# **Conservation Management**

Doe Tor Farm Lydford Devon

# Historic Site Appraisal and Survey





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# DOE TOR FARM LYDFORD DEVON

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Document Ref. 62760.01

For:

#### Landmarc Support Services Limited HQ ATE SW Wyvern Barracks Exeter EX2 6AR

By:

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January 2007

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# DOE TOR FARM LYDFORD DEVON

# **Historic Site Appraisal & Survey**

#### Summary

In 2006 Landmarc Support Services Limited, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), commissioned Conservation Management, a specialist division of Wessex Archaeology, to conduct historical research and survey on Doe Tor Farm, which was abandoned in about 1955 but which remains in the ownership of the MoD.

The project consisted of a topographical survey of the farmhouse and ancillary structures, now mostly reduced to low walls and rubble, a desktop study and oral research amongst previous occupants of the site and others with a memory of it. The purpose of the work was to provide a social history of the farm and its occupants, and to make a preliminary record of the field remains of the farmstead.

The site, on the west side of Dartmoor, on the very edge of moorland, is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR 25365 08490. The farmhouse was last occupied in about 1955 and was demolished in about 1970.

The results of the historical research indicate that the farm was probably established in the 1730s, which is an unusual date for a Dartmoor farmstead. From the late 1830s onwards there is good documentation relating to occupancy of the site. Local people were interviewed informally for oral memories of the last days of the farm (1930s -1950s). The survival of records from the Second World War period, and of photographs from the 1930s onwards, have contributed significantly to an understanding of the human history of Doe Tor Farm, and to interpretation of the buildings recorded in the field survey.

The field survey has provided the first detailed record of the surface features surviving at the site of the farmstead, and will provide a baseline for any future archaeological work and for long-term conservation of the site.

This report illustrates the complex nature of the farming communities that have existed in this part of Devon of the centuries. It also shows how the site has developed over an even longer period and has been shaped both by the natural landscape and mans intervention into his surroundings. From this it will be possible to develop further conservation and management policies to assist in safeguarding the site for the future.

#### Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Landmarc Support Services Limited, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence and Conservation Management would like to thank John Harris, Rural Estates Surveyor with Landmarc Support Services Limited for his assistance.

Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the help and advice provided by the staff of the following record offices and libraries for help with information and sources – Devon Record Office; Plymouth & West Devon Record Office; Westcountry Studies Library; Duchy of Cornwall Offices (London and Princetown); The National Archives, Tavistock Library; National Monuments Record; Devon Historic Environment Record.

Among individuals, Elisabeth Stanbrook provided information, help and support, as did Nigel Sharpe of Defence Estates; John Harris, and Paul Fletcher of Landmarc Support Services Limited; Colin Friend; Ann Cole; Barbara Weeks and Jenny Sanders.

Those who have kindly provided memories and photographs include: Mrs Audrey Allen; Mr Eric Allen; Mr Cyril Friend; Mrs Joyce Lake; Mrs Beatrice Pengelly; Mr Stan Yeo; Mr William Cooke and Mr Lionel Gloyn.

The project was managed for Conservation Management, Wessex Archaeology by Bob Hill, MRICS, MIFA. This report was compiled by Dr Tom Greeves who also undertook the site analysis, documentary research and oral history collection. The topographic survey of the site and buildings was carried out by Matt Rous AIFA. Illustrations were prepared by Martyn Norris and Matt Rous annotated the survey drawings.

# Abbreviations Used

AOD CM	above Ordnance Datum Conservation Management
DRO	Devon Record Office, Exeter
HER	Historic Environment Record (County Hall, Exeter)
LSS	Landmarc Support Services Limited
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NGR	Nation Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
PWDRO	Plymouth & West Devon Record Office
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England
TG	Tom Greeves
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
WA	Wessex Archaeology
WCSL	Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter
WD	War Department

Note:

All grid references in this report use a numerical pre-fix 2 in front of Eastings and a 0 in front of Northings in line with current OS practice. These prefix numbers can be removed and the remaining reference prefixed with letters SX.

# DOE TOR FARM LYDFORD DEVON

# **Historic Site Appraisal & Survey**

# 1 INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Within its freehold of Willsworthy on the western side of Dartmoor, the MoD owns the sites of five farms that were abandoned at different times during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farms are Bearwalls, Doe Tor, Standon, Reddaford and Yellowmead. As part of the data-gathering exercise for their freehold and for conservation purposes it was suggested that it would be desirable to learn more about the history and surviving fabric of each farm. Doe Tor was selected as the first to be investigated because it is easily accessible to the public, was occupied until the mid-1950s, and the MoD was considering some new uses of the farm site that might involve some disturbance.
- 1.1.2 The present survey was commissioned in 2006 by the MoD through LSS. It is primarily intended as a social history of the farm, but the opportunity was taken to include an 'earthwork' survey and preliminary interpretation of the surviving structures in the immediate vicinity of the farmhouse site.
- 1.1.3 The intention was to provide a background history and analysis of the site and establish its significance in terms of an archaeological and historical setting. In turn that can be used as a basis upon which further conservation and management works can be proposed and considered. That will need to take account of both the future usage of the site and its surroundings and the aims and objectives of ant future planned maintenance policies
- 1.1.4 Doe Tor Farm OS NGR 25365 08490) is situated right on the moorland boundary on the west side of Dartmoor at an altitude of approximately 325m AOD), within the historic parish of Lydford. It takes its name from the granite tor rising to 425m AOD about 550m east of the farm. The farm and its enclosures are bounded by the Doetor Brook on the north, the Wallabrook on the south and the River Lyd on the west (Figure 1 and Plates 1 -3).

# 1.2 Previous study

1.2.1 Doe Tor Farm does not feature largely in Dartmoor literature. Its first mention is in a collection of fictional stories by Sabine Baring-Gould, published in 1896 as *Dartmoor Idylls* where an accurate topographical description is given of its setting (Baring-Gould 1896, 123). He also

mentions an octagonal socket stone for a medieval cross lying 'beyond the door or entrance to the tiny court before the farm', but for which there is no other known reference. However this may be writer's licence for an 'edge-runner' stone, probably intended as an applecrusher, which, until stolen in 2005, was sited in a hedge about 150m below the farmhouse at OS NGR 25351 08493 (**Plate 4**). The latter stone was first described by R. Hansford Worth in a paper in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* in 1950 (Worth 1950, 336).

- 1.2.2 The farm barely receives mention by William Crossing, one of the best-known topographical writers on Dartmoor in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, though he describes routes to it (Crossing 1909, 60, 179). Six decades later M. and S. Wootton referred to two separate funerals of occupants of the farm in the 1930s and 1940s, though with slightly erroneous dates (Wootton 1970, 6). Eric Hemery suggested that the farm was of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date and describes meeting the last occupants, Mr and Mrs Ball, there in the spring of 1954 (Hemery 1983, 920-21). Mike Brown considered the ruins to have 'little of interest' (Brown 1999, 12). More detailed anecdotal information about the last occupants of the farm can be found in Barbara Weeks' *The Book of Lydford* (Weeks 2004, 109-113).
- 1.2.3 In 1998 Simon Probert of the RCHME included the farm in an archaeological survey of the MoD Willsworthy Training Area. He surmised that the farm fitted a pattern of settlement and abandonment typical of Dartmoor farms of the (late) 18<sup>th</sup> century, and noted some stone artefacts in its vicinity (Probert 1998, 11-12, 15). A useful summary archaeological description of the farm site was made by W.J. Keir on behalf of RCHME on 26 August 1998 and is recorded by the National Monuments Record (NMR Number SX 58 SW 146; unique identifier 1158671). Keir stated that '*The farm's origin probably dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century*' (idem).

# 2 METHODS

## 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The survey was carried out in accordance with the brief provided by LSS and a method statement set out in a letter from WA to LSS of March 2006. In summary the work has involved
  - Identifying the client's objectives
  - Identifying the sources available for consultation
  - Consulting, assembling and examining these sources.

# 2.2 Survey

- 2.2.1 The survey of the site was carried out in April and September 2006. On site survey data of the remains of the farm was gathered using a Leica TCR307 with direct data logging to a portable computer. GPS logged static observations were processed against OS active network data to locate reference points within +/- 20 mm. It was then processed in real time using Theo LT software.
- 2.2.2 The resulting data was drawn up in AutoCAD format and augmented with interpretive notes derived from other aspects of the research process.

#### 2.3 Documentary sources

- 2.3.1 The following institutions were visited or contacted and a brief assessment of their collections has been made:
  - Devon Historic Environment Record
  - Devon Record Office
  - Duchy of Cornwall Office, Princetown
  - LSS
  - MoD
  - National Monuments Record
  - Plymouth & West Devon Record Office
  - Tavistock Library
  - Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter
- 2.3.2 Additionally access was obtained to research notes on relevant material held by the National Archives (London), and to Dr Greeves' private collection of documentary material and photographs relating to Doe Tor Farm.

2.3.3 Historic mapping was obtained from the Devon Record Office, Plymouth and West Devon Record Office and the Westcountry Studies Library.

#### 2.4 Oral sources

2.4.1 Given the relatively recent abandonment of the farm, about fifty years ago, a search was made for persons who were directly connected with the farm or who knew people who occupied it. Eight people were informally interviewed as part of this research programme.

# 3 HISTORY

#### 3.1 The Beginning and Doter Green

- 3.1.1 The find of a perfect prehistoric flint scraper (35mm x 32mm) by Elisabeth Stanbrook in 2001, within the farm enclosures a few metres south of the farm site proves the presence of people at Doe Tor some four or five thousand years ago. Numerous prehistoric features are known on the moorland to the east and south of this site.
- 3.1.2 The Doetor Brook (the OS name) is known by local people today as the 'Doe Brook' or 'River Doe'. As 'Dowbrocke' it was recorded as the name of a tinwork in January 1598 when a quarter share was conveyed by William Chubbe, *a tinner* of *Meavy*, to Philip Strode (Greeves 2003, 22).
- 3.1.3 The first apparent reference to buildings on or near the Doe Tor Farm site is made in a deed of 25 March 1740. Then, in return for payment of five shillings, William Colman of Gornhay, Tiverton and William Wotton of Engleborne, Harberton, granted William Powell, blacksmith of Lydford, 'All that or those Messuage or Tenement Messuages or Tenements Fields, Closes, Pieces or Platts of Ground called or commonly known by the name of Dotter Green and Tin Mill' within the parish of Lydford, for a rent of one peppercorn (if demanded), for one year' (DRO/1292M/Drafts, Abstracts/Lydford 1). That the 'messuage' i.e. a dwelling house, outbuildings and land is to be identified with the site of Doe Tor Farm is reinforced by the fact that at the time of the census returns of 1851 and 1861 the farmhouse was titled 'Doter Green'.
- 3.1.4 As early as 1694 the extent of Doter Green is described in another conveyance. This was from John Furse of Moorshead, Dean Prior to John Powell the younger, a yeoman of Lydford and William Gill the younger, a yeoman of Petertavy: 'All that parcel of Wast Ground or Commons...Commonly called or knowne by the name of Doter Greene containing by estimacion fowerscore Acres of Land...Togeather with the mill place to the same belonging and adioyning, which said premises are Bounded with Dobrooke on the East part with willem=brook=head And a Certaine downe or Commons called Blackdowne...on the south part with Blackabrooke on the west part and with Leed Water on the north part' (DRO/1292M Leases/Lydford 2). Although the compass directions have become confused, this seems to describe the ground down the slope from Doetor Farm, bounded by Doetor Brook on the north, the river Lyd on the west and the Wallabrook on the south. 'Willembrookhead' is almost certainly a form of Wallabrookhead. The name 'Blackabrook' is still known today by some local people as referring to part of the Wallabrook dividing Bearwalls from Doetor. More precisely it would seem to be the name of the short tributary on the south side of the Wallabrook, rising at approx. OS NGR 2538 0844 and only about 750m long. Interestingly, the parish boundary between Lydford and Petertavy diverges from the Wallabrook to follow part of this stream, which probably explains why

*'Black a brook head'* is mentioned in a description of the bounds of Lydford parish in 1754 (WCSL/Lydford Parish Registers typescript, p.64).

- 3.1.5 The site of the tin mill is not yet confirmed, though a possible candidate survives on the left (i.e. east) bank of the river Lyd at OS NGR 25332 08525, not far above the confluence of the Doetor Brook with the river Lyd.
- 3.1.6 'Dotter green otherwise Doter green and Tin Mill' were conveyed by Edmund Powell, yeoman of Lydford to John Sleman the younger, yeoman of Lamerton on 7 March 1758, for £10 (DRO/1292M/Mining Deeds 8). Interestingly, it is known that 'Doter Green' and its tin mill were in the possession of Nicholas Tapson before 1694 (DRO/1292M Mining Deeds 8; 1292M Leases/Lydford 2), and other leases exist from 1732 and 1738-9 with a wide range of owners and occupiers (DRO/1292M/Mining Deeds 8). However none of these makes mention of a 'messuage' i.e. dwelling.
- 3.1.7 It therefore seems probable, though not absolutely proven, that the first dwelling house on the site of Doe Tor Farm was established at some time between 1732 and 1740. This predates the major enclosure movement and establishment of new farms on Dartmoor that became prevalent in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century and, if correctly dated, is of interest in its own right as a very rare example of a foundation dating to the first half of the 18th century. At present there is no evidence either archaeological or historical, to suppose that Doe Tor Farm was of medieval origin.
- 3.1.8 However, there is some archaeological support for 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier activity in the area. During this survey, three stones were identified that have wedge cuts on them, indicating splitting by means of a technique which predates the beginning of the nineteenth century and which may extend back to the fifteenth century or earlier. The stones all lie within the enclosures of Doe Tor Farm, and can be found at OS NGR 253326 085081, OS NGR 253335 085087 and OS NGR 253431 085083 (**Plates 5-7**).

# 3.2 The 19<sup>th</sup> century and the Calmady Hamlyns

3.2.1 A key moment in the history of Doe Tor (*'Dotter Green'*) was its conveyance to the Calmady Hamlyn estate in two separate transactions in 1820-21. The first was of two-thirds of the property on 26 May 1820 by Edmund and Mary Powell of Lamerton jointly with William and Hannah Powell of Lydford and Valentine and Jenifer Powell of Lamerton, all yeoman farmers, to Calmady Pollexfen Hamlyn for £200. On 23 June 1821 the remaining one-third was conveyed to him for £115 by Mrs Agnes Sleman of Tavistock, widow of William Sleman of East Langstone, Lamerton (DRO/1292M/Mining Deeds 8). A further document dated 24 June 1824 is mentioned in the War Department purchase deed of 1905 (see below 3.3.2), but has not yet been traced.

- 3.2.2 The first named occupants of Doe Tor are mentioned in the baptismal records of Lydford parish on 8 September 1839 when William, the son of labourer John Hunter, sometimes Hunt, and his wife Elizabeth were baptised. It seems the family may have been at Doe Tor for at most five years as the couple's two oldest children, Mary and John, had been baptised in 1831 and 1834 respectively, when their parents' place of abode was recorded as 'in village'.
- 3.2.3 The census of 1841 records no fewer than ten people living at 'Dotor' in a single house. John Hunt [=Hunter], an agricultural labourer aged 40 who was born in Scotland, and lived with his 35 year old wife Elizabeth. She and all their children had been born in Devon Harriet (aged 14), Betsy (12), Mary (9), John (7), Thomas (4), William (2) and Robert (6 months). The latter had been baptised at Lydford on 28 February that year, when he was recorded as Robert Woolridge Hunter, implying a family link with the only other adult in the house who was Tristram Woolridge, a 25-year-old agricultural labourer, also born in Devon.
- 3.2.4 The tithe apportionment of 1846 and accompanying map of 'Old Lydford' dated 30 June 1848 (Figure 2) provide the first insight into the fields surrounding the farm, still occupied by John Hunter. Apart from the house and farmyard itself there are eight numbered enclosures attached to the farm. The largest (no. 258), Doe Torr Meadow, is more than 22 acres in extent and is described as 'Common', which is an indication that the fields were taken in from common ground at some time. That is reflected in the name Doetor Common still found on modern OS maps, which is rough ground to this day and extends to the edge of tinworkings defined by a steep scarp. Of the remaining seven 'agricultural' fields, no. 260 is the largest, nearly 6 acres in extent, while the others are all less than one acre. Titled as 'Home Ground', field 260 is recorded as arable and in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century this was known as Big Field and was regularly harvested for hay. Two fields titled 'Paddock' and 'Little Plot' are the only other names recorded. The state of cultivation of no. 259 is 'Arable and pasture' and no. 263 is 'Meadow', while the others are 'Arable'. No. 264 is included with the 'House & Garden etc'.
- 3.2.5 The tithe map (**Figure 2**) shows the dwelling house (coloured red) and one other building, which was known as the Calf House in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (see 3.5). Intriguingly, both the dwelling and the calf house project eastwards beyond the line of the N-S boundary that separates the enclosed land from the open moorland. This suggests that they may predate the line of the boundary. A shippon, involving a further extension eastwards onto moorland, is first shown on the OS 25-inch map surveyed in 1883 (**Figure 2**).
- 3.2.6 Nine members of the Hunter family were still in residence at the time of the 1851 census. John Hunter of *'Doter Green'* was then described as *'Farmer of 150 Acres'*, aged 59. His wife Elizabeth was 48 and had been born in Northlew. Two adult unmarried daughters were Herriot [= Harriet] aged 26 and Betsy aged 20, who had been born in Milton Abbot and Germansweek respectively. The remaining children aged

between 16 and 6 were John, Mary, Thomas, William and Walter who were all born in Lydford. John Hunter was recorded at Doe Tor in the *Post Office Directory* of 1856 (p.180).

- 3.2.7 By 1861 new occupants were at 'Doter Green' the Palmer family, members of whom remained in residence for the next thirty-five years. Francis Palmer aged 55, born in Lamerton, was described on the census as 'Farmer of 100 Acres (Employing 1 Boy).' His wife Priscilla aged 50 and his son John aged 13 had both been born in Broadwoodwidger. The 1871 census reveals that they had been joined by two older sons, William (aged 28) and James (aged 26), both born in Broadwoodwidger. All three sons were employed on the farm that was now recorded as 150 acres in extent.
- 3.2.8 Ten years later William Palmer was the unmarried head of the household, aged 37, living with his unmarried brother John aged 32 and his widowed mother Priscilla aged 71, plus a *'Farm Servant'*, Susanna Voisey aged 13. Priscilla was recorded as having been born in Ashwater, and Susanna in Bridestowe. According to the parish register Priscilla Palmer was buried at Lydford on 13 November 1883 aged 75.
- 3.2.9 Between 1886-9 the electoral register records William Palmer at Doe Tor. The census of 1891 reveals that William had a wife Elizabeth, aged 40 who had been born in Petertavy. Living with them was John Bolt, a farm servant aged 18, born in Lydford.
- 3.2.10 Intriguingly, at this time (1891) there is a second inhabited house of only two rooms recorded at Doe Tor. This was occupied by Mary Bickle, a widow aged 62, and her son Fredrick [sic] aged 19 who was described as a 'Packer on Railway' [i.e. a labourer who packed ballast beneath the railway sleepers], and both of them had been born in Lydford.
- 3.2.11 A possible candidate for their dwelling is a ruin sited a short distance south of the track that led from Doe Tor to Bearwalls, at OS NGR 25325 08485, just within the Doe Tor enclosures (**Plates 8 and 9**). This is a two-roomed structure, aligned roughly west-east, and sunk more than 1m below the surrounding land surface with a blocked entrance, approx. 1.2m wide at its west end. The easterly room measured approx 4.6m x 4m internally. The dividing wall (approximately 0.9m wide) between the rooms does not extend the full width of the building, but stops short at a gap about 1.2m wide that may have been a doorway. The west room measures approx. 6.2m x 3.6m. The drystone walling of the structure survives to a maximum height of approx. 1.3m, but there is no obvious sign of a fireplace.
- 3.2.12 William Palmer last appears in the electoral register in 1896.
- 3.2.13 From 1897-1902 the farm was occupied by the young Cole family. John Cole is listed in *Kelly's Directory* for 1897 (p.360), and he appears in the electoral register from 1898 – 1902.
- 3.2.14 The census of 1901 gives more information about John Cole, who was then aged 28 and had been born in Brentor. His wife Laura Anne was

also aged 28 and had been born in Lydford as had their three small daughters – May (aged 3), Joy (?lvy) aged 2 and Eva Vera (3 months).

#### 3.3 The twentieth century

- 3.3.1 The Cole family may have been prompted to move when the farm was acquired by the War Department as part of a major purchase of freehold land in order to establish a 'rifle range and camp for soldiers during summer months' at Willsworthy, one mile south of the farm. A public inquiry was held on 30 April 1901 at the Manor Hotel, Lydford, and a contemporary newspaper account reported that *'It is proposed to purchase Doe Tor Farm, in Lydford, containing 208 acres, belonging to the representatives of the late Mr Hamlyn and in the occupation of Mr John Cole.'* Formal objections were raised by the tenants and landowners (WCSL/Lydford Parish File A56-57, newspaper cuttings 1 May 1901). John Cole is last recorded at Doe Tor in the electoral register of 1902.
- 3.3.2 On 22 May 1901 the Willsworthy Military Lands Order granted powers to the War Department to purchase land (inf. Nigel Sharpe, Defence Estates 2 June 2006). However, the major conveyance of land to the War Department did not take place until 22 November 1905 when it was purchased for £5000 from Mrs Susan Emily Calmady Hamlyn. Doetor Farm was described as containing 208 acres and being *'in the occupation of Edwin Brooks* [sic] *as yearly tenant'* (copies of WD title deeds supplied by Nigel Sharpe, 2.6.2006). Edwin Brook [sic] was first recorded at Doe Tor in 1903 when his name appears on the electoral register and continues annually until 1915, always with this spelling.
- 3.3.3 A new yearly tenancy from the War Office was granted to Edwin Thomas Brooks [sic] on 26 December 1906 (TNA/IR58/66260).
- 3.3.4 A detailed survey of the farm (**Plate 16**) was made in 1910 for the Inland Revenue (TNA/IR58/66260). It was described as:

'Small farm house. Stone built. Slate roof. Outbuildings stone built with slate and iron roofs. Water from stream. No drains. E.C. [Earth Closet] in field. About 20 trees, fir and elm on hedges near house. Ho. contains Kit, Bk. Kit.[Back Kitchen] Scullery & 4 bedrooms. All very damp. Cow house for 4. Stabling for 3. Peat [?] house. Turf house. Shed. Small garden. Fields are all pasture and there is rough pasturage on moorland and marshes. Holding surrounded on 2 sides by rivers Lyd, Wallabrook and Doe Tor Brook. Approach, very bad.'

- 3.3.5 Nobody is listed at Doe Tor in the electoral register for 1918, which might indicate a lack of a tenant at the very end of the First World War.
- 3.3.6 In 1919 Joseph and Sophia Dawe (also spelt Daw) were in residence. They remained there until at least 1921 when they appear with James and Lillian Wyatt in the electoral register. However, at some time in 1921 'Doe Tor House' with '2 roods, 25 perches of land' was leased to James Brook Pengelly at £9 per annum (WD letter 4.2.1949 re Letting no.600 – TG).

- 3.3.7 A further agreement was made with James Pengelly on 6 February 1922, which included covenants for repairing a footbridge over the river Lyd at Wheal Mary Emma (OS NGR 25328 08519 – Plate 10) (WD letter 4.2.1949 and 9.3.1949 – TG).
- 3.3.8 On 21 March 1922 the infant Mary Pengelly of Doe Tor, only 3 weeks old, was buried at Lydford. This sad record implies that the Pengelly family were in residence by then, though James and Lillian Wyatt are the only names recorded on the electoral register of April 1922. In August 1922, J. Pengelly is shown as the occupier in a valuation list (PWDRO/1690/2236).
- 3.3.9 James Pengelly's middle name was 'Brook', which suggests a family relationship with the Brook family who were at Doe Tor 1903-15. He had previously lived at Skitt near Lydford village, but from the early 1920s until 1945 he and then his son Albert, with their families, were the occupiers of the farm.
- 3.3.10 From 1923-1929 the farmhouse was shared with William and Eva Allen (**Plates 11 and 12**), and their children. Eva was the daughter of James and Rosanna Pengelly (née Hunt). Three children were born to William and Eva at Doe Tor Violet Frances in 1923, Cecil Frederick in 1926 and Reginald Claude in 1927. In 1929, the Allen family moved to Bearwalls Farm, across the Wallabrook, half a mile distant to the southwest as the crow flies.
- 3.3.11 From 1930 Albert Pengelly (born 21 May 1908), son of James and Rosanna, appears with his parents on the electoral register as living at Doe Tor, and he remained there until 1945 when he and his family moved to Bearwalls.
- 3.3.12 On 16 January 1932 Rosanna Pengelly (**Plate 13**) was buried at Lydford, aged 57 (parish registers) after being carried by bearers on foot from Doe Tor to the church (Wootton 1970, 6).
- 3.3.13 Albert Pengelly (Plate 14) married tailoress Beatrice Mary Henderson (Plate 15) at Heavitree church in Exeter in 1934 and brought his new wife back to Doe Tor. She already knew the farm as her mother's family, called Screech, lived close by at Vale Down near Bridestowe (inf. Mrs B. Pengelly 22.6.2006). Their daughter Joyce was born in Exeter on 17 May 1936 (inf. Mrs Audrey Allen 22.5.2006 and Mrs Joyce Lake née Pengelly, 6.6.2006).
- 3.3.14 James Brook Pengelly died aged 72 on 5 November 1940 (newspaper cutting TG) and was buried at Lydford on 9 November 1940 (parish registers). His coffin was conveyed to Lydford from Doe Tor on a *'waggon'* pulled by Madam, a horse, which William Yeo of Bearwalls had taken over from Bearwalls. At Ford Bridge, the crossing over the river Lyd (OS NGR 2532 0857), the river was in spate and the horse hesitated to cross with its load. William, who was aged about 18, touched the horse and it shot forward suddenly into the water. This movement propelled the coffin violently backwards, hitting against the tailboard of the wagon with a loud noise. The tailboard fortunately withstood the impact but William Yeo was shaken by the incident. The

coffin was taken to Lydford War memorial and then on to the church (inf. Stan Yeo 19.6.2006).

- 3.3.15 Also in 1940, Eva Allen died of diabetes and her sons, Cecil, Eric and Claude, were taken in by Mrs Pengelly, to live at Doe Tor. Tragically, their father died the following year of tuberculosis.
- 3.3.16 The Ministry of Agriculture surveyed the farm in 1941 (TNA/MAF 32/679/351). The fields consisted of:
  - 1 <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> acres of oats
  - 1 acre of main crop potatoes
  - <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acre of turnips and swedes
  - 14 acres of permanent grass for mowing
  - 5 acres of permanent grass for grazing
  - 194 acres of rough grazing.

The animals consisted of:

- 2 cows/heifers in milk
- 1 cow in calf
- 1 heifer in calf
- 2 bulls more than 2 years old
- 1 cow more than 2 years old
- 4 bulls between 1 and 2 years
- 2 cattle under 1 year old
- 55 ewes kept for further breeding (excluding two-tooth ewes)
- 2 rams kept for service
- 15 two-tooth ewes put to ram in 1941
- 42 other sheep and lambs less than 1 year old
- 12 fowls over 6 months
- 1 mare and 1 gelding for agricultural purposes

The farmhouse, buildings, fences, ditches and drainage were considered to be in fair condition, but the farm roads were considered 'bad'. It was recorded that Albert Pengelly, the occupier tenant, farmed full time and employed no labour. He had additional ground at Brentor, which he had occupied for 9 years and he also had grazing rights on Dartmoor. There was no electricity on the farm. The rent was £50 and, curiously, the owner of Doe Tor was recorded as Mr Ryall of Beara, Horsebridge, Milton Abbot, rather than the War Department.

3.3.17 In 1942 and 1943 Albert Pengelly was required to cultivate and till potatoes on some 2 – 2.5 acres of ground, by the War Agricultural Executive Committee (TG collection). This area was known as part of 'Doetor Maish' or 'Marsh' and several people recollect the potatoes

being grown here. Ridges are still visible in this field, between 0.85 and 1.60m apart, at OS NGR 25325 08500, and may relate to the cultivation of potatoes. A further instruction was given in February 1945 to cultivate the previously mentioned piece of ground to rape, and to undersow with a 1 year ley (TG), but it is not known whether this was ever carried out as the Pengellys moved to Bearwalls in 1945 – they were due to leave by 25 March (copy letter from Sheppard to Revd. J. Key, 27 Dec. 1944 - TG). Everything was moved by horse and cart, across Doetor Marsh.

- 3.3.18 The electoral register for 1948 and 1949 has no information on Doe Tor, which implies that it might have been left empty for a few years, but in 1950 and 1951 the register shows Alfred J. Partridge as being there. Cyril Friend recalls that Alfred Partridge was from Cornwall, and worked for the Forestry Commission.
- 3.3.19 In 1953 and 1955 George and Nora M. Ball appear on the electoral register, listed under Doe Tor. They were the last occupants. According to Eric Hemery they told him in the spring of 1954 that they would not spend another winter on the farm, and not long afterwards they moved to Woodford Ham, Combebow, near Bridestowe (Hemery, 1983, 920-21, who erroneously gives Combe Ball). Bob Lowries recalled their character in *The Book of Lydford* (Weeks, 2004, 109-113). With their departure more than 200 years of occupation at Doe Tor Farm came to an end.
- 3.3.20 The farmhouse and ancillary buildings then slowly fell into decay. Tom Greeves photographed the abandoned and ruined dwelling on 9 August 1969 (**Plates 17-20**), and it was not long afterwards, perhaps in 1970, that the farmhouse was demolished. Eric Allen removed the slate roof. Since then the fields have continued to be farmed as grazing land.

#### 3.4 Memories of the 1930s and 1940s (Plates 21 – 27 & 32)

- 3.4.1 As part of the survey, it was realised that there might well be local people who remembered the farm and its occupants in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Fortunately, even within the short timescale allotted, some key people were traced, including Mrs Beatrice Pengelly (aged 95), widow of Albert Pengelly, her daughter Mrs Joyce Lake (aged 70), Mr Stan Yeo (aged 82) formerly of Bearwalls, Bill Cooke (aged 89) of Lydford, Mr Eric Allen (aged 77) who lived at Doe Tor during the Second World War, Cyril Friend (aged 84) and Mrs Audrey Allen, widow of Cecil Allen (1926-2002), besides others. These memories have been supplemented by some private papers, relating mostly to Albert Pengelly, which, together with some surviving photographs, give a personal and human element to the story of Doe Tor Farm.
- 3.4.2 The water supply for the farm was taken from the 'River Doe' in an open leat. It came across open moorland to a gateway immediately north of the farmhouse and was piped to a cloam (clay) pipe chute,

which was kept running constantly. Lighting on the farm was provided by oil lamps. The toilet (earth closet) was on the lower side of the yard.

- 3.4.3 Staple food included rabbit pie and whortleberries (in season).
- 3.4.4 In the 1930s, Bill Cooke was a postman and delivered letters on foot to Doe Tor Farm, starting from Lydford and then going via Silver Street to the Mill to Ingo Brake, then Prescombe and Bearwalls and then on to Doe Tor. He remembers Bert Pengelly as standing about 6ft 2in tall and that he was a good darts player. Stan Yeo recalls Bert Pengelly as always neat and tidy in his leggings and breeches. Bert Pengelly was also very fond of motorcycles (**Plate 22**) he had an Ariel machine. Mrs Beatrice Pengelly is remembered as rather a 'gracious' woman. Before marriage she lived with her parents in Ladysmith Road, Exeter and trained as a 'tailoress'.
- 3.4.5 Albert's father, Jim Pengelly, smoked a clay tobacco pipe and taught his granddaughter Joyce at a very tender age to smoke one with paper inside it, rather to the astonishment of occasional walkers who commented on the young 'maid' smoking! Joyce started at Lydford School at the age of 5, walking to and from Doe Tor. The pedestrian route to Lydford was via the bridge at Wheal Mary Emma and the Mine Path. Stan Yeo recalls watching, from Bearwalls, Mrs Beatrice Pengelly making her way to and fro along this path. The only access for wheeled vehicles at this time was from 'Ford Bridge' over the river Lyd at the north end of High Down.
- 3.4.6 There was never a tractor at Doe Tor all work was done by two carthorses, Prince and Tidy. Joyce Pengelly had a piebald riding pony called Judy. The stabling for the horses was in part of the shippon.
- 3.4.7 The farm dogs were kept at the top end of the barn (on the lower side of the dwelling). In February 1945, Albert Pengelly received a Certificate of Exemption from Licence Duty for *'Two Dogs...kept by him at Doe Tor farm solely for use in tending sheep and cattle'*. At one time there were three dogs Tricksy, Lady and Patsy. He was also issued with a gun licence in December 1944 (**Plate 23**).
- 3.4.8 During the Second World War, Bert Pengelly found additional employment at the Rattlebrook Peatworks, '*draying* [i.e. carrying] *peat*' with a horse and cart. Among his papers is a memorandum: '*took Contract at Peatworks Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 1941 and finished Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1941*'. He took another contract in November 1942, and between 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1944 he worked four 8-hour days and a 7-hour day at '*Peatwork*' (written in Farmers' Diary 1936 TG collection). Eric Allen recalls that Bert Pengelly used to take stone by horse and cart and repair the potholes in the track to the peatworks. He also used to '*dray stones*' for building work according to Mrs Beatrice Pengelly.
- 3.4.9 Eric Allen recalls going with Bert Pengelly to cut rushes at Rattlebrook Peat Works, for thatching ricks.

3.4.10 In 1943, a total of 360 pounds weight of wool from a variety of fleeces was shorn at Doe Tor: Light Crossbred Fleece (182 lbs), Heavy Crossbred Fleece (31 lbs), Crossbred Lambs (42 lbs), Scotch Fleeces (65 lbs), Scotch Cross Fleece (16 lbs), Scotch Lambs (20 lbs), Mixed Locks (4 lbs), worth a total of £24 17s 3d. In 1944, a similar quantity (346 lbs) was shorn, worth £23 4s 9d (G. Fulford's return of wool – TG collection). *The Dartmoor Scotch Sheepbreeders' Association 1945* records B. Pengelly [Albert Pengelly was known as 'Bert'] as member no. 88. The marks for his sheep are listed as:

Top cut in near ear. Diamond punch hole in off ear. BP in horns. Blued behind head. BP pitched off side. (**Plate 24 and 25**).

- 3.4.11 On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1944, Bert Pengelly was charged £3.10s for 2 hours of threshing by Farm Operations Ltd of Tavistock (TG).
- 3.4.12 Bert Pengelly's papers record some sales and purchases of animals at markets. For example, in 1939 he made the following record:

Sold 3 steers & 1 heifer to Mr Hill April Sold 6 ewes to Mr Brook Dartmoor Inn Sale Sold 8 wether lambs to Mr Daw Dartmoor Inn Sale Sold two Lease Cows Tavistock September Sold 1 heifer + 1 lease cow Goose Fair Sold 10 ewe lambs Sourton sheep sale Bought heifer & calve Oct 25th Tavistock Market Sold cart colt to Mr Horn Bought cob from Mr Cornish Tavistock Bought Heifer + calve Tavistock market Oct. 25th Bought Calve Tavistock Market Oct. 8th 1939. (Record Book 1939 – TG collection).

- 3.4.13 Jim and Rosanna Pengelly used to take dairy produce to market by pony and trap. They also took in paying guests (**Plate 26**) from Plymouth and Exeter, and there was a 'bungalow' in the Big Field on the north side of the house. This was a hut where people could be accommodated. Mrs Beatrice Pengelly also made butter and cream, but only for her own use, which included provision of teas to walkers. Up to six cows could be housed in the shippon for milking.
- 3.4.14 During the Second World War, the Pengellys befriended two American soldiers based at a camp towards Bridestowe, and they used to drink with Bert Pengelly in the Fox and Hounds. They also visited Doe Tor Farm and spent one Christmas with them. Beatrice Pengelly remembers them as '*very nice boys*'. Their names were Sergeant John ('Jack') Zajac from Haverstraw in New York State and Corporal John P. Flanagan. They were with the 50<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company and landed in Europe in 1944. Both survived the war.

3.4.15 Also during the war, the Pengellys took in people from Plymouth who had fled the bombing there – they were Bert Trevan and his wife, and also, for a time, her parents. Bert Trevan used to drive a car out to Doe Tor and park it in a field below the house. ARP wardens stationed on High Down saw the car glinting in the moonlight and instructed him to cover it up (inf. E. Allen).

#### 3.5 Interpretation of the surviving structures

- 3.5.1 The tithe map of 1848 (see 3.2.4. above and **Figure 2**) provides the first detailed layout of the buildings. The dwelling house, shown in red, appears little different from its later form. The other main building shown more or less coincides with the 'Calf House' (no. 9 on **Figure 3**), with an extension at its north end.
- 3.5.2 The OS 25-inch sheet (88.14), surveyed in 1883 (Figure 2) shows a layout that survived until abandonment. The shippon (no. 8 on Figure 3) is shown for the first time. A small isolated building immediately south of the farm complex, and on the moor side of the farm enclosures, at OS NGR 25363 08488, is also shown on this map but no physical trace of it survives today.
- 3.5.3 The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the OS 25-inch map, revised in 1904 (**Figure 2**), shows the outhouse (no. 13 on **Figure 3**) for the first time. The isolated building mentioned in 3.5.2 above is no longer shown. A small square structure is shown against the inside of the hedge just north of the farmhouse at OS NGR 25365 08493 but this, too, is no longer visible.
- 3.5.4 Recollections are very important for understanding the surviving structures and archaeological features on the farm. With reference to the numbers on the survey plan (**Figure 3**), the following interpretations can be made, together with selected internal measurements of archaeological remains:

1. *Dwelling house*. The front entrance, with a porch (7) was on the south side of the house. Going through the front door you entered a large sitting room, with a staircase on the right leading upstairs where there were three or four bedrooms. Mrs Beatrice Pengelly recalled three bedrooms – '*two at the front and one at the back*', but other interviewees recollected four. The downstairs room measures approx. 5.2 x 4.5 m.

2. *Back room/Dairy/Larder*. Approx. 1.4m wide. This ran practically 'the full length of the house' and had slate shelves. There was also a coal store with a sloping roof attached to the north side of the dwelling.

3. *Lean-to Kitchen*. Approx. 6.9 x 2.3m wide. This contained a black stove fuelled by peat. There were flagstones on the floor.

4. Passageway.

5. Barn, with dog house at top end nearest dwelling.

6. *Cart Linhay*. Approx. 4.5 x 2.1m. Standing walls to c. 2m height. A two-wheeled cart was kept in it (inf. E. Allen).

7. Porch. This measures 1.4m x 0.9m.

8. *Shippon (for cattle) and stables (for horses)*. Approx. 16m x 3.5m. There was a stable for a horse at the south end. Cows were kept at the north end, and bullocks in the middle (inf. E. Allen).

9. *Calf House/Shed*. Approx. 6.3 x 2.9m (**Plates 27-29**). A horse was kept here, plus bullocks.

- 10. Vegetable garden. Approx. 6.4 x 4m
- 11. *Domestic garden with flowerbeds*. Approx. 8.8 x 5.5m.
- 12. Yard, approximately 1m lower than (11).

13. Outhouse of unknown function. Approx.  $6m \times 2.2m$ . Built stone recess/cupboard at north end,  $0.55 \times 0.23 \times 0.4m$  deep (**Plates 30 and 31**). Various implements were kept in this building. Nearby was a wooden fowl house.

14. *Raised area* – function not known. Scarp of approx. 0.30m on W side. Approx. 21m x 6m.

- 15. Possible site of Dutch hay barn (Plates 32 and 33).
- 3.5.5 A characteristic of the construction of the walls of structures (8), (9) and (13) is the use of granite orthostats, up to 1.7m in height and often with marks of cutting by the 'feather-and-tare' technique, which post-dates c. AD 1800. Usually multiple orthostats imply an open-fronted shed or '*linhay*', but the spaces between the orthostats at Doe Tor have almost invariably been filled with drystone walling.

# 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Contrary to previously expressed opinion, Doe Tor Farm does not appear in origin to belong to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Instead, its most likely foundation date is in the decade of the 1730s, which is most unusual in a Dartmoor context. It remained in more or less continuous occupation for a period of more than 200 years, until the mid-1950s. It is now reduced to a fairly stable archaeological state and keeps most of its memories to itself. However, a good range of historical evidence has survived, which has meant that a human story can be attached to the place. The fortunate survival of papers, photographs and oral recollection from the 1930s onwards has enhanced this suite of evidence. The site, previously more or less ignored, can now take its rightful place as an important location for the study of the social history of Dartmoor and as an archaeological site of considerable interest.
- 4.2 This survey is, of course, only a start, and further research would undoubtedly uncover more material. The farm was linked to many Dartmoor families, and extended enquiry among local people should reveal more photographs of people connected with the farm, and further information. There is also scope for continued archaeological research, especially regarding field boundaries, and detailed record of the surviving walls of structures, gatehangings etc, at the farm site itself.
- 4.3 Research in the Duchy of Cornwall archives in London may eventually establish a precise date for the enclosure of the fields and establishment of the farm.
- 4.4 In essence, this survey has demonstrated the value of a focus on a farm site of this type, which should have educational, conservation and other benefits stretching far into the future. That can now be shaped and adapted to suit the form of presentation that is most applicable to the site, whether access is to be limited to authorised persons or open to the public. From that more in-depth conservation and management proposals can be put forward to achieve the objectives that may be established for that purpose.
- 4.5 Conservation Management was a wide range of experience in the preparation of conservation and management plans for both landscape and standing structures. This can also include access and interpretation provision for sites that is targeted at the form of visitor that may be attracted to it. For closed or restricted access sites such as training area provision, this can be used to inform military units so that they have a greater respect for their surroundings and so help to avoid unnecessary damage or increased management costs. To assist with this we will be pleased to discuss further the provision of such service.

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## 6 ATTRIBUTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

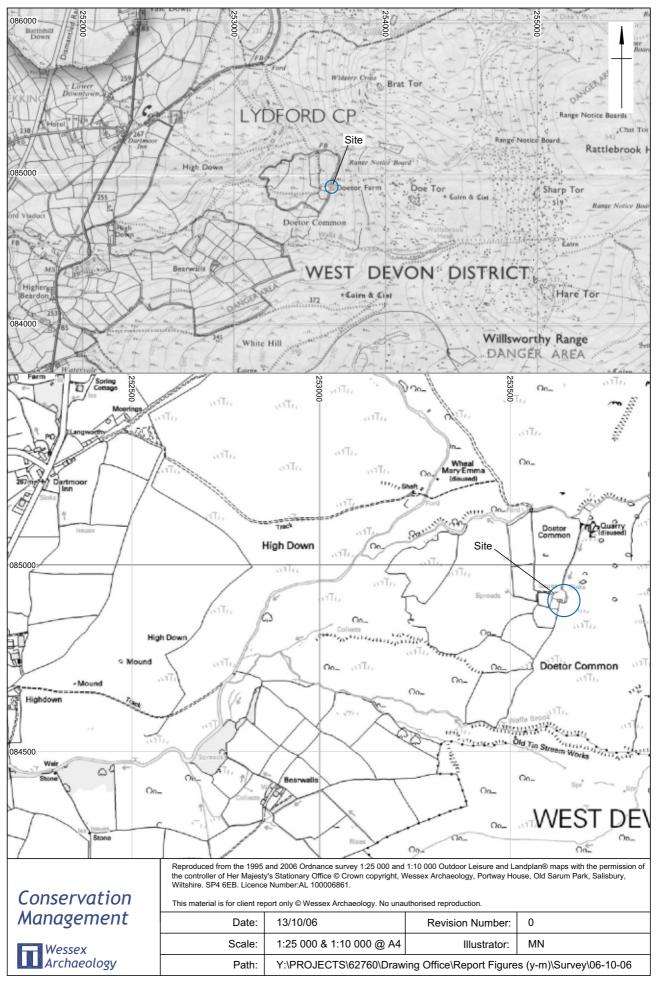
All photographs have been taken by Dr Tom Greeves except the following:

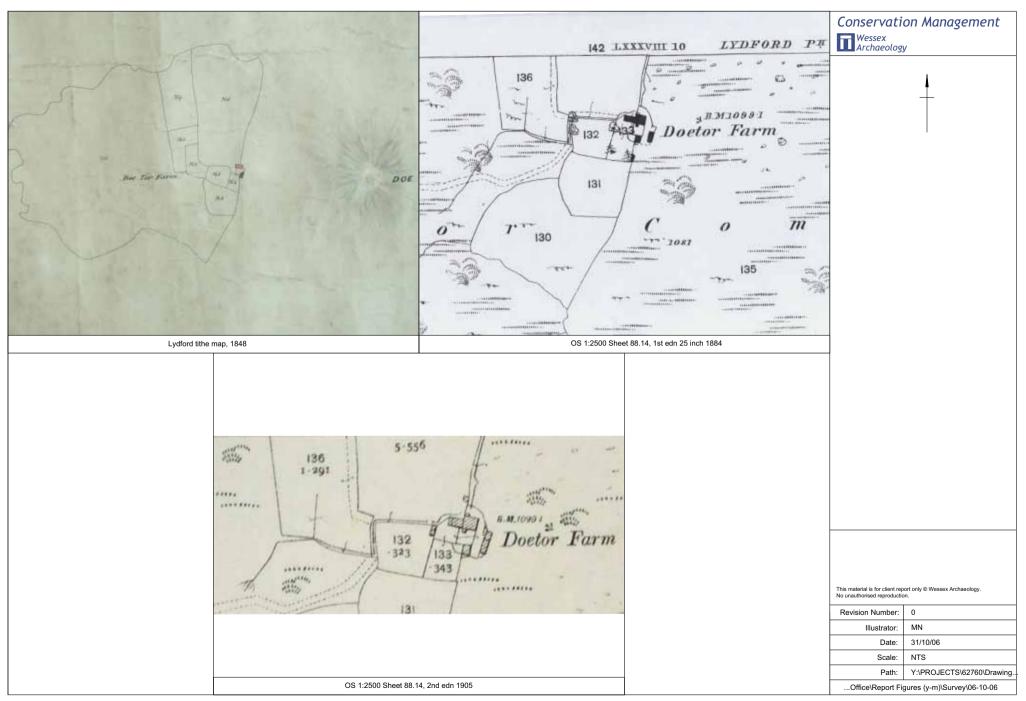
Plates 3, 29 Wessex Archaeology

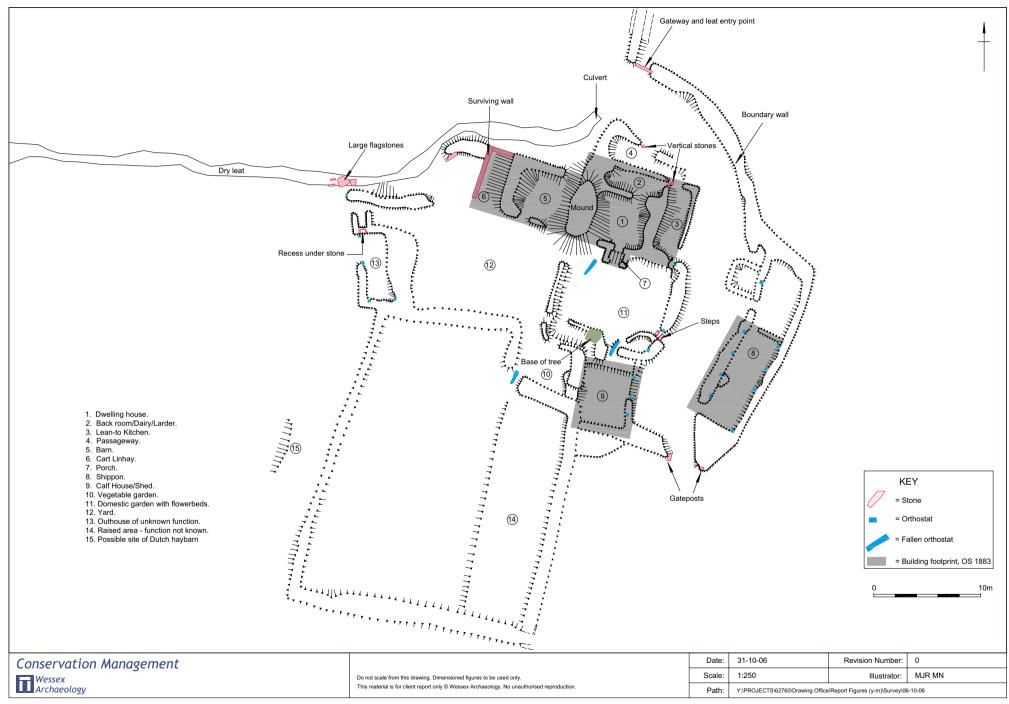
Plate 10 F Frith & Co

Plate 21 Bob Lowries

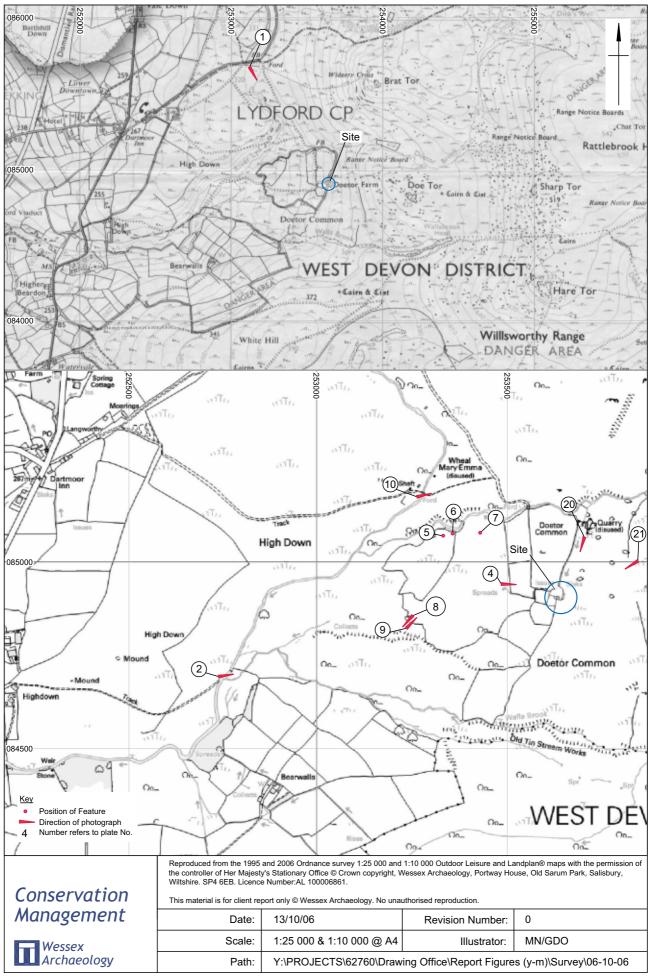
Plates 11 – 16, 22, 26, 26, 27, 32 Photographer unknown



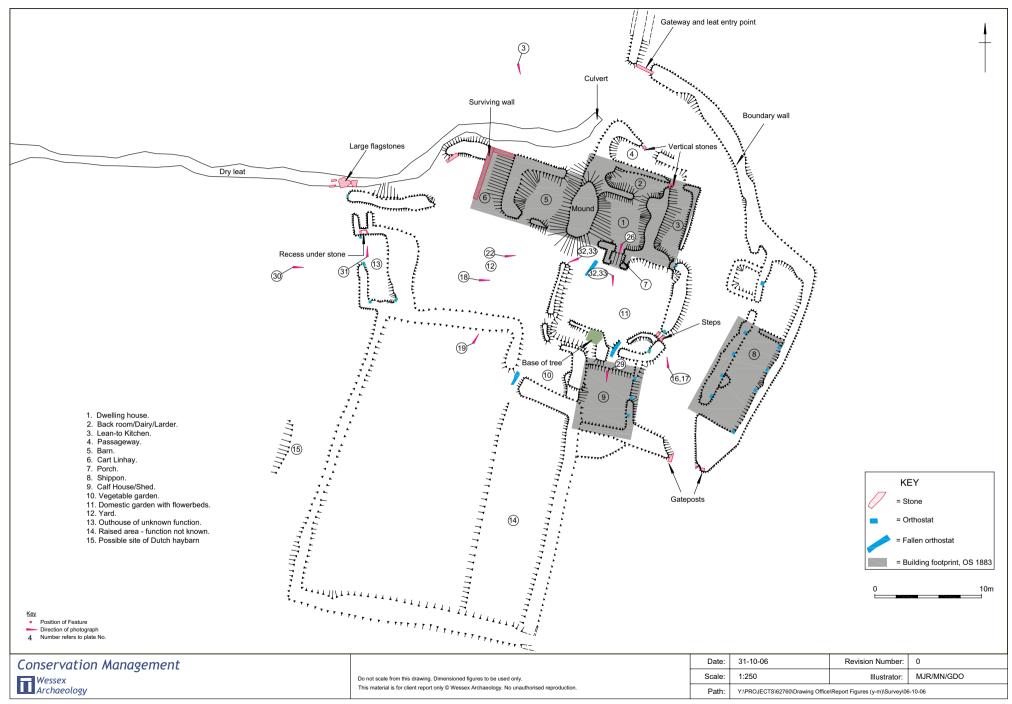




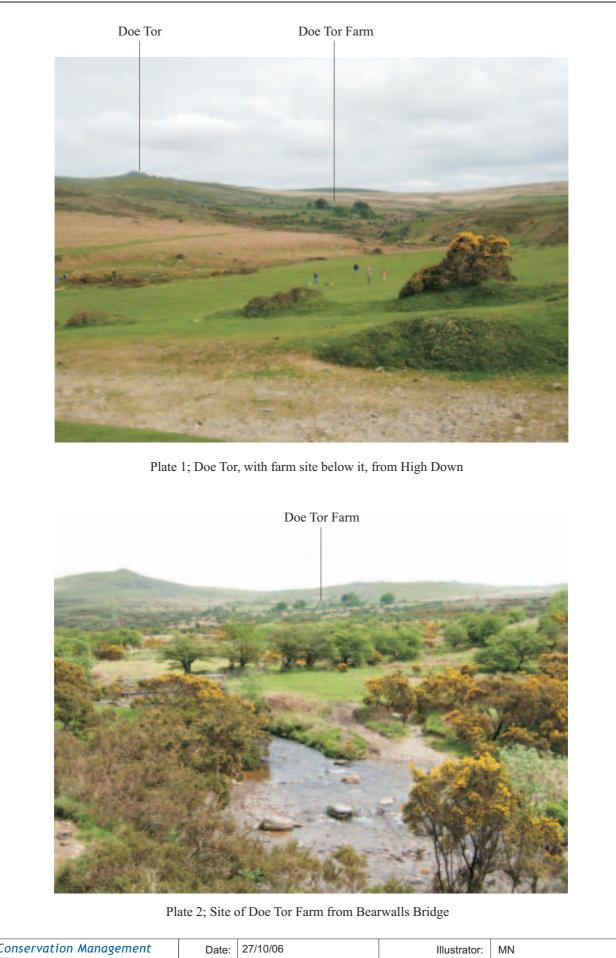
Plan of Doe Tor Farm



Position of photographs



Plan of Doe Tor Farm showing position of photographs



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Plate 3; Site of Doe Tor Farm from the north, 2006



Plate 4; Site of edgerunner, OS NGR 25351 08493, stolen in 2005, from west, scale 1m

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Plate 6; Wedgecut stone pre-1800, OS NGR 253335 085087, scale 30cm

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Plate 8; Doe Tor - site of possible 2-roomed dwelling of 1891, OS NGR 25325 08485, from north-east, scale 1m

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Plate 9; Doe Tor - site of possible 2-roomed dwelling of 1891, from south-west, scale 1m



Plate 10; Footbridge over River Lyd at Wheal Mary Emma c. 1920

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Plate 11; Eva Allen (née Pengelly) 1903 - 1940



Plate 12; William Henry Allen 1899 - 1941

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Plate 13; Rosanna Pengelly in porch of farmhouse c.1930



Plate 14; Albert Pengelly b. 1908

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Plate 15; Beatrice Pengelly (née Henderson, b. 1910) aged 21

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Plate 16; Doe Tor farmhouse from south east, c.1910



Plate 17; Doe Tor farmhouse from south east, 09/08/1969

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Plate 18; Doe Tor farmhouse from yard, with shippon in background, 09/08/1969



Plate 19; Doe Tor farmhouse and barn from south, 09/08/1969

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Plate 20; Doe Tor farm from north, 09/08/1969



Plate 21; Doe Tor from north-east c.1950

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Plate 22; Albert Pengelly in yard of Doe Tor farm

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Plate 24; Scotch Sheep Flock Book Particulars 1945



Plate 26; Guest in doorway of Doe Tor Farm c. 1930

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Plate 27; Calf shed seen from farmhouse c. 1930 (TG collection)

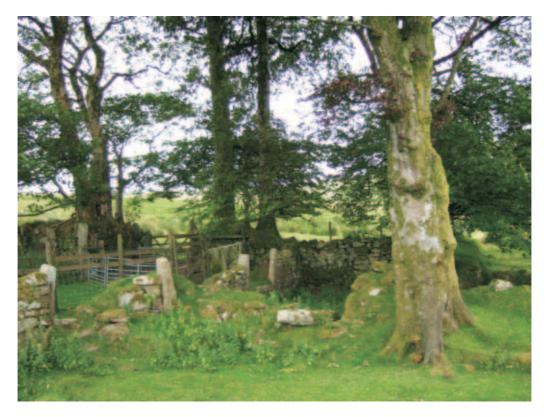


Plate 28; View from site of farmhouse to site of calf shed, June 2006

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Plate 29; Inside elevation of south wall of calf shed, 2006, scale 1m

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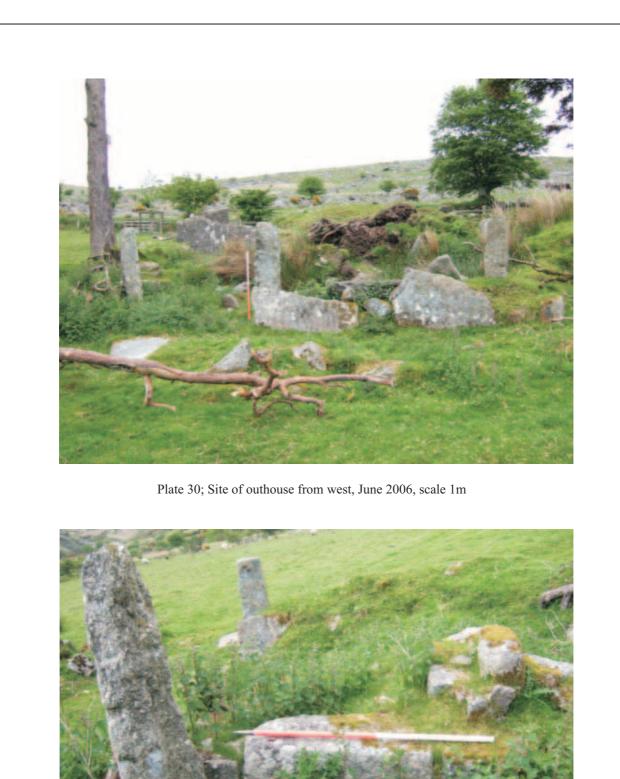


Plate 31; Recess in north wall of outhouse, scale 1m

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Plate 32; Dutch barn (left) and roof of outhouse (right) seen from farmhouse c. 1930



Plate 33; View to site of Dutch barn and outhouse, across yard, June 2006

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