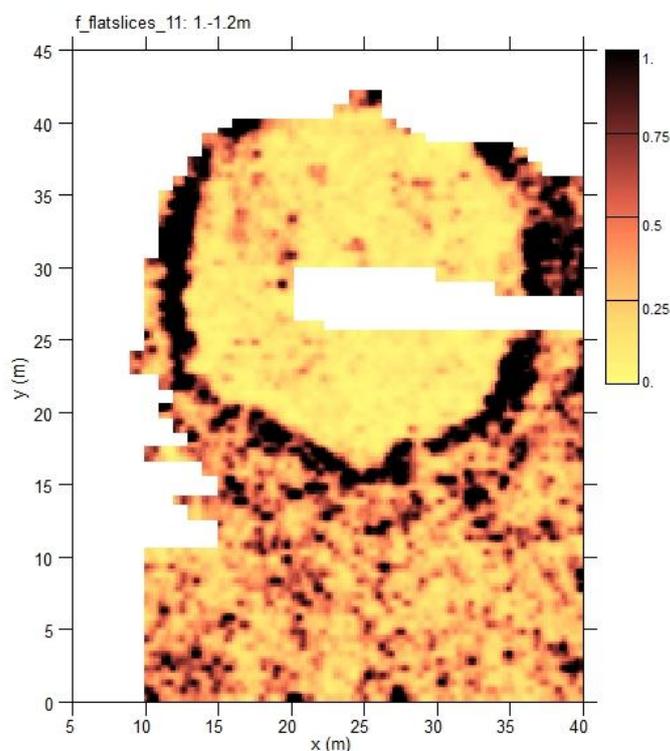


Figure 4: GPR data showing internal stone structure of Chapman Barrow II (GSB 2014)

Results of the survey of Longstone Barrow demonstrate a complexity to the barrow which is suggested in its expression as an earthwork. This barrow appears to consist of at least two phases, identifiable on the resistivity data as a top layer with lower resistance (GSB 2015).

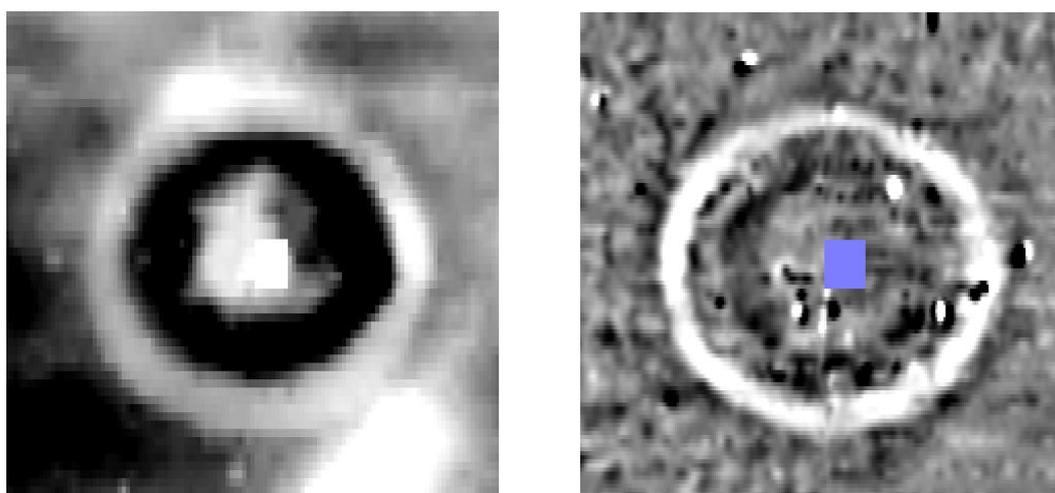


Figure 5: Resistivity and Magnetometry data for Longstone Barrow, showing differences in construction (GSB 2015)

Survey of Chapman Barrow I0, adjacent to Chapman Barrow II (Chanter's Barrow) suggested previous excavation of this monument had been carried out, although not readily apparent from its surface expression, suggesting the possibility of the subsequent reconstruction of the mound. The

northern quarter of the ditch around the barrow appeared to be missing on the geophysical survey data, leading to this conclusion. GPR data from this barrow showed very little, suggesting it has little in the way of internal structure (GSB 2015).

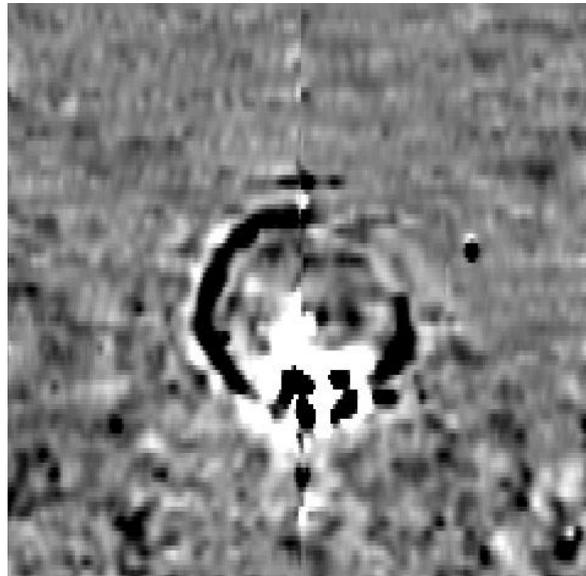


Figure 6: Chapman Barrow number 10, showing missing northern area of the ditch (GSB 2015)

For further detail of geophysical survey results, including detailed methodologies refer to GSB 2014 and 2015.



Figure 7: Resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar techniques in use on Chapman Barrow 11

GPS Survey

A highly detailed large scale GPS survey of Chapman Barrow 11 was carried out by Hazel Riley prior to the geophysical survey being undertaken. The report generated was deposited with ENPHER.

Radworthy

The deserted farmstead of Radworthy lies to the south of the Chapman Barrows, above an area known as Swincombe Rocks. It comprises a field-system on the edge of which is a single ruined dwelling. Survey was carried out during 2014-15, led by Terry Green, to record the form of the field boundaries, banks, cornditches and building remains. Large scale survey of the building remains was completed with assistance from Hazel Riley (2015). In addition, documentary research revealed that Radworthy was last inhabited in the 1860s by the Harris family. Information has been provided by Christopher Harris a descendant now living in the Midlands. A study of the tithe map for Parracombe and Challacombe was completed by John Bradbeer (2015).

Results of the survey were compiled by Terry Green (2015) and indicate that, apart from a 19th century extension to the west, the Radworthy field-system remains as it was recorded in 1840 and suggest that it preserves features from a much earlier period. Earthworks that were observed during the survey invite further research.



Figure 8: Surveying a field boundary at Radworthy and the remains of the building, surveyed in 2015

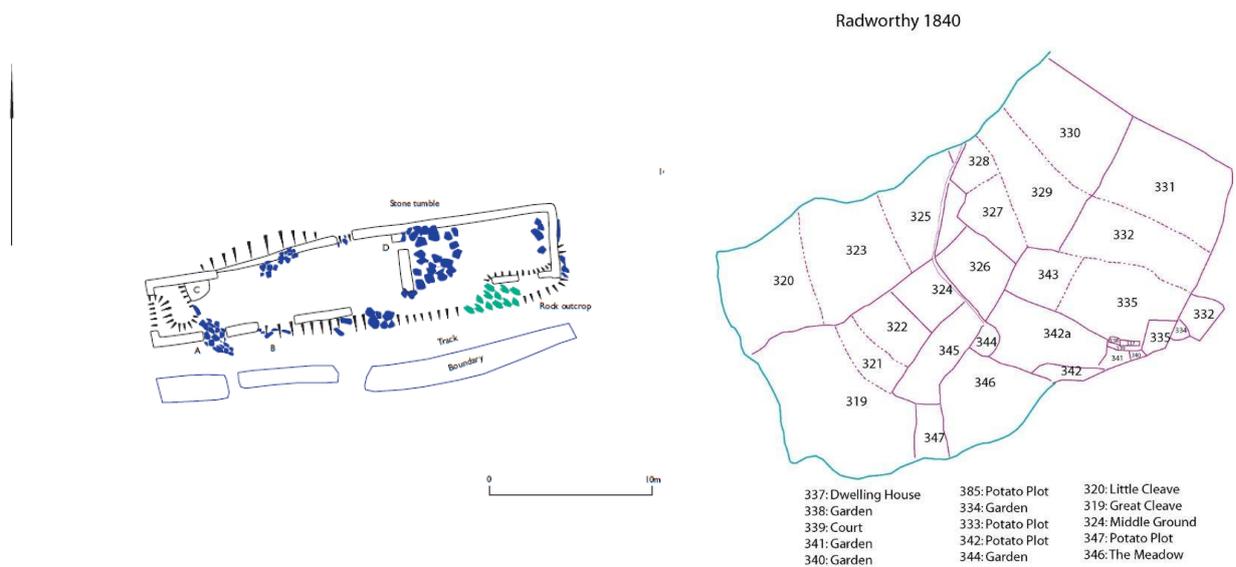


Figure 9: Large scale survey of building remains at Radworthy (from Riley 2015) and extract from 1840 tithe map, showing field names



Figure 10: Example of cornditch boundary at Radworthy

Fieldwalking

Fieldwalking was carried out over the entire Longstone Landscape Project area. The methodology employed for this project varied considerably from the traditional approach of walking ploughed fields due to the nature of the area, being SSSI moorland it is unlikely ever to be ploughed.

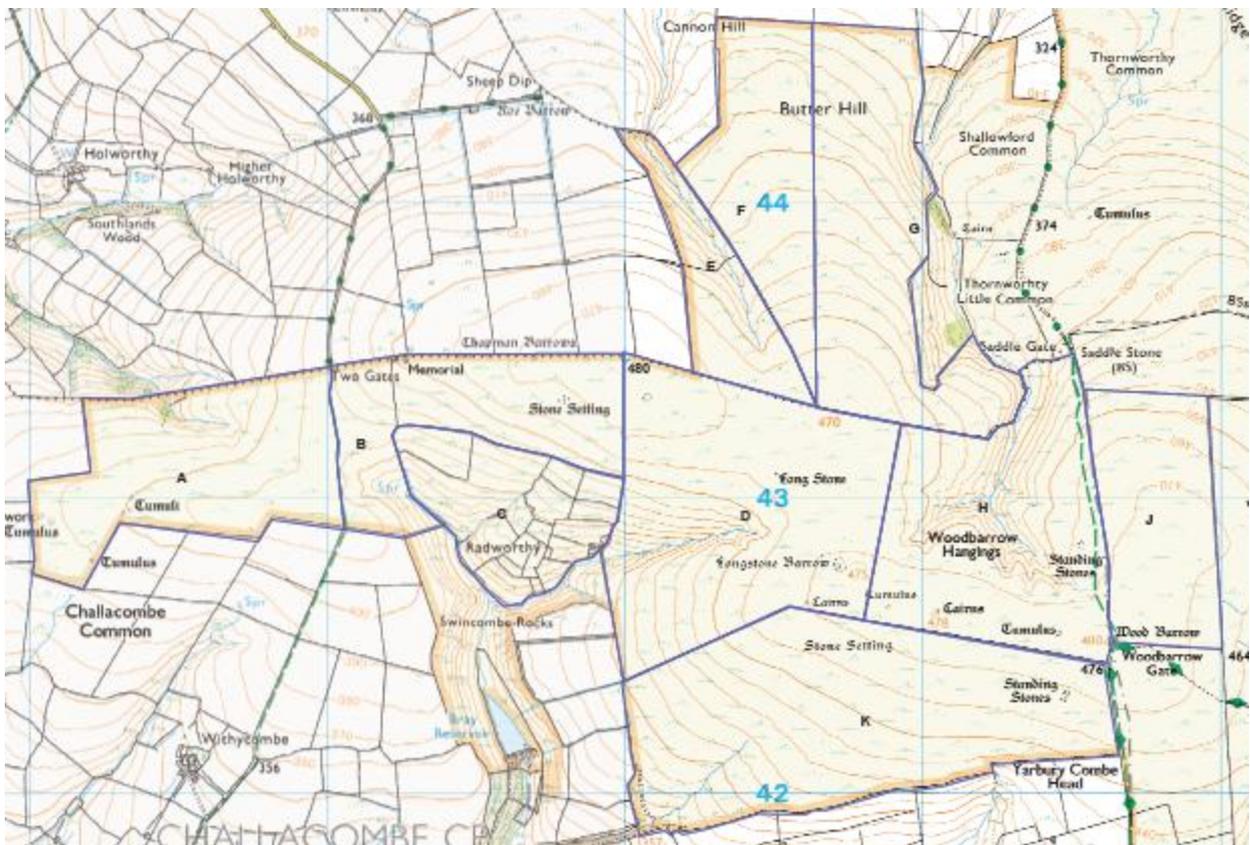


Figure 11: Map of project area, divided into fieldwalking areas lettered A-K

This aspect of the project was led by Julia Holtom and June Aiken. Small groups of volunteers adopted an area and walking it at least once, although preferably a number of times at different times of year and in different weather conditions to look for flints eroding from tracks, spring heads, sheep scrapes and any other areas of exposed moorland. This approach was adopted based on known flint find sites on Exmoor's moorlands, which have been located by chance finds on areas of exposed ground. Due to the extensive prehistoric evidence from Challacombe Common, it was considered likely that Mesolithic activity in this area may also be detected.

Remarkably, very few flints were actually recovered through this process. Flint finds were as follows, having been examined by Dr Paula Gardiner:

Area A: One flake found

Area B: Two flints found. One a flake, not retouched, probably utilised, possibly Mesolithic.

Area K. Three flints found. One a broken scraper, retouched.

Additionally two flints were found outside the survey area, above Swincombe reservoir in ploughed fields.

An absence of Mesolithic flints in this landscape may reflect a genuine lack of hunter gatherer activity or it may reflect the lack of exposed surfaces on this relatively untouched piece of moorland.

An additional walkover of Butter Hill was carried out by Rob Wilson-North, Faye Balmond and 12 Longstone Landscape Project volunteers to determine whether unrecorded archaeological features were present in this area, the ENPHER having little in the way of records despite the complexity of features on the surrounding moorland. The walkover concluded that this area is indeed archaeologically relatively sterile, with no new notable features detected. Given the richness of archaeological sites in the surrounding landscape the absence of prehistoric monuments on Butter Hill may mean that it had a different significance to prehistoric people.

Members of the Longstone Landscape Project will continue to look out for flint finds in the area during the course of other work.



Figure 12: A flint find from area K, recovered during fieldwalking

Rectangular Enclosure

A geophysical survey of the long enclosure on Challacombe Common was carried out in March 2014 by Doug Mitcham, PhD student at University of Leicester, assisted by project members. This utilised resistivity and Magnetometry techniques. This structure is tentatively suggested as a Neolithic enclosure, related to mortuary practice and is the only one so far identified on Exmoor. As a result of this survey it was felt that the monument may be more complex than the original survey drawing, undertaken by English Heritage, showed. It was decided to resurvey the enclosure and to take measurements of peat depths at the same time, to determine the deepest areas of peat. As a result of this survey work, this rectangular enclosure has been subjected to the highest level of non-invasive investigation possible. To gain a greater understanding of this monument, excavation would be required, however this is felt not to be desirable as a total excavation of the site would destroy the only known monument of its type so far found on Exmoor.

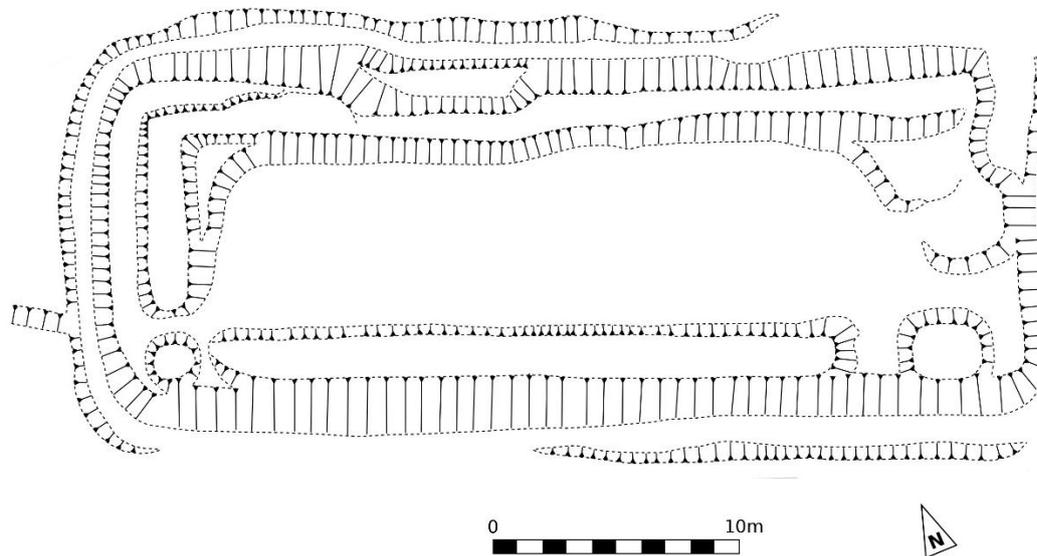


Figure 13: Measured survey of the rectangular enclosure, completed in December 2014

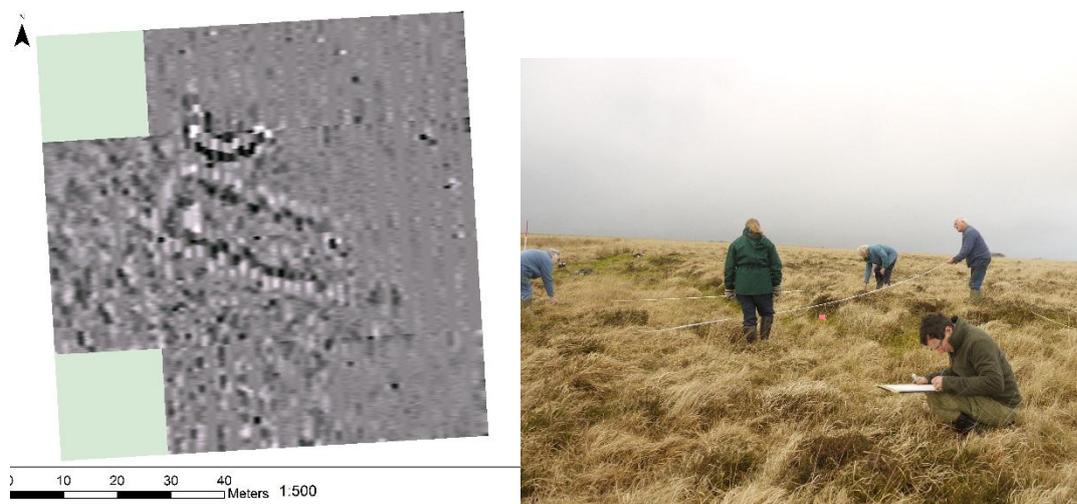


Figure 14: Geophysical survey from Mitcham (2014); volunteers undertaking measured survey in Dec 2014

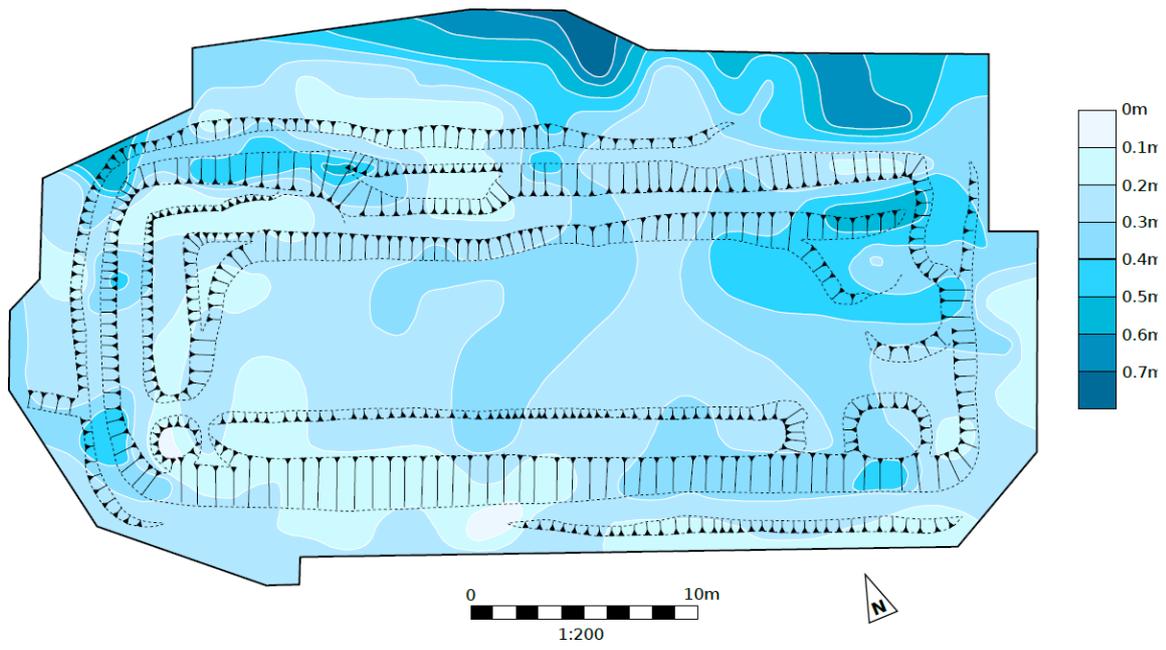


Figure 15: Completed peat depth survey overlain onto the survey drawing, showing the differential peat depth across the monument

Homer Common

An area known locally as Homer Common, to the western end of Challacombe Common was subject to geophysical survey by GSB with assistance from project members. This comprised a rectangular enclosure and a barrow, both of which are scheduled. This site is referred to as 'Homer Common' rather than Challacombe Common (as on ordnance survey mapping) to prevent confusion with the rectangular enclosure close to the Chapman Barrows (of presumed Neolithic date). Geophysical survey was carried out on this area, using three techniques: Magnetometry, Resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar. As a result, although located in close proximity to a number of barrows it is suggested that this enclosure may be a telling house: used for counting animals on and off the common to enable charging per head for grazing. If this assertion could be proved, it would be the first positively identified telling house on Exmoor. A platform in the north east of the survey area presented unexpected magnetic anomalies, which are tentatively suggested to relate to livestock management, in the context of the interpretation of the rectangular enclosure as a telling house (GSB 2015). The geophysical survey on the barrow adjacent to the rectangular enclosure revealed an anomaly which may be a central cremation deposit.

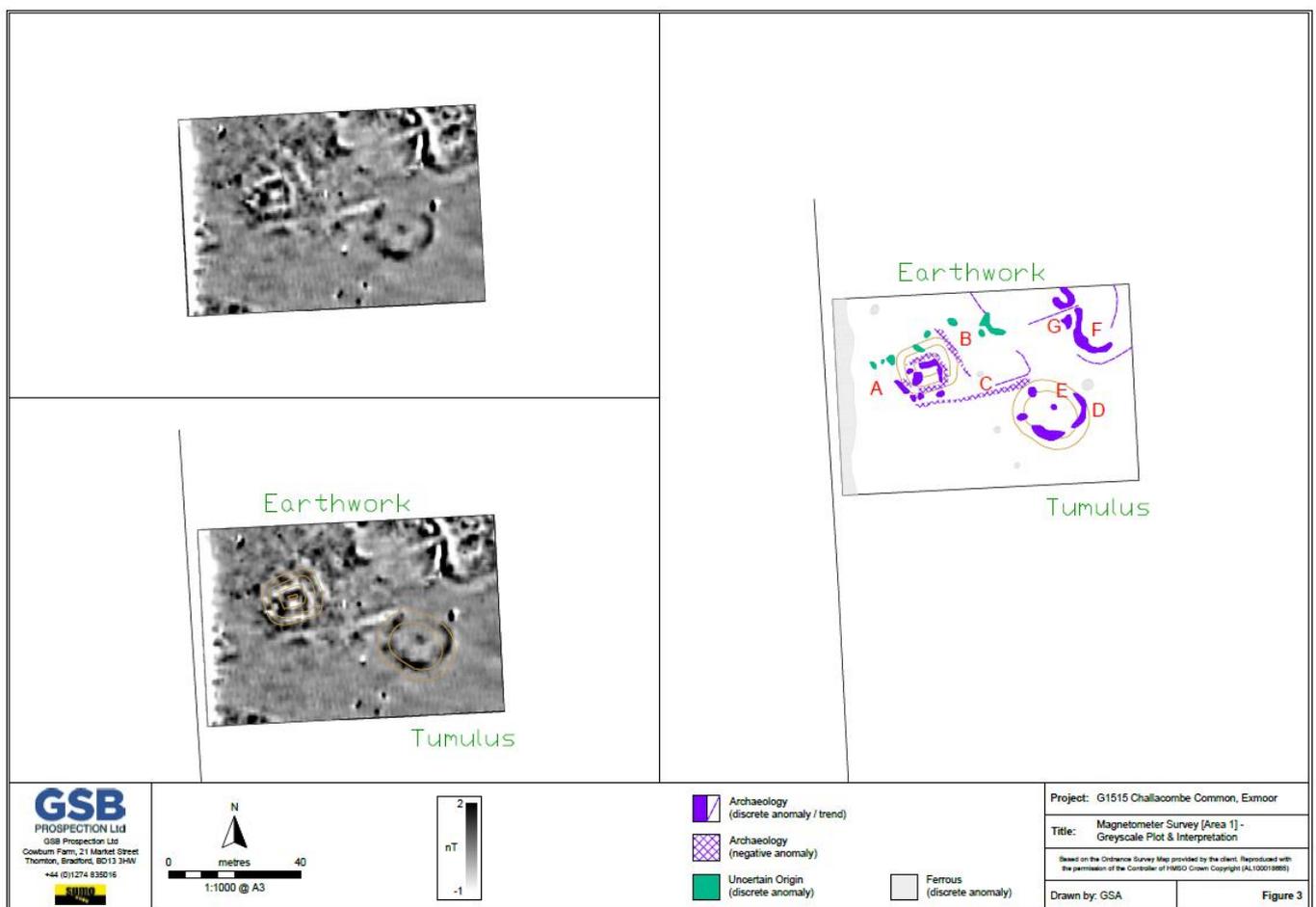


Figure 16: Excerpt from GSB report (2015) showing Magnetometry data for the Homer Common enclosure

Quincunx

A geophysical survey of the quincunx on Challacombe Common was carried out in March 2014 by Doug Mitcham, PhD student at University of Leicester, assisted by project members, utilising magnetometry and resistivity techniques. This arrangement of five standing stones is so named because of its similarity in pattern to a five on a dice. The resistivity survey data was particularly striking, revealing a high resistance v-shaped anomaly to the east of the stone setting, suggestive of a dense concentration of stone (Mitcham 2014). This feature was not picked up in the Magnetometry results.

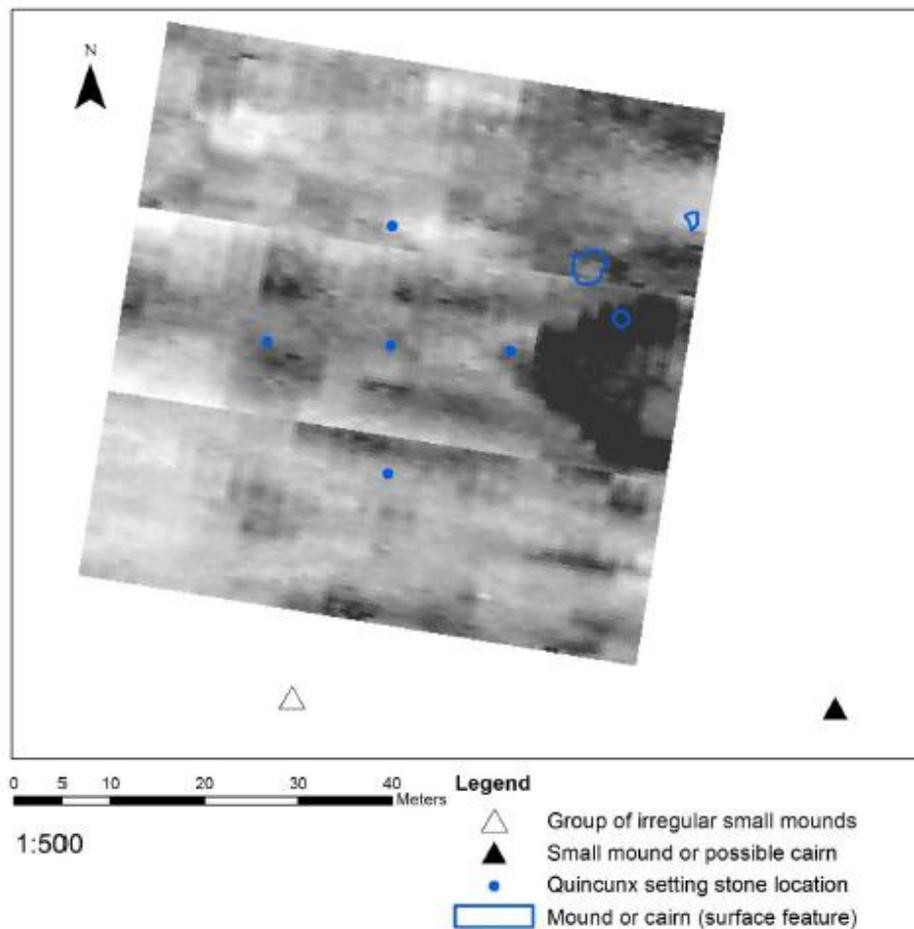


Figure 17: Resistivity survey of the Quincunx from Mitcham (2014) with the arrangement of stones shown in blue

Desk Based Research

Research has been carried out into a number of aspects of the Longstone Landscape Project, but particularly focusing on the Reverend J F Chanter, responsible for the excavation of Chapman Barrow II. This has been led by Mavis Cherrill who traced his Family History, his church career and his other interests which were wide ranging from church plate to Lorna Doone, St. Urith to archaeology and many more subjects. Sources included newspapers, Ancestry and Find My Past websites as well as documents at the Heritage Centres in Barnstaple and Exeter.

Research so far has determined that John Frederick Chanter was born in Barnstaple in 1853 and graduated with a MA from Jesus College, Cambridge in 1879 becoming Rector of Parracombe in 1886. He married Rose Thompson and had one daughter, Violet. He became interested in the Chapman Barrows shortly after his arrival when he took local labourer William Antell to task for raiding one of them for stone for a hedge bank.

Chanter's antiquarian interests led him to the Devonshire Association in 1901 and he joined the Barrows committee in 1904. He asked another member R Hansford Worth if the Chapman Barrows had been opened recently; amidst laughter, Worth replied that they were opened in 1302 but he did not know of any recent openings! However Worth had published an account of Thomas Westcote who in 1630 noted dragons being seen flying around the barrows. Many of the barrows appear to have been opened in the distant past but no records exist.

In 1905 Chanter excavated one of the barrows – we have nicknamed it “Chanter's Barrow”. His published section drawing shows a stone kerb or ring around the barrow as well as other features. The Longstone Landscape Project carried out geophysical surveys and these have been able to confirm the presence of the stone kerb.

Chanter subsequently collaborated with Worth and they published many antiquarian studies about prehistoric Exmoor. He died in 1939 and is buried in the churchyard of St James Church, Swimbridge.



Figure 18: Memorial to the Reverend J F Chanter in Swimbridge Churchyard

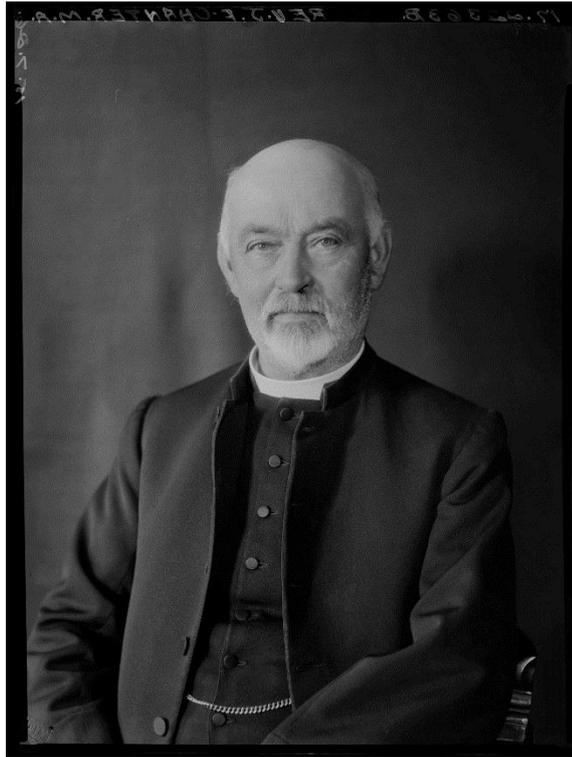


Figure 19: Image of the Rev Chanter discovered at the National Portrait Gallery © National Portrait Gallery, London

Excavation

Excavation had originally been planned for an aspect of the Longstone Landscape Project area, Chapman Barrow No 11, however as a result of issues in obtaining the necessary consents to carry out work on a scheduled monument, this was abandoned due to time constraints within the funding period of the Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership. An excavation was participated in by Longstone Landscape Project volunteers on Lanacombe, an area outside the project area to the north of Simonsbath, formerly part of the Royal Forest of Exmoor. This was led by Doug Mitcham (University of Leicester) as part of his PhD. (Mitcham 2015)



Figure 20: Excavation at Lanacombe in Autumn 2014



Volunteer involvement

The table below shows the number of volunteers involved in each aspect of the Longstone Landscape Project

Total people expressing an interest in the Longstone Landscape project	64
Number of people participating in an activity	48
Flint Recognition sessions	32
Survey Training introductory sessions	22
Hedge Boundary Survey training	11
Leicester University Magnetometry and Resistivity Survey on the Quincunx and Mortuary enclosure	11
GSB Geophysical Surveys	(2014) 6 (2015) 8
Radworthy survey	14
Lanacombe Excavation	8
Chapman Barrows surveys	15

The following quotations from project members summarise their experiences and engagement with the project.

General feedback on the project:

- ‘Thirty months ago I relocated to Parracombe from East London. I had a little knowledge of the local history or prehistory and no experience of archaeology. My involvement with the Longstone Landscape Project has given me excellent training in surveying skills and the opportunity to participate in the archaeological exploration of the Bronze Age barrows and earlier features located on Parracombe Common. The feedback given by the experts involved in the project has provided a fascinating insight into the early history of Parracombe. I am so pleased to have been involved in this project.’ Steve
- ‘I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the LP - as a keen amateur archaeologist and a history buff the project has really widened my horizons and interest in the ancient (and not quite so ancient) history of Exmoor and N Devon. The project has offered great training as well to enable us all to become more competent archaeologists and historians - from identifying flints, undertaking basic surveys and drawings, field walking etc, all of which have really helped further my personal knowledge and skills "out in the field" and goes to prove that you CAN teach an old dog new tricks! All the volunteers and team leaders have varied and interesting links to Exmoor and N Devon - whether working or living there, and their local knowledge has been fascinating to tap into. LP has also been a great opportunity to meet a great bunch of like-minded people who also enjoy being outside in dreadful weather conditions, rolling in filth and sharing their iced buns at lunch time! As a result I've also joined a number of other history groups and Exmoor volunteer groups to widen my experiences and interests. We've been fortunate to be able to explore the wonderful moors, often in areas little visited by walkers or even the local community - and when the weather's been kind, the views and

the scenery have been well worth the agony of hauling the equipment miles across country, down combe and up barrow!!

Finally, when the project comes to an end and the results and information are publicised, I can proudly say "I helped to do that!" - a very satisfying experience indeed.' *Sarah*

- 'I have always been interested in local history. Since retiring to Challacombe I have produced the booklet 'Challacombe, The Story of an Exmoor Village'. In addition to reading up the subject in local history books, much of my material was drawn from memories of the people whose families have round here for a very long time. These included tales of Radworthy farm and the people who once lived there. I have walked many times over Chapman Barrows, and have been fascinated by the barrow, quincunx, the Longstone. I had even heard rumours of a strange shape in the ground not far from the Longstone which is now thought to be a mortuary. The visits to the Radworthy site especially interested me, revealing different kinds of ancient hedges, surprisingly good pasture land, and terraced 'potato fields'.

I am so pleased to have been involved in The Longstone Project. This gave me the chance to hear the views of experts about these antiquities and also how to survey them. My own contribution was to bring in such local knowledge as I had, adding to it some further research about Radworthy. By chance I even found a direct descendant of the last family that occupied this ancient farm.

I am hoping then project will continue. While it has answered some questions, it has raised a lot more, and I look forward to discovering some of the answers.' *Chris*

Fieldwalking:

- 'Wot! No flints!' *Lizzie*

Barrow survey:

- 'I have walked past this barrow dozens of times – an interesting landmark in a remote, windswept but beautiful spot. Spending several days as a volunteer helping the team to "geophys." has turned this site into part of my back-yard. A place I now know well, where we all had a lot of fun, learnt a lot and, I hope, contributed something positive to the survey process. I'm really looking forward to the next session and to the possibility of adding new knowledge to what is already known about the Longstone Landscape.' *Jill*
- 'We trudged across the moor in swirling cloud, then spent the day working together to survey the barrow – accompanied by the distant call of rutting deer. The company was good, the results were good, the weather was not good. We went home satisfied and feeling much closer to our early ancestors.' *Jill*
- 'The scrutiny involved in the survey of these monuments allows a more detailed understanding of their structure than merely looking at or standing on them, especially when they are covered with scrub and rough grass. I find that a completed survey and drawing gives a sense of satisfaction and enhanced engagement with the landscape.' *Brian*

Radworthy

- 'As a near neighbour, the settlement at Radworthy has always intrigued me. Our detailed examination of the field boundaries and the structure of the settlement house itself has given me a great insight into the life at Radworthy over many centuries.'

We began surveying in spring 2014, measuring the field banks at the western end of the settlement. These appeared relatively modern structures and our team became very efficient at measurement - I fell into the role of data recorder. As we moved closer to the house, the boundaries became older and there was much excitement when we identified a well-made corn ditch at the northern and eastern boundary. A second corn ditch nearer the house suggested that the northern one marked an expansion of the cultivated land but later investigation places the two corn ditches as contemporary. We found two banked and flattened areas which could have been gardens or even the site of other buildings. We completed the field survey in late 2014 and went back in spring 2015 to survey the house and its surrounding banks in detail.

On every survey the atmosphere of the wild moor was enchanting and the wildlife and some of the domesticated life provided company. Our guard dog looked after us well and kept the wolves and brigands at bay. A most enjoyable and rewarding project.' *Keith*

Desk Based Research:

- 'As part of the Longstone Landscape Project I have been researching the life and work of the Reverend John Frederick Chanter one time Rector of Parracombe, who excavated one of the barrows in the project area. This barrow is now known as Chanter's Barrow. I have traced his Family History, his church career and his other interests which were wide ranging from church plate to Lorna Doone, St. Urith to archaeology and many more subjects. He wrote several books and presented a number of papers. My sources included newspapers, the web sites of Ancestry and Find My Past as well as documents at the Heritage Centres in Barnstaple and Exeter.' *Mavis*

Excavation:

- 'My first dig: Hard physical work, camaraderie and learning to focus and evaluate tiny features that could indicate who was here before us in this remote Exmoor landscape, where we can feel in-touch with the past.' *Angela*

Volunteer co-ordination:

- '65 people have expressed an interest in helping with the Longstone Landscape Project. My job has been connecting these people with the specific needs of the individual parts of project. Team Leaders tell me what they are doing and what help they need. I then circulate requests for help to the volunteers with the necessary equipment and timing information. Finally confirming with the team leaders who will be helping them. Fortunately all but one of the volunteers are contactable via email, the only problems arise when abroad and some wi-fi connections object to multiple addresses, or I am in a location with no internet access for a week in midsummer. Nearly every one of the 65 volunteers has taken part in at least one of the planned activities.' *David*

Feedback from volunteer project co-ordinators:

- All of the volunteer project co-ordinators agreed that having a number of project leaders/co-ordinators was a good way for this project to run, and that this worked well, giving a range of skill sets and the opportunity to build confidence.
- It is evident that overall the volunteer co-ordinators are too modest in acknowledging the role they have played in the successful planning and delivery of the Longstone Landscape project, yet without each person fulfilling their role the project would not have happened.
- Volunteer project co-ordinators generally felt that there was sufficient support for the role they carried out and felt they knew where to ask for help and advice if needed.
- It is felt that the project can continue under its current organisational structure to complete the current phase of the project and into the future.
- Although project co-ordinators felt that communication with volunteers worked well, it is acknowledged that there are some challenges. For example, it appeared that volunteer involvement tailed off through the numbers signed up for sessions, however it was also noted that often volunteers turned up without having signed up so it may be that numbers were not able to be counted correctly. Volunteers without regular access to email and/or social media were observed to have been less informed about progress. A newsletter was suggested as an option to help with this issue.
- Suggestions for improvements to help with the running of the project included:
 - Circulation of progress notes/newsletter
 - Longer period of time to develop skills and confidence in volunteers
 - Project leaders to have contact information for people expressing an interest in their area
 - Publication of what has been achieved so far – display boards have already been produced.

Conclusions

The Longstone Landscape Project 2014-15 has been a highly successful community archaeology project which has achieved its aim of bringing together members of the communities of Challacombe and Parracombe, Parracombe Archaeology and History Society and North Devon Archaeology Society and engaging them with their 'local' archaeology. It has facilitated a wide range of training in archaeological techniques such as field survey, geophysical survey and excavation and through this provided opportunities for those with an interest in cultural heritage to volunteer within Exmoor National Park.

Feedback from volunteers involved in the project gives a sense of enjoyment gained from participation in the project and of enhanced understanding about the archaeology within the project area and the wider National Park as a result of their involvement. A Bronze Age day was held in May 2014 to enable children from local schools to find out about the work being carried out on Challacombe Common and to try some hands-on activities to learn more about Exmoor's prehistoric past.

The project team have aimed to provide opportunities for all members of the public to find out about the achievements of this project through regular 'catch up sessions' as well as on site open days and taster sessions. A set of display boards showcasing understanding of the landscape gained through this project has also been produced. Training has been provided with the intention that Longstone Landscape Project members are empowered to continue a range of archaeological activities to research, record and understand their heritage, as well as being able to play an active role in future conservation work. It is vital that Exmoor National Park historic environment team resources are made available to the group to enable this work to continue.

Archaeological contribution

The contribution that the Longstone Landscape project has made to the archaeological record for Challacombe Common should not be understated. This project has adopted approaches and methodologies not previously employed on Exmoor. With regards to archaeological techniques, this project marks the first time that ground penetrating radar has been utilised on a range of monuments on moorland and has yielded highly successful results, confirming multiple phasing of barrows, which has previously only been speculated. It has also suggested the location of a telling house, which if further work could confirm this assertion, would prove to be the first to be positively identified on Exmoor. Geophysical survey has proved to be a highly effective way of observing structural complexity within barrows located within the project area. This has implications for other barrows on Exmoor and in the South West region.

Fieldwork on the rectangular enclosure has included geophysical, measured and peat depth surveys and signifies the most complete record of this monument that can be achieved through non-invasive techniques. As a unique monument on Exmoor, total excavation is not currently advisable and therefore the work undertaken through the Longstone Landscape project marks a completion of archaeological research for this monument.

Once surveys are completed, the Chapman Barrow group will have the most detailed level of archaeological survey achievable and this level of detail will greatly enhance and clarify the archaeological record for this monument group.

Highly detailed boundary survey completed at Radworthy makes this settlement one of the best researched medieval enclosures within Exmoor National Park. It also represents a greater reliance on archaeological data, as opposed to historical sources which are often used in similar projects elsewhere (For example, work carried out at Shapwick by Mick Aston and Chris Gerrard (see *Interpreting the English Village* 2013, Windgather Press)). This data has allowed comparison of field sizes to historical sources to demonstrate how little change has occurred to the form of Radworthy settlement over its period of occupation.

Recommendations

Longstone Landscape community archaeology project

It is evident that there is much more to be done within the Longstone Landscape Project area and the members are keen for this to take place. The following recommendations are for the project in general:

- Although volunteers are well trained, to ensure the current skill level is maintained and built upon additional training and refresher training will be necessary.
- Additional resources may be required in the form of data, largely accessible through ENPHER, although some assistance may be necessary in accessing this (e.g. staff time).
- All current kit and materials identified as necessary have been supplied, however additional needs may be identified in the future, beyond the EMLPS funding stage of the project. Provision will need to be made to address these needs if the project is to continue in its current form.
- The group should have regular contact and liaison with ENPA historic environment staff, ideally with a named contact within Exmoor National Park who takes responsibility for this. This investment of time will help to ensure that the Longstone Landscape Project group can access specialist advice and funding streams when necessary and would hopefully help the group to remain focused on fulfilling the project aims and objectives. In addition, ENPA may wish to access the transferable skills available within the group to assist on other historic environment projects within the National Park.

Further work

Additional work identified by the Longstone Landscape Project in order to complete the current phase of fieldwork is:

- Continuation of barrow surveys
- Drawing of Quincunx stones and establish regular monitoring
- Measured survey of the rectangular enclosure on Homer Common
- Geophysical survey of areas of Radworthy – NDAS to try this in 2016. Some small amounts of additional funding may be sought for gradiometry e.g. through Caremoor, Council for British Archaeology, ENPA Partnership Fund, HLF Your Heritage
- Presentation of information gained through documentary research into Chanter and also through field work in an accessible format (possibly in conjunction with Devon Archaeological Society field guide series)

The Longstone Landscape Project has highlighted the potential for further work to be undertaken in this area which would greatly enhance understanding of this landscape. Recommendations are:

- Additional geophysical survey of Chapman Barrow group
- Creation of a walk card in the ENPA Moorland Archaeology walks series
- Re-excavation of Chanter's trench in Chapman Barrow II to obtain environmental samples (Historic England have now encouraged a Scheduled Monument Consent application to be put forward)

Both of these would require additional funding to be sought. The potential for a larger funded landscape scale project examining this landscape in greater detail through geophysical survey and excavation should also be considered

- Utilising the skills of project volunteers could allow a linked project within the villages of Parracombe/Challacombe examining the origins of these communities and their links with the moorland. This could follow a framework established by the DIG Porlock 2013/DIG Porlock Village Projects (See Balmond and Wilson-North 2013)

Appendix

List of Reports produced during the Longstone Landscape Project 2014-15:

Bradbeer, J. 2015. *The Longstone Project parishes c 1840* (unpublished report in ENPHER)

Green, T. 2015. *The Deserted Settlement of Radworthy* (unpublished report in ENPHER)

GSB Prospection. 2014. *Geophysical Survey Report G1421 Geophysical survey of Chapman barrow 11 Exmoor National Park* (Report in ENPHER)

GSB Prospection. 2015. *Geophysical Survey Report G1515 Challacombe Common Exmoor National Park* (Report in ENPHER)

Hansford-Worth, R. 1905. *Twenty-fourth report of the barrow committee* Transactions of the Devonshire Association No.37

Mitcham, D. 2014. Geophysical surveys of a rectangular enclosure and stone setting on Challacombe Common (unpublished report in ENPHER)

Mitcham, D. 2014. Archaeological excavations at the western end of Lanacombe in Exmoor National Park (Unpublished report in ENPHER)

Riley, H. 2014. Metric Survey of Chapman Barrow Exmoor HER 1061(11) (Report in ENPHER)

Riley, H. 2015. Survey of Radworthy farmstead and an earthwork enclosure: Longstone Landscape Community Archaeology Project (Report in ENPHER)

Longstone Landscape Project 2014

Introduction and Background

Longstone Landscape project 2014 is a community led project achieved through the integration of a number of projects taking place on the moorland areas above Parracombe and Challacombe in 2014. These will investigate largely prehistoric features within the landscape. The project is underpinned by the enthusiasm of members of the Parracombe Archaeology and History Society and members of the community in Challacombe and Parracombe parishes. In recent years there has been considerable support expressed through attendance at a number of events including guided walks and talks.

At the heart of the project is the Chapman Barrows cemetery, which comprises approximately 15 round barrows. The project also includes the Longstone, the largest menhir within Exmoor National Park, a recently identified possible Neolithic mortuary enclosure and a deserted farmstead and relict field system at Radworthy. Fieldwork will also focus on potential hunter gatherer sites at springheads around the upland plateau. Taken together the archaeological remains in this area form a remarkable concentration, containing a number of Scheduled Monuments as well as being designated one of Exmoor's 37 Principal Archaeological Landscapes.

The Longstone Landscape project comprises a series of individual elements or projects. These will be carried out by various groups and organisations: the Parracombe Archaeology and History Society, Exmoor National Park Authority/Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership Scheme and the University of Leicester. Some of the activities will be dependent on external funding.

Support for the project has been obtained from the North Devon Archaeological Society.

Projects

- **Chapman Barrows**
- **Chapman Barrow – East**
- **Quincunx**
- **Radworthy**
- **Mortuary enclosure**
- **Mesolithic springheads**

Other potential Projects:

- Butter Hill walkover survey
- Longstone photography

Aims and Objectives

- Engage a cross section of the local community, including schools, with the unique and valuable archaeological remains located ‘on their doorstep’.
- Enable participation and learning about archaeological techniques such as field survey, geophysical survey and excavation.
- Promote a greater understanding of Exmoor’s archaeology and the story of the evolution of the moorland from prehistory.
- Provide support for volunteers before arrival on site to enable them to gain fully from the experience.
- Provide an opportunity for all members of the public to find out about the achievements of this project, through open days. Volunteers may decide on other ways to tell the community about their achievements e.g. visitor centre displays, talks to local groups, local publications.
- Enhance current records of archaeology held within ENPHER.
- Inspire a sense of ownership and understanding of the past which encourages enjoyment in learning about the past and lead to more active participation in conservation issues.
- Promote a range of volunteer opportunities within Exmoor National Park for those with interests in cultural heritage.
- Ensure that the Parracombe Archaeology and History Society is empowered to continue a range of archaeological activities to research, record and understand their heritage, as well as being able to play an active role in future conservation work.

Activities

Site	Research	Reconnaissance	Survey	Geophysics	Excavation	Palaeo	Report/ Archive
Chapman Barrows							
Chapman Barrow – East							
Quincunx							
Radworthy							
Mortuary enclosure							
Mesolithic springheads							

Timescale

The project will be carried out during 2014. Most of the fieldwork will be carried out between March and June due to the constraints of vegetation. Excavation will take place over the high summer months due to the elevated and exposed nature of the site.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governance and co-ordination - Project group

Agree archiving and deposition arrangements at outset of project with Exmoor HER and North Devon RO

Method statements/project designs – Project leaders to write

Risk assessments – Health and safety lead volunteer in conjunction with leader for that aspect

Landowner permissions – Rob Wilson-North/Julia Holtom

Identity and branding – Logo designed by Sally Chapman-Walker

Securing external funding- N/A

Consent from NE – Faye Balmond/Rob Wilson-North/Doug Mitcham

Consent from EH - Faye Balmond/Rob Wilson-North

Co-ordination of volunteers and volunteer activities – David Cherrill/Project leaders

Equipment – Helen Asher/Jill Jones/Julia Holtom

Report writing and archiving – Faye Balmond

Site	Research	Reconnaissance Pre recording	Survey	Geophysics	Excavation	Palaeo	Report/ Archive	Presentation of results
Chapman Barrows	PAHS	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS				ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS
Chapman Barrow – East	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS/EH	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS
				contractor	contractor	contractor	contractor	
Quincunx			U of L	U of L	contractor		U of L	U of L
Rad worthy	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS				ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS
Mortuary enclosure				U of L	U of L	U of L	U of L	U of L
Mesolithic spring heads		ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS				ENPA/PAHS	ENPA/PAHS

Standards

All activities within the Longstone Landscape project will conform to the relevant Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) standards. These can be found on the IfA website at: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Learning outcomes

1. An awareness that archaeology exists on Exmoor
2. An understanding of how archaeologists investigate the past
3. An understanding that people have lived on and utilised Exmoor's natural resources for thousands of years and that the moorland provides evidence of the change from 'Mesolithic' hunter-gather communities to the less mobile communities of the 'Neolithic' and 'Bronze Age'.
4. An understanding of developments that occurred through prehistory in terms of technological development, social change, climate and environment.
5. An appreciation of Exmoor's unique archaeological resource and its challenges.
6. For Parracombe Archaeology and History Society to have a detailed understanding of the processes and procedures of the setting up and running of a community archaeology project.

Other outcomes and outputs

All research and fieldwork activities will create products (reports) for deposition in the Exmoor Historic Environment Record. These will be agreed in advance to conform to the HER standards. Other archive items will be deposited with the North Devon Record Office.

Communication

Groups within the local community:

Challacombe PCC, Parracombe PCC

The Rawle family

Woolhanger Estate

NDAS



Historic Environment Record

Input Form: Barrow Survey

Subject: Longstone Landscape Project Chapman Barrows survey		Monument Name	
National Grid Reference:	Civil Parish:	Monument Number:	
Date of Site Visit(s) or Fieldwork:		Recorder names:	
<p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diameter of barrow (2 measurements: N-S and W-E): • Height: • Shape: • Composition of mound (ie stone, earth etc): • Vegetation cover on barrow: • Landuse and surrounding vegetation: • Noticeable features of barrow e.g. Kerb stones, ditch: • Damage or disturbance noted e.g. antiquarian excavation, footpath or erosion (with location and extent, include photographs): • Description of how survey was carried out: • Any other details noted: 			
<p>Please attach your survey plan, profiles and photographs . Also attach any other relevant drawings, field notes and photographs.</p>			

List of photographs:

Direction photo taken from	File Name
N	
S	
E	
W	

Sketch (or additional notes):

Large empty rectangular box for sketching or additional notes.

General guidance for Fieldwalkers

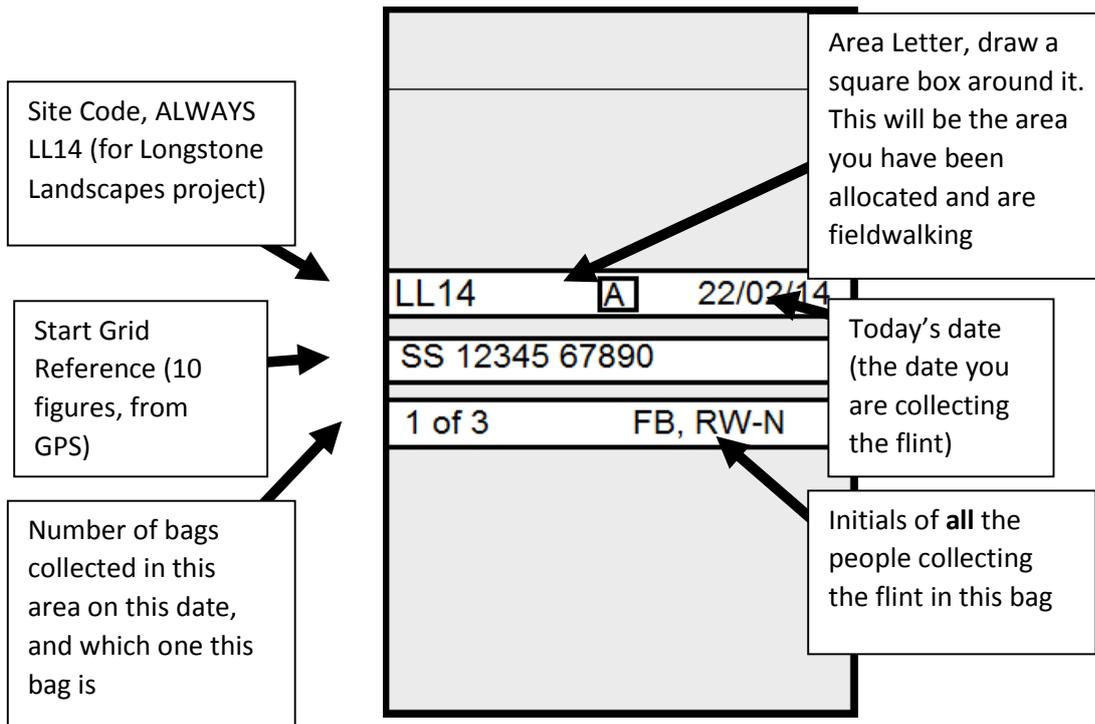
- Always go out in a group. This is not only for safety but also means that you are more likely to notice flints if you are all looking at the same area.
- Respect any requests of landowners and tenants – please do not drive 4x4 vehicles onto sites or park inconsiderately. Allow additional time to walk from a safe parking area.
- Inform your project leader that you will be out on a particular day. This could be by email, phone call or text message! Report any accidents or issues encountered to your project leader asap.
- Follow advice in your risk assessment – be prepared for changes in weather conditions and reschedule if necessary.
- Follow the guidelines for labelling finds bags and make sure you complete all boxes on the recording sheet. There is no point in collecting material which cannot be identified to a particular area.
- Walk your area more than once. Changes in weather and season will change the visibility of flint on the ground.
- Stay in your area. You will have a map marked with the area you are walking. Don't go into another groups area or an area not marked on the map as landowner permission may not have been given for this.
- Pass your completed record sheets and finds bags to your project leader at the earliest opportunity.

Fieldwalking finds bag labelling guide

Longstone Landscapes Project:

Fieldwalking finds bag labelling guide

1. Write label on finds bag before adding any flints!
2. Only write on the white panels – anything on the clear plastic will rub off
3. Label finds bags using a black permanent marker, as shown in this image:



Obtaining a grid reference

1. Turn on unit by holding down power button - Lower button on right hand side of unit
2. Wait for unit to power up and find satellites
3. Use joystick button on front of unit to move along to 'Mark Waypoint'
4. Press centre joystick button to select this.
5. Waypoint will automatically generate a number (top line on screen). Your grid reference will be displayed in the 'location' box.
6. Use joystick to move through boxes on screen. *[Optional: A note can be added by highlighting this box and clicking central joystick, then using the joystick to select characters displayed on screen. (e.g. flint arrowhead found) Move down to 'Done' and click to go back to waypoint screen.]*
7. Highlight and click on 'done' box at bottom right of screen. This will save this waypoint and take you back to the main menu (step 3). If you do not want to save the waypoint, press the 'back' button (top right of unit) to go back to the previous screen. You do not need to save the waypoint if you have not added a note (step 6).
8. Press and hold power button again to turn off the unit when finished.

Fieldwalking record sheet

Longstone Landscapes Project - Fieldwalking Record Sheet

Keep this sheet with associated finds bags (if any) and return to the project leader even if no finds are recorded.

Area code (letter):		Date:	
Start grid reference (e.g. SS 61234 41234):		End grid reference (e.g. SS 61234 41234):	
Fieldwalkers' initials:		Weather:	
Description of location (e.g. track following field boundary on east side of Butter Hill):			

Finds recovered?	Yes / No	Total No. find bags:	No. flints:
Photographs taken?	Yes / No	No. photographs:	
Any other observations:			

_____ (continue overleaf if necessary)			