

# BEARWALLS FARM

WILLSWORTHY HAMLETS

PETER TAVY PARISH

an historical and archaeological survey

Tom Greeves MA PhD



2010

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## Summary

This study of Bearwalls Farm takes its history back to 1711, but its origins still remain obscure. A foundation date sometime in the 17<sup>th</sup> century is not improbable. Owners before the War Department, who acquired the property in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, included Tremayne of Sydenham and Radford of Lydford. Families in residence had links to Bridestowe, Coryton, Kelly, Lamerton, Lewtrenchard, Lydford, Marystow, Peter Tavy and elsewhere.

The field system has been largely unchanged for at least 170 years. The core dwellinghouse may well date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and includes large fireplaces (blocked), a cloam/bread oven and some likely original wooden panelling in the main bedroom. A fine range of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century stone farm buildings survives intact. Of special interest is an integral and innovative silo dating to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, probably built when the farm was in the ownership of Daniel Radford. A stone butterwell is also of significance.

Oral recollection from the 1920s has provided particular human context, and the chance survival of family papers from 1945-1950 gives specific detail of farming life then. Attention is drawn to some features of archaeological interest, including a well-preserved area of tin streamworks of likely 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date, surviving within the farm enclosures.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

Comdt File – file in possession of Commandant, Okehampton Camp

DNPA – Dartmoor National Park Authority

DRO – Devon Record Office, Exeter

ER – Electoral Register

HER – Historic Environment Record (DNPA)

LTA – Land Tax Assessment

MAF - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

MMB – Milk Marketing Board

MoD – Ministry of Defence

NMR – National Monuments Record

OD – Ordnance Datum

OS – Ordnance Survey

PR – Parish Registers

PWDRO – Plymouth & West Devon Record Office

RCHME - Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

TG – Tom Greeves

TNA – The National Archives, Kew, London

WAEC – War Agricultural Executive Committee

WCSL – Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter

WD – War Department

WDLA – War Department Land Agent



## 1. INTRODUCTION

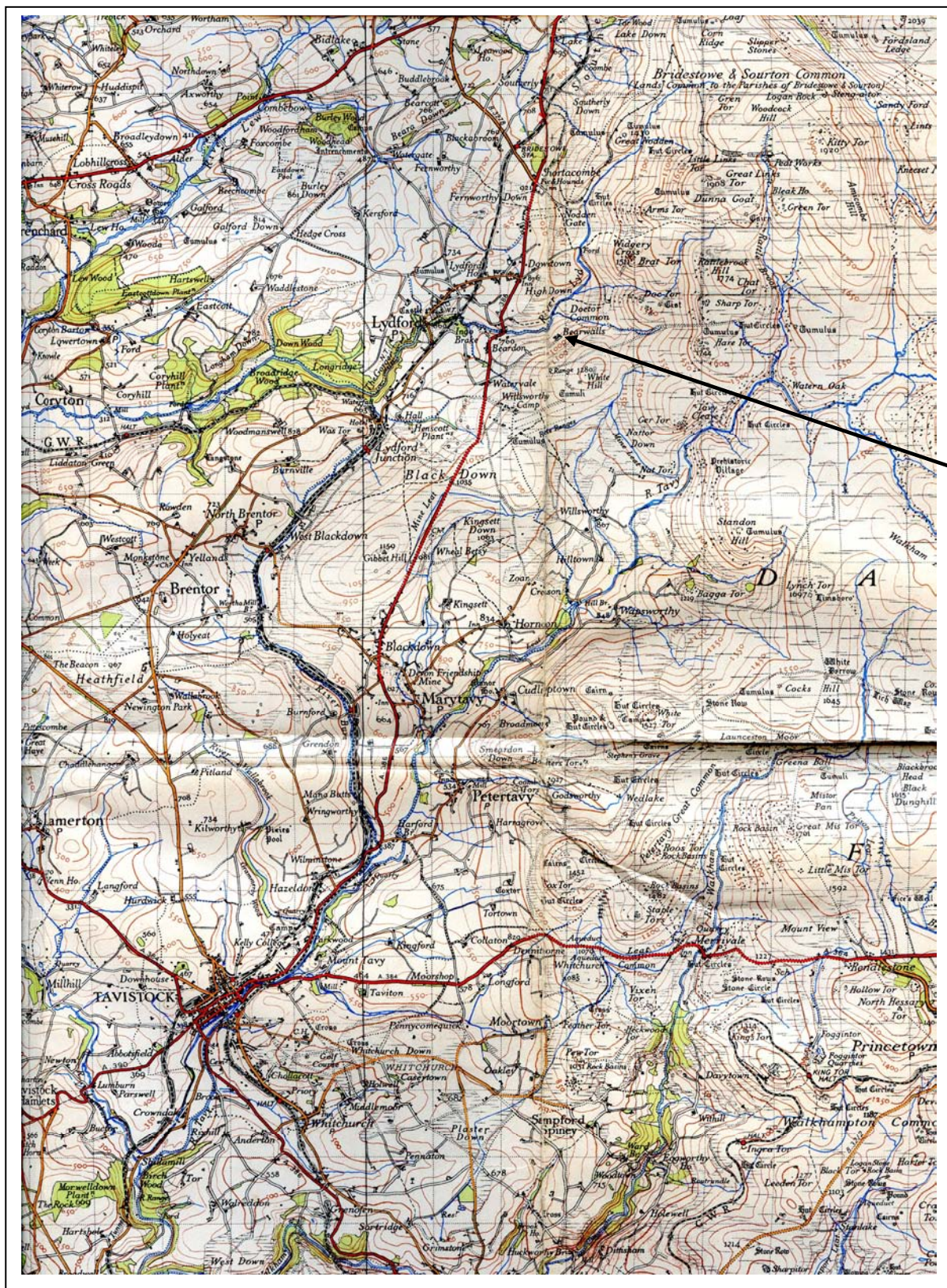


Fig. 1 - Location map showing Bearwalls (arrowed) on western Dartmoor (OS One-Inch Sheet 175, New Popular Edition 1946)



This report was commissioned by Landmarc on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, as part of a programme designed to enhance the quality of data relating to the human and cultural landscape of the Dartmoor Training Area.

Bearwalls is the fifth of five abandoned farms to be studied within the Willsworthy freehold which was acquired by the then War Department in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Equivalent reports on the other four Willsworthy farms (Doe Tor, Reddaford, Yellowmead and Standon) have been recently completed by the same author (Greeves, 2007a; 2007b; 2008 and 2009).

Willsworthy Hamlets is an ancient cluster of about a dozen farms at the northern end of Peter Tavy parish, on the west side of Dartmoor. Some of the farms are likely to be pre-Domesday (1086) in origin. Although originally probably one manorial holding, different farms fell historically within several different manors, but have nonetheless retained a distinctive name and grouping as Willsworthy Hamlets up to modern times.

Bearwalls Farm is at the extreme north-western limit of Peter Tavy parish at SX 529844, some 4¼ miles/7 km due north of Peter Tavy church and village (Figs 1-2).

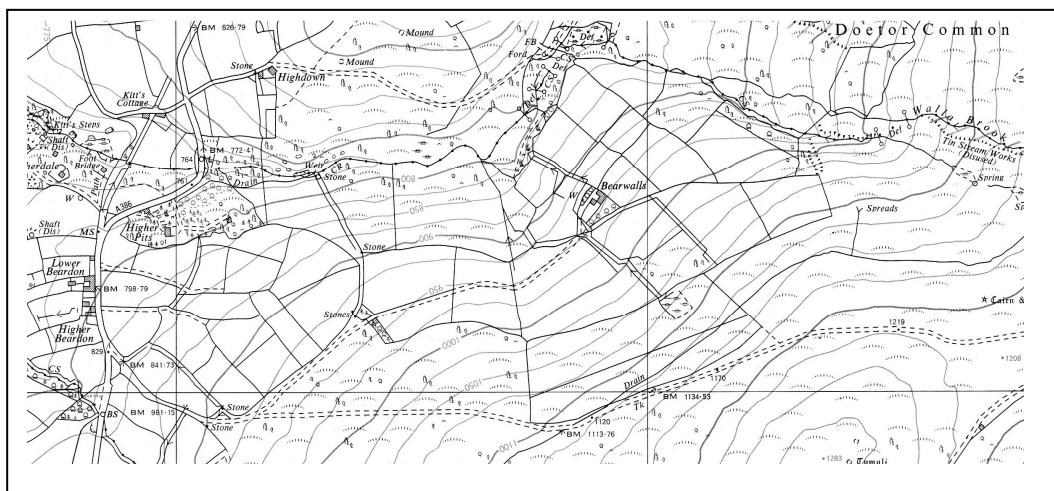


Fig. 2 – Bearwalls shown on OS 1:10,560 (Six-inch) sheet SX 58 SW (surveyed 1952)

The dwelling house is situated at a height of 950 ft (290m) OD, though the enclosed farmland ranges in height from 1150 ft to 775 ft. It is bordered on the north by the Wallabrook, and its tributary the Blackabrook, on the north-west by the River Lyd, on the south-west by the enclosures of Beardon, and on the south and south-east by the open moorland of White Hill. The farm is only 1 ¼ miles/2 km east of Lydford.

The origin of the name 'Bearwalls' is not known but it is first recorded in 1711 as 'Bearewalls' (see below) and its first element is perhaps most likely to be derived from the Old English 'bearu' meaning 'wood' (Mawer, 1924, 4), which is a common element in Devon and further afield. However, the adjoining farm of Beardon is first identified with a 13<sup>th</sup> century record of 'Buredon', which has been thought to contain the element 'burh' = 'fortified place' (Gover et al, 1931, 232; Mawer, 1924, 10-11), so there may be more to it. The second element 'walls' is unlikely to have anything to do with walls as such, as on Dartmoor nearly all field boundaries, whether drystone walling or banks, were known historically as 'hedges'. More probably it has a link to the Wallabrook which, for much of its course, defines the northern limit of Peter Tavy parish (and Willsworthy Hamlets) and which adjoins the north side of the farm.

## 2. PREVIOUS STUDY

The farm has until now received few mentions in published Dartmoor literature. The most significant are recollections of life on the farm before the Second World War by Stanley Yeo in *Lydford's Book of Memories* (Anon, 2006, 22, 27-8) and the reminiscences of wartime evacuee Sybil Jenkins (née James) published in the parish magazine *Blackdown News Lydford Edition* (Jenkins, 2007-8). William Crossing described 'the long plantation above Bearwalls' (Crossing, 1909, 58) which refers to the top 'Newtake' enclosure (OS 1130). Eric Hemery (1983, 923) makes a fanciful interpretation of the farm name. However, he noticed a blocked adit at the foot of Stubble Hills Gert (see below 5.1), though wrongly attributed it to Wheal Mary Emma Mine. *The Book of Peter Tavy with Cudlipptown* was published in 2002 (Meyrick et al, 2002) and mentions the farm only very briefly (p.18) where it is confused with Bairdown Farm near Two Bridges on central Dartmoor. A passing reference to a 19<sup>th</sup> century tenant is also given in *The Book of Lydford* (Weeks, 2004, 85).

Simon Probert (1998, 11) suggested that Bearwalls might have origins in the medieval period. He referred briefly (p.12) to 'traces of cultivation strips', in the form of narrow ridges, in the southernmost abandoned fields, and surmised that they were 'of a relatively late date perhaps used only for a few years in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries'. He also described (p.13) the tin openwork known as Stubble/Stubble Hills Gert. In 1998 Mike Brown (Brown, 1998, **30**, 8-9) described the position of five War Department boundary stones which can be found on the west and northern edge of the holding.

None of the enclosed land has previously been examined by a trained archaeologist, except for the two 'Newtake' fields now reverted back to moorland, though a classification of the field boundaries of Bearwalls was made in about 2001 by Simon Probert (Probert, 2001, Appendix 5).

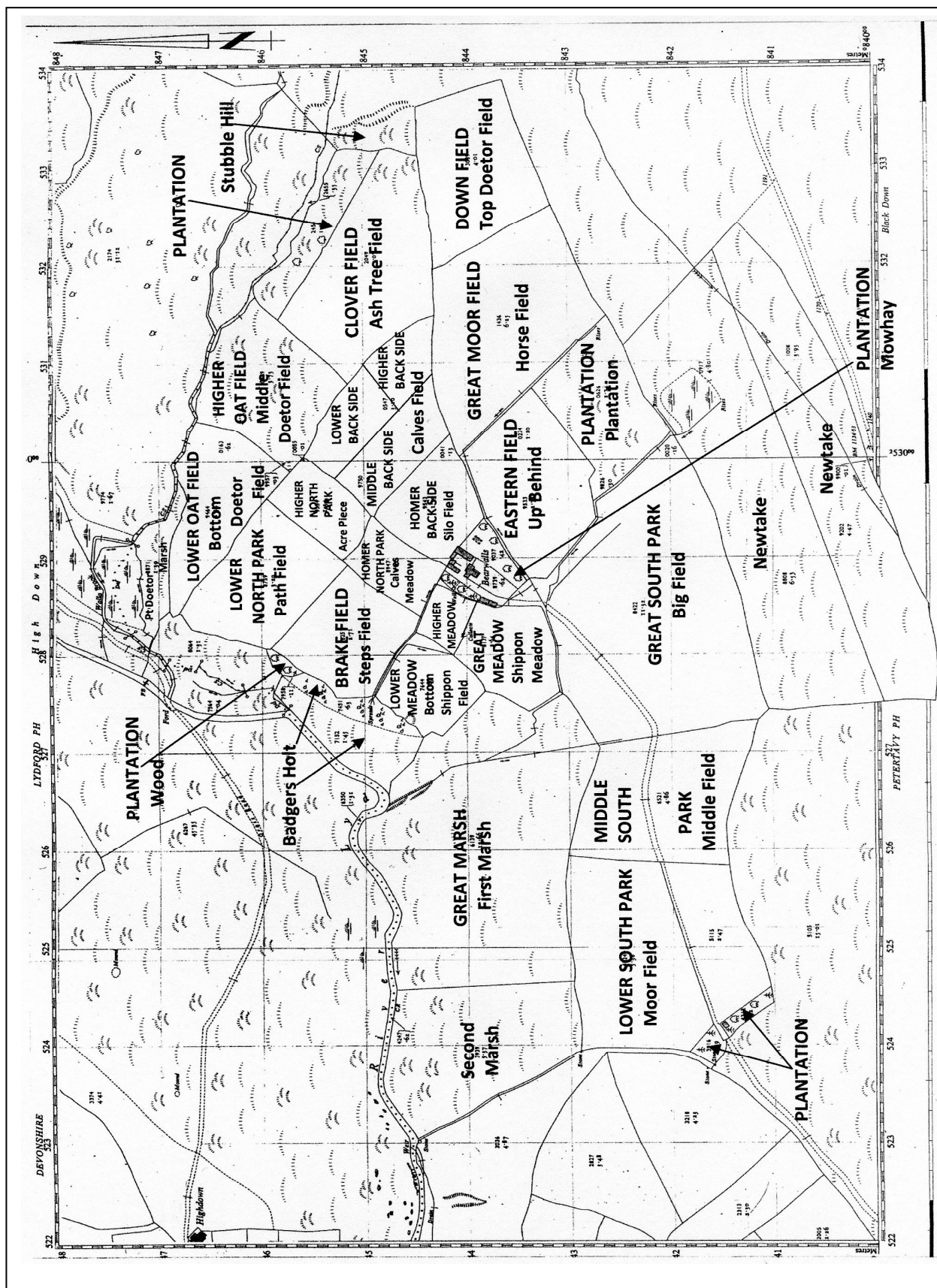


Fig. 3 – Field names: upper case = tithe map 1840; upper/lower case = Yeo early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



The enclosed field boundaries of Bearwalls have changed remarkably little since at least 1840. Since then, a short boundary in the field immediately west of the farm buildings has been removed (pre-1883). It formerly divided the present field (known as Shippon Meadow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century) into Higher Meadow and Great Meadow. North-east of the farm buildings a field previously divided into three (Lower Backside, Higher Backside and Middle Backside) is now a single unit, having had internal boundaries removed (pre-1883) – it was known as Calves Field in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two fields, known as ‘Newtake’ in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, were added to the holding between 1840 and 1883 on the side of White Hill and the topmost one became a plantation, which is said to have been cut down in the First World War (inf. S. Yeo). At the west end of the farm, by the River Lyd, ‘Second Marsh’ was also added to the holding after 1840.

The dwellinghouse and farm buildings are now at the centre of the enclosed land. However, the field pattern suggests that the original holding may have been a group of about a dozen small fields (the largest being 3.29 acres) around the west, north and east sides of the buildings, and defined by continuous boundaries on the north-east (which is somewhat sinuous) and south, comprising a farm of about 21 acres.



Fig. 4 – The northern fields of Bearwalls seen from High Down, showing a sinuous (? early) boundary (TG)

That this might have been an 'early' group of fields is supported by the fact that two of them included the name element 'Park' (Higher North Park and Homer North Park) in 1840. 'Park' is a common but ancient name in Devon meaning 'field' or 'enclosure', being derived from Old English 'pearroc' (Mawer, 1924, 48) and would support a seventeenth century or earlier origin for the farm. But this is hypothesis rather than confirmed fact. A respectable cornditch (Fig. 5) defines the eastern edge



Fig. 5 – cornditch boundary on eastern edge of Down Field (Scale: 1m) (TG)

of the holding (the E side of Down Field and bordering Stubble Hill) and this too would suggest an early post-medieval date (perhaps 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier) for these fields. Otherwise the field boundaries are banks of earth and stone which are difficult to date precisely and superficially mostly appear to be post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century). Given below is a concordance of field names and numbers from 1840 to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century:

1840 Tithe Map No. & Name	1883 OS No.	Yeo Name	1955 OS No.
921 Down Field	1143	Top Doetor Field	3039
917 Clover Field	1145	Ash Tree Field	2049
918a Plantation	1144		2454
918 Higher Oat Field	1146	Middle Doetor Field	0859
919 Lower Oat Field	1160	Bottom Doetor Field	9464
920 Lower North Park	1151	Path Field	8759
921 Higher North Park	1150	Acre Piece	9554
922 Lower Back Side	1147 pt	Calves Field pt	0547 pt
923 Higher Back Side	1147 pt	Calves Field pt	0547 pt
924 Middle Back Side	1147 pt	Calves Field pt	0547 pt/9750 pt
925 Great Moor Field	1142	Horse Field	1436
926 Homer Back Side	1148	Silo Field	9543
927 Plantation	1141	Plantation	0626/9826
928 Eastern Field	1140	Up Behind	9533/0234
929 Plantation	1139	Mowhay	9037
930 Houses & Courtlage	1138		8739
931 Courtlage			
932 Homer North Park	1149	Calves Meadow	8947
933 Higher Meadow	1137 pt	Shippon Meadow pt	8137 pt
934 Great South Park	1136	Big Field	8422
935 Great Meadow	1137 pt	Shippon Meadow pt	8137 pt
936 Lower Meadow	1153	Bottom Shippon Field	7644
937 Brake Field	1152	Steps Field	8251
938 Plantation	1157	Wood	7958
939 Great Marsh	1134	First Marsh pt	6139 pt
940 Middle South Park	1135	Middle Field	6521
941 Lower South Park	1133	Moor Field	4824/5115
942 Plantation	1132		4312
943 Plantation	1162		3916
	1156	Badgers Holt pt	7152
	1130	Newtake	9202/1008
	1131	Newtake	8808/0917
	1159	Doetor Marsh pt	8871
	128		7564
	1158		8064
	1154	Badgers Holt pt	7451
	1155	First Marsh pt	6139 pt
	1161	Second Marsh	3939

Most of the names are self-explanatory. 'Steps Field' is so-called because there were four granite steps on the outside of the beech copse, leading onto the open ground below. These are now no longer visible, probably due to collapse of part of the boundary.

In 1914 Great Marsh/First Marsh was named as 'Alder Moor' (inventory in possn S. Yeo). A note (TG colln) written in Albert Pengelly's handwriting dates to about 1945 and gives slightly variant names for the four western fields ('Mr Yoes') which were to be sold to the War Department in 1949 (see below):

<u>Mr Yoes fields</u>	<u>O.S. No [1883]</u>
Middle Brack	1135
Big marsh	1134
Little marsh	1161
Outside Brack	1133

## 4. HISTORY

### 4.1. 18<sup>th</sup> Century - Phillips, Huggins and Gill

The origins of the farm are not recorded. The earliest documentary reference so far discovered dates to 1711 (Fig.6) when Henry Phillips was tenant of 'Bearewalls'

manner of Willsworthy		
High Rent amount to	---	1: 19: 11 3
Conventional Rent to	---	1: 6: 0
no Court Rent	---	3: 1: 1: 3
Henry Phillips Bearewalls	0: 12: 0	2: 0: 0
John Phillips Mill Lays	0: 4: 0	4: 0: 0
Walter Phillips Surplage of the Demen	0: 9: 0	1: 0: 0
Walter Phillips	0: 0: 0	1: 0: 0

Fig. 6 – 'Bearewalls' mentioned in 1711 – 4<sup>th</sup> line below heading (DRO/1499M add/Estate, Surveys/1) [Figs 6 & 7 by kind permission of Mr John Tremayne]

which was within the Manor of Willsworthy and which formed part of the estate of the Tremayne family of Sydenham in the parish of Marystow. His rental was 12 shillings per annum and the farm was valued at £5.0.0 per annum (DRO/1499M add/Estate, Surveys/1). The estate had previously (in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and earlier) belonged to the Wise family of Sydenham (DRO/1499M/3/6) and it is probable that Bearwalls formed part of their holding, but no documentary proof is yet forthcoming. A record of some tenants of Willsworthy in 1644 records a tenement called 'Beardonbeare' (DRO/158M/M42) which it is tempting to equate with Bearwalls, but which is perhaps more likely to be an alternative form of Beardon, which adjoins Bearwalls to the west.

A Roger Phillips of Willsworthy Hamlet, perhaps the son or another relative of Henry, swore a loyalty oath at the Town Hall in Tavistock on 7 September 1723 (DRO Friends of Devon Archives Oath Rolls Project/QS/17/2/2/4b). On 8 April 1724 a Richard Huggins married Elizabeth Phillips at Peter Tavy (DRO/1427A/PI 1-2) and it is tempting to suggest that she was the daughter of Roger or Henry Phillips, as Richard Huggins is recorded as the tenant of 'Bearwalls' (Fig.7) at about this time

Conventional Rents		
Rich. Huggins Bearewalls	0: 12: 0	5: 0: 0
Sam. Ployne Old Mills Hays	0: 4: 0	2: 0: 0
Thomas Cole Surplage of the Demen	0: 9: 0	5: 0: 0
Do a Garden plot	0: 0: 6	0: 5: 0
	3: 9: 10 1/2	12: 5: 0

Fig. 7 – Richard Huggins and 'Bearwalls' in c. 1750 (DRO/1499M/3/6)



(DRO/1499M/3/6) paying the same rent of 12 shillings per annum. This is confirmed again in c.1750 when a Tremayne rental for the manor of Willsworthy noted 'Bearwells' paying the same amount (DRO/1499M add/Estate, Rentals/1).

On 14 October 1754 a description of the bounds of Lydford parish mentions 'the Tenement called Bare Walls' (WCSL, Lydford Parish File).

It seems that the Huggins family were at Bearwalls for much of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a John Huggins was the occupier from at least 1780 until 1786, as tenant of Arthur Tremayne. The property was assessed for land tax at 8s. 7d (DRO/LTA Peter Tavy).

From 1787-1803 there was a change of occupation, with John Gill listed in the Land Tax Assessments. On 23 June 1803 a sale advertisement appeared in *Trewman's Exeter Flying Post* (p.4e):

'To be SOLD in FEE, in Lots...Lot 2.- The Premises called BAREAWALLS, containing about 60 Acres of Arable, and Pasture Land, with a right of Pasturage in a dry healthy Common adjoining...situated in Petertavey...For a View of the same, apply to Mr. GILL, of Beardon, near the Premises...For disposing of the same a Public Survey will be held at the Royal Oak, in Bridestow...on Thursday the Twenty-first of July next, by Three o'Clock in the Afternoon...Dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 1803' (British Library).

#### 4.2.1803-1866: Sleman, Rowe, Ash, Cudlipp, Newton, Paull, Slake (?), Stephens

The property appears to have been bought by William Sleman who from 1804-1815 is listed as both proprietor and occupier of the premises (DRO/LTA/Peter Tavy). William Sleman had died by July 1814 when an advertisement for letting 'all that Messuage and Tenement, called Bare-Walls' from Michaelmas of that year appeared in *Trewman's Exeter Flying Post* on 21 July 1814. The property comprised 'a good farmhouse, with out-houses, and about 52 acres of enclosed good arable and pasture land. Likewise about 87 acres of unenclosed land adjoining thereto, late...in possession of...W. Sleman.' It was said to be 'most excellent for summering all kinds of cattle, [with] an unlimited right of common on Dartmoor'. A 'public Survey' was to be held at the King's Arms Inn in Tavistock on Friday 19th August 1814. A William Sleman, perhaps the son of the deceased man, is listed as the proprietor as late as 1824, but Richard Rowe was recorded as occupier from 1816-1819 and a William Row [sic] was assessed 10d for a 'Hamlet Rate' for 'Barewalls' at about this time, when the property was still valued at £5 (DRO/LTA + 1427A/PW1). This is a relatively low valuation – for example, nearby Reddaford was valued at £13.

From 1820 we first hear of a member of the Ash family at the farm – this was a connection (though interrupted) that was to last until 1887. Thomas Ash was occupier from 1820-1824, and on 25 January 1824 An [sic] Ash ‘base child of Sally, a single woman, of Barewalls’ was baptised at Lydford (DRO/Lydford Baptisms).

By 1825 the owner of Bearwalls was John Newton (DRO/LTA), and the farmer in residence was George Cudlipp who remained there until at least 1830. The latter was described as a ‘yeoman’ in 1826, married to Jane, and their son Chris was baptised at Lydford on 6 November of that year (DRO/Lydford Baptisms). On 9 August 1827 a sale advertisement in *Trewman’s Exeter Flying Post* (p.1e) offered:

‘The Fee-Simple of and In all that very desirable ESTATE, called BEAR WALLS, comprising a good farm-house, and all necessary out-houses, with 87 acres of very good arable, meadow, and pasture land; situate in the said parish of Petertavy, and now in the occupation of George Cudlipp, as tenant from year to year, under the clear yearly rent of £27.’

Curiously, in 1828 the land tax assessments recorded William Sleman as once again the proprietor, but with no occupier of the farm (DRO/LTA). For 1829-1830 John G. Newton is once again given as proprietor, with George Cudlipp as occupier (DRO/LTA).

A change of ownership had occurred by 1831 when the property was in possession of a well-known mining figure, Capt. John Paull (DRO/LTA) whose family retained an interest well into the 1850s and possibly until 1866 (see below). This may be the mine agent of Mary Tavy who was Captain of Wheal Friendship in 1814 and who died in 1847 (DRO/IRW/P363). His wife was called Margery and they had sons, John, William, Richard, Thomas and Stephen (*idem*). However, it seems reasonable to identify him with a highly colourful character of the same name (and possibly the son of the first John Paull) who was much involved with Dartmoor mines from the second decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards and who died in 1853 aged about sixty. He had married a Maria Prideaux, and their son William Prideaux Paull took over Bearwalls in the 1850s (see below). In June 1835 ‘Barewalls’ was valued at £7. 10s. which was low compared to the other Willsworthy farms of Standon (£19) and Reddaford (£13), but significantly higher than Yellowmead (£2. 7s. 3d) (DRO/1472A/PW1).

By the time of the tithe map and apportionment of c. 1840 William Friend had replaced George Cudlipp as occupier of the farm. The map (Fig. 8) is the first surviving representation of buildings and fields. From it we learn that the dwellinghouse (coloured red) was where it now is, but without its southern extension, and that none of the present farmyard buildings then existed. Two farm buildings are shown – one lies immediately west of the dwelling, on an approximate N-S axis, and the other, also aligned approximately N-S, was sited at the south end of

the garden enclosure. No trace of these survives. What is now the farmyard and the 'mowhay' enclosure to the east, was plantation, as was plot no. 927 (later OS 1141) on the eastern edge, and 918a (later OS 1144) on the northern edge of the holding.



Fig. 8 – detail from Peter Tavy Tithe Map 1840 (DRO) showing farm buildings

The two small pieces of woodland at the western entrance to the farm were also plantations, as they are to this day. In general, the field system has changed remarkably little since 1840. Just under 86 acres of ground are listed in total, most of them recorded as 'Arable', which is usual for this period and which probably indicates occasional ploughing followed by temporary grassland.

The first census of 1841 reveals that a young couple, Peter and Hannah Slake (? Hake), aged 23 and 22 respectively, were living in the one inhabited building. Both had been born in Devon and Peter was described as an agricultural labourer. By 1845 George Rich, a labourer, and his wife Johanna were living at Bearwalls, and their son George was baptised at Lydford on 16 November of that year (DRO/Lydford Baptisms). By at least 1847 the Stephens family were in residence and remained there another ten years or so. James Stephens, a labourer, and his wife Maria had three children baptised at Lydford - a son Richard on 9 May 1847, a daughter Harriet on 19 May 1850 and a son John on 19 December 1852 (DRO/Lydford Baptisms).

The detailed census taken on 7 April 1851 records that James and Maria had by then a family of seven children (soon to be joined by John) all living at 'Bara Walls' – William (18) a farm labourer born in Bridestowe, Mary (15) born in Bridestowe,



James (12) born in Lydford, Thomas (8) born in Tavistock, Maria (6) born in Tavistock, Richard (3) born in Peter Tavy, and Harriet (10 months) also born in Peter Tavy. James was then aged 49 and described as a 'Farm Labourer & Hind', born in Lydford, while his wife Maria was aged 42 and had been born in Bridestowe. Tragedy swept through the family in the early summer of 1856, probably due to some infectious disease, when three of their children were buried at Lydford within a space of 2½ weeks – Maria (aged 11) on 20 May, John (aged 3) on 25 May, and Harriet (aged 6) on 5 June (DRO/Lydford Parish Registers).

Thomas Ash (possibly the same person as the Thomas Ash of the 1820s) was assessed for the Highway Rate for Bearwalls in 1855 (PWDRO/479/31) and it may be that he was the father (or some other relative) of Maria Stephens. Aged 67 he was buried at Coryton on 15 September 1859 (Coryton Burials 1837-1917) when he was described as 'of Bare Walls, Petertavy'. It is at this time that William Prideaux Paull of 7 Park Street, Plymouth is recorded on the electoral register for 'Bearawalls' in respect of a freehold house and land, of which he was presumably the owner. He also possessed Oaten Hill and Lake Meadows (DRO/ER).

The census of 1861 records that Bearwalls was then uninhabited.

#### 4.3. 1871-1887: Ash

The property was offered for sale by auction by Ward & Chowen on 4 September 1866 at the Bedford Hotel, Tavistock, there having been the following advertisement placed in *Trewman's Exeter Flying Post* (p. 1d) on 29 August and the *Tavistock Gazette* (with very minor amendments) on 31 August:

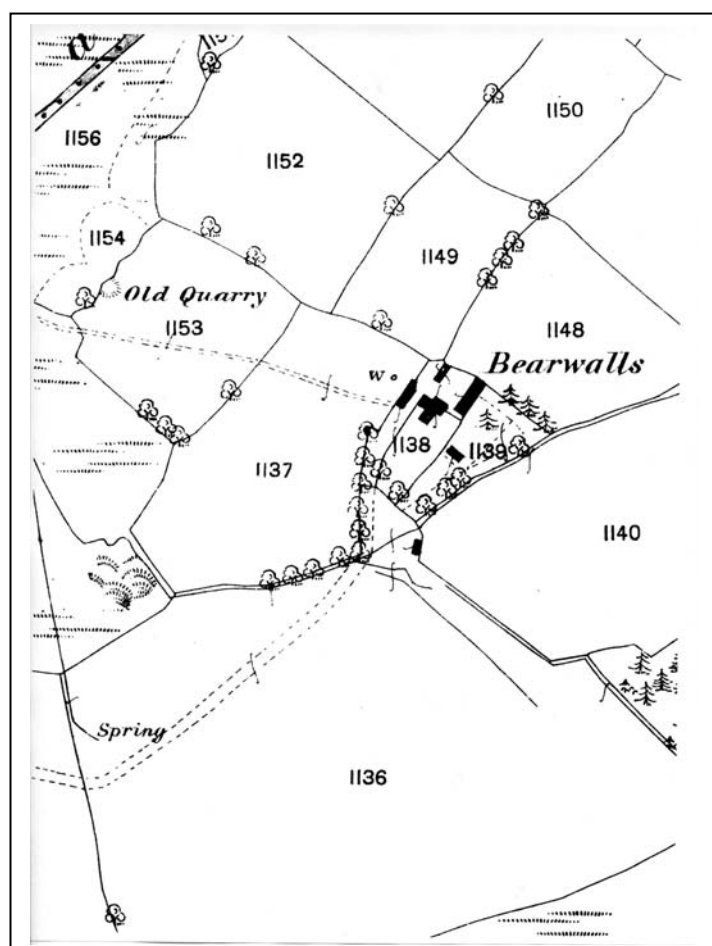
'All that well-watered and desirable Estate called "BEARAWALLS," containing 117 acres, or thereabouts, of meadow, pasture, arable and other land, with dwelling house and ample and commodious farm buildings thereon, situate near Lydford, and in the parish of Petertavy, and being about seven miles from Tavistock, and eight miles from Okehampton, and adjacent to the excellent turnpike road between those towns, as well as within about two miles of Lydford Station of the South Devon and Launceston Railway, from which station there will shortly be railway communication northward and eastward, in addition to the present communication southward and westward. This estate is especially worthy of the notice of investors and capitalists, as both a mineral and agricultural property, as, from its geological position and character, its containing great deposits of metalliferous wealth may be almost relied on, and it is naturally favourable for mining operations. Early possession of this lot can be given' (WCSL).

The census of 1871 reveals the farm full of life once more, with eight persons living in one inhabited house. Thomas Ash, 'Farmer of 140 Acres' (some moorland) aged 33, had been born in Lewtrenchard. His wife Charlotte aged 29, had been born in Bratton Clovelly. Their three children were Anne (5) born in Bridestowe, William T. (2) also born in Bridestowe, and Bessie A. (6 months) born in Peter Tavy (she was baptised at Lydford on 23 April 1871). In addition there was Ann Ellis, aged 14, a domestic servant, born in Bridestowe; William Williams aged 18, an unmarried indoor farm servant, born in Lamerton; and John May aged 13 an indoor farm servant, born in Lydford. Another son, Thomas, was baptised at Lydford on 12 January 1873 (DRO/Lydford Parish Registers). Another link with Coryton was provided on 6 March 1873 by the burial there of Ann Kennard, aged 84, 'of Bare Walls, Petertavy' (Coryton Burials 1837-1917).

Although much of the orientation of the farm was to Lydford, [Thomas] Ash of 'Barewalls' subscribed 10s to Hillbridge School, Peter Tavy in both 1876 and 1878 (DRO/791C add/EFM1).

Bearwalls Farm was purchased by Daniel Radford (b. 1828) in 1876 (Radford, 1893, 172-174) and it seems likely that the farmyard buildings, and the extension to the house, were built during his ownership. These alterations are shown on the first large-scale (25-inch-to-the-mile/1:2500) Ordnance Survey map (Sheet 88.14) which was surveyed in 1883 and published the following year (Fig.9).

Fig. 9 - detail from OS 1:2500 (25-inch) sheet 88.14, 1st edn surveyed 1883, published 1884



All the plantations as recorded on the tithe map of 1840 were still intact. The farm building at the south end of the garden enclosure had disappeared but that to the west of the dwelling was still there. Another building is shown in the middle of the later 'mowhay' to the south of the dwelling, and a small structure is also marked outside the western edge of Eastern Field (OS 1140). The butterwell was marked as a well, and an 'Old Quarry' is labelled at the lower end of Lower Meadow (OS 1153). A footpath is shown leading from the farm complex via Lower Meadow and steeply down to a crossing place on the R. Lyd, with its continuation on the side of High Down. All trace of this has now vanished (and was not recorded on the OS map of 1904), but was presumably once a significant route to and from Lydford.

The dwelling had by this time had an extension added on its south side as well as the 'scullery' on its north side. New farm buildings had appeared on the north side of the dwelling, forming the west and east sides of a farmyard, and presumably included the innovative Silo in which Radford was particularly engaged. He records in his autobiography that in 1883 he 'was specially interested in building a Silo' at Way, Bridestowe 'and also one at Lydford, near my residence' (Radford, 1893, 219). The latter might be the one at Bearwalls, but this is not yet proven. Bert Pengelly told his grandson Derek Friend that there was another silo at Ingo near Lydford, where his father, James Pengelly, had worked as a gardener (inf. D. Friend). Eric Allen also understood there to have been a silo at Ingo (inf. E. Allen). In 1884 Radford recorded that his 'farming experiments had excited some interest, and several local gentlemen came to see my Silo. I filled the two Silos this summer at Lydford [i.e. possibly that at Bearwalls] and Way with about 200 tons of fresh grass, and in both cases the ensilage proved most excellent and valuable food for cattle during the winter' (Radford, 1893, 223).

By the census of 1881 the Ash household had grown to ten persons. Thomas now aged 43 was described as a 'Farmer of 117 acres employing 1 Man'. Charlotte's age was given as 36. In addition to Ann, William, Bessie and Thomas, four more children had arrived, all born in Peter Tavy, presumably at Bearwalls itself – Edith (6), John (5), George (3) and Mary (10 months). From 1882-1887 Thomas Ash appears on the electoral register for 'Land & Tenement' at 'Bearawalls'.

As Radford's tenant, Thomas Ash was sent to Falkirk in 1883 to buy highland cattle which he and Radford 'thought would do well on Dartmoor', and returned with 27 'Scotch bullocks' (Radford, 1893, 219-220; NB the figure of 25 cattle in Weeks, 2004, 85 is an error). Their descendants grazed at the Prison Farm, Princetown until a few years ago (pers. comm. G. Radford). Thomas Ash also 'regularly' managed Way Barton farm in Bridestowe for Radford (Radford, 1893, 219-220).

A watercolour of the Lyd valley showing some of the lower fields of Bearwalls was painted by M. Josephine Browne on 25 August 1887 (Fig. 10).

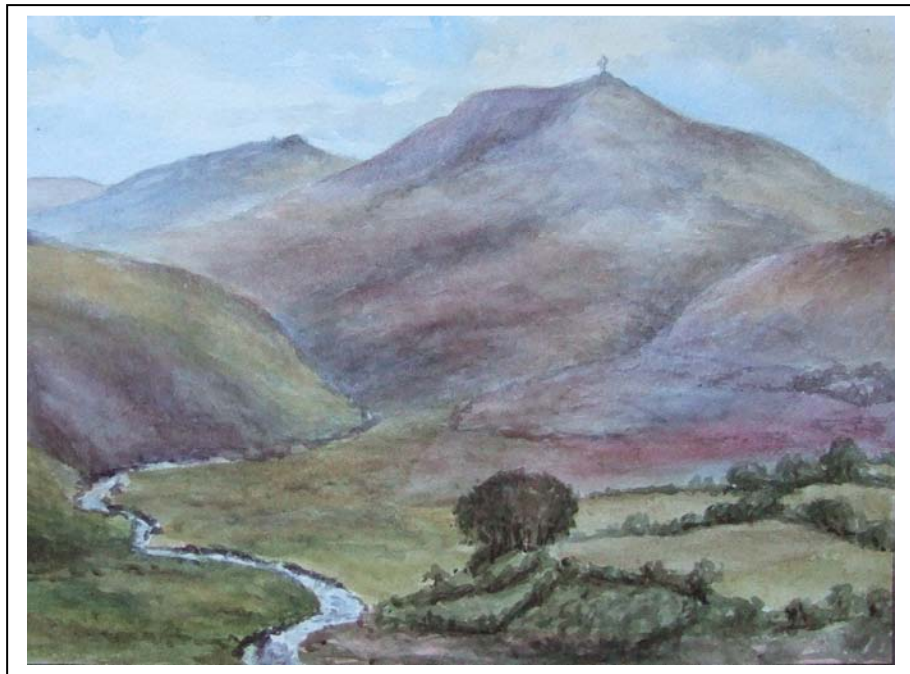


Fig. 10 – watercolour of the Lyd valley by M. Josephine Browne 1887  
(in possn. TG)

It gives an impression of the hedgerows at the time and, significantly, shows the copse of beeches, which are still extant, as an important landscape feature overlooking the R. Lyd.

#### 4.4. 1889-1895: Colwill

There is no entry for Bearwalls on the electoral register for 1888 which may imply that the farm was unoccupied for a while. However, by early 1889 the Colwill (also spelt Colwell) family were resident. On 8 February that year the infant Thomas Henry Colwell, aged 7 months, was buried at Lydford. His presumed father, Charles Colwill, is on the electoral register from 1889-1895 for 'Beerawalls farmhouse'. The census of 1891 records him and his family at 'Barewalls'. He was then aged 36 an 'employed agricultural labourer', born in Whitstone, Cornwall, south-east of Stratton. His wife Mary A. was also aged 36 and had been born in Bridestowe as had three of their children – Emma (15), William (12) and Mary E. (6). The youngest child, Henry, was aged 2 and had been born in Peter Tavy. In 1906 Mr Palmer of Reddaford recalled that Charles Colwill 'had been a 'hind at Bearwalls for Squire Radford' (PWDRO/1023/15 p.53).

#### 4.5. 1896-1914: Brendon

Sometime in 1896 Alfred Brendon and his family became the occupiers of Bearwalls, which was still then owned by Daniel Radford Esq., of Lydford. The acreage was stated to be 105 acres and the annual rental was £45 (land £37; house £8), as it was still in 1897 (DRO/1427A add 4/PO7 & PO8). On 9 January 1898 Alfred Rundle Brendon was baptised at Lydford. He had been born on 17 November 1897, the son of Alfred and Mary Ann Brendon of Bearwalls (DRO/Lydford PR). A second son, Henry Selwin Brendon, was baptised at Lydford on 6 May 1900.

The family is recorded at Bearwalls in the census of 1901. Alfred was then aged 37 and had been born in Kelly. His wife Mary was aged 31 and had been born in Homersfield in Suffolk. Their young children Alfred (3) and Henry (1) had both been born in Peter Tavy, presumably at Bearwalls itself. Living with them was George J. Langman, aged 17, an unmarried 'Carter on Farm' who had been born in Dunterton. A third son, Charles, was baptised at Lydford on 29 June 1902 and a fourth son, Sydney George, on 1 March 1904 (DRO/Lydford PR).

Meanwhile significant changes to the immediate environs of Bearwalls were in progress. On 30 April 1901 an inquiry was held at the Manor Hotel, Lydford regarding a proposed rifle range and camp for the War Department. Among properties proposed to be purchased was '...Bearwalls... belonging to the representatives of the late Mr D. Radford, in the occupation of Mr. Alfred Brendon, containing 88 acres...' Mr Alfred Brendon 'tenant of Bearwalls Farm', and others, made objection regarding potential loss of common rights (WCSL/Lydford Parish File/A56). It was not until 2 January 1907 that H. T. Radford, the youngest son of Daniel Radford who had died on 3 January 1900 (Weeks, 2004, 87), conveyed to the Secretary of State for War 'the house and farm lands being part of the hereditaments known as Bearwalls containing 88 acres 2 roods and 17 perches...' (Baden Fuller, 1983, 586). This represented the bulk of the Bearwalls holding except for the westernmost four fields and small plantations by the entrance, plus the open ground of Stubble Hill and some additional open moorland on the east side of the holding adjoining the 'Newtake' enclosures, all of which were eventually added to the War Department holding in 1949 (Anon, 1999, Map 3).

A glimpse into the farming life of the Brendons was provided by a surveyor in October 1906 who noted that the total annual rent was then £70 per annum [but compare the War Dept lease below]. Mrs Brendon told him that the farm consisted of 104 acres plus 7 acres of unenclosed land adjoining. There were 13.5 acres of woodland. No peat was burnt, only coal and coke. On the farm were about 30 ewes and 20-30 bullocks (including 6 cows). A large field at Langstone, Brentor was also rented by Alfred Brendon (PWDRO/1023/15 p.53).

A new edition of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map was published in 1905. This showed all surveyed changes up to 1904 (Fig.11).

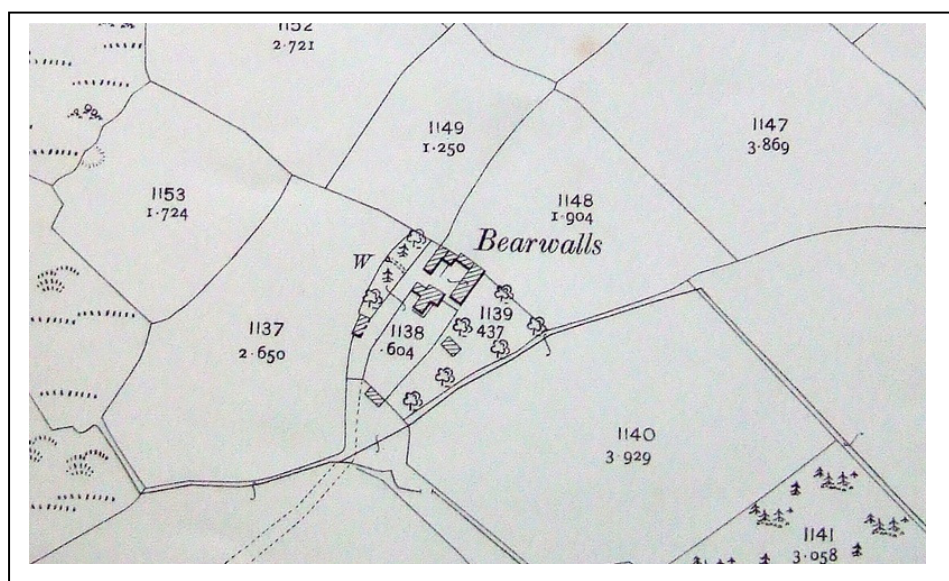


Fig.11 – detail from OS 1:2500 2<sup>nd</sup> edn sheet 88.14, surveyed 1904, published 1905, showing buildings

The farmyard had by now had the linking northern range of buildings completed. Two new buildings were shown on the south-west side of the farmhouse – one of these is probably the extant cart linhay by the farm lane; the other, which was on the east side of the gateway into the lane, has since vanished without trace. The building shown on the map of 1883 between the dwelling and the butterwell had gone, as had the one outside the western hedge of Eastern Field (OS 1140). All plantations were intact.

A detailed draft lease for Bearwalls (letting no. 596) from the War Department to Alfred Brendon is dated 1 March 1907, with an annual rental of £30 stated. However, a rental of £70 or thereabouts seems to have been actually agreed. The lease, in 26 clauses, stipulates various farming practices. A copy of the lease survives with a few later amendments and is given below:

'An Agreement made the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March One thousand nine hundred and seven [~~'fourteen'~~ crossed out] Between His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department (hereinafter called "the Landlord" ...) of the one part and Alfred Brendon of Bearwalls Peter Tavy (hereinafter called "the Tenant"...) of the other part

1. The Landlord agrees to let and the Tenant agrees to take All that and those the house building and farm lands being part of the hereditaments known as Bearwalls situate in the Parishes of Peter Tavy and Lydford or one of them in the same County of Devon containing seventy five [~~'six'~~ crossed out] acres one roods and twenty four [~~'thirty nine'~~ crossed out]

perches or thereabouts now in the occupation of Alfred Brendon...Together with the appurtenances thereto belonging

2. Except and always reserving unto the Landlord all mines ores minerals stone gravel slate clay marl and quarries and liberty for him and all persons duly authorised by him or his agents to enter on the said premises and search for dig get and raise dress and prepare on the said premises and carry away the same respectively
3. And also except all watercourses streams and springs of water and liberty for the landlord to turn the same and make leats and dams and erect engines and buildings of all sorts and to do all other things necessary for working any present or future mines quarries and pits (allowing the Tenant the proportionate annual value of such part of the land agreed to be let as shall be taken including severance or other injury that would affect the remaining portion of the Holding and also for any acts of husbandry and artificial manure expended thereon and compensation for loss of water and for all surface damage done by any of the said works such value and compensation to be ascertained and determined as hereinafter mentioned
4. And also excepting and always reserving unto the Landlord all trees tellers standards saplings wood and underwood whatsoever growing or to be grown on the said premises. And all coppices plantations and the pasturage thereon with liberty for the Landlord and others authorised by him or his agent to enter upon the said premises and cut bark stack convert and carry away the same and to enter and make roads or tramways and erect buildings or plant trees on and thenceforth retain possession of any part of the said premise (allowing the tenant a proportionate annual value for all lands so taken and occupied as aforesaid)
5. And also excepting and exclusively reserving unto the Landlord subject only to the provisions of the Ground Game Act [~~'s'~~] 1880 [~~'to 1906'~~] all hares and rabbits game wildfowl woodcock snipe quails landrails and fish in and about the said premises and exclusive liberty for the Landlord and all persons duly authorized by him to enter hunt course shoot fowl fish and sport and destroy and destroy vermin on the said premises
6. And also except and reserving full liberty for the Landlord or his agent to pass and repass and to enter on any part of the said premises and view the state of repair and cultivation and to do such works and repairs and to erect such buildings thereon for the use and occupation of the tenant as the Landlord shall think proper and to remove make and plant hedges without making any compensation for so doing
7. And except also and reserving unto the Landlord and all persons authorized by him full right and liberty from time to time and at all times to enter upon and use the said premises for all military purposes whatsoever (including firing drilling and manoeuvring) And during such user [~~sic~~] to exclude the tenant and all other persons from the premises without being liable to make compensation for any damage caused to the said premises or any crops or animals thereon or which may be otherwise sustained by the tenant by reason of such entry or user or of the exercise of any other right hereby reserved
8. The tenancy to be as from the Twenty fifth day of December [~~'March'~~] One thousand nine hundred and five [~~'fourteen'~~] until the Twenty fifth of March One thousand nine hundred and seven [~~'fifteen'~~] and so on from year to year determinable on the Twenty-fifth day of March in any year (including the first) by either party giving to the other six calendar month's previous notice in writing [~~'of such his wish~~]

and determination such notice if given by the Tenant to be left at the War Department Agent's Office and if given by the Landlord or his agent to be delivered to the tenant or left at or transmitted by post to his usual or last place of abode' crossed out]. At the yearly rent of £ Thirty pounds payable by equal quarterly payments on the usual quarter days the first payment of such rent to be made on the first quarter day which shall happen after the commencement of this tenancy and to be the sum of £ [blank]

9. And the Tenant hereby agrees with the Landlord in manner following that is to say
10. To pay the said yearly rent of Thirty pounds at the times and in the manner aforesaid
11. To pay and discharge all land tax rates taxes and other outgoings to become due in respect of the said premises (except the Landlord's Property Tax and tithe rent charge)
12. ['To pay to the Landlord or Incoming Tenant the amount of compensation to which the Outgoing Tenant is entitled under his Agreement, the Agricultural Holdings Act or Custom of the Country together with the cost of the valuation arbitration or award' crossed out]
13. [because 12 is crossed out subsequent nos are crossed through with 13 becoming 12] Not to break up or convert into tillage any of the meadow or pasture land or mow any of the pasture land
14. Not to mow any of the meadow land excepting watered [?] meadow without manuring with at least twenty cubic yards of rotten and evenly spread dung per statute acre or a full equivalent in some other approved manure immediately after such cutting and not to mow any such meadow land more than once in the same year nor then more than the usual quantity and not to depasture any of the meadow or pasture land with more than one horse or colt to every six acres and in no case with pigs and to manure the pasture land once in every seven years (if the tenancy shall so long continue) with four tons of good lime per acre or twenty loads of good dung the first of such manurings to be done not later than the Twenty fifth day of March One thousand nine hundred and nine ['seventeen' crossed out] if the tenancy shall so long continue
15. Not to grow white straw crops on more than three-sevenths of the arable land in any one year and to have not less than one-third the quantity of land in corn or grain in the same year in roots properly cultivated and cleaned
16. To sow not less than one-third of the land in grain with clover and grass in each and every year and to sow these seeds upon the first crop after a green crop
17. To manure the roots with at least twenty-five cubic yards of well rotted farmyard dung per statute acre or a full equivalent in some other approved manure
18. That where two corn crops are taken in succession he will manure one of such crops in the same proportions as agreed for the roots and will not grow more than two corn crops in succession
19. That in case he shall break up any land for a corn crop which shall come to be harvested in the last year of the tenancy he will manure the land at the time of sowing such crop with at least forty shillings' worth of well-approved purchased manure per acre
20. That if the Landlord or his incoming Tenant shall provide and sow such clover and grass seeds as he may think proper in the spring previous to the expiration of the tenancy he the Tenant shall and will work in the same and will not stock the land so sown after the first of November and previous to that time he will stock the same land with sheep pigs and calves only And shall not nor will cut the hedges of the said premises during the tenancy but at



seasonable parts of the year nor of the tillage-land but when such land shall be in tillage for the first crop and when cut properly make the same according to good husbandry and will not cut any of the hedges without first giving to the Landlord of his Agent a month's notice in writing of the intention to do so

21. Not to cut any of the wood on the hedges nor any furze growing on the said premises except for firewood used in the dwelling-house on the said premises
  22. To keep all and every part of the said premises including all roads (but excepting the walls slate healings exterior doors and windows) in good and substantial repair during the tenancy and so yield them up at the end thereof rough timber being delivered for that purpose by the Landlord to be felled drawn and worked up at the expense of the Tenant and gates being supplied by the Landlord at the cost to the Tenant of three shillings and sixpence for each gate And to draw all materials that may be required for Landlord's repairs and for new buildings erected with the consent of the Tenant free of cost
  23. At all times during the tenancy at the proper season to well and sufficiently lay out repair and keep in good and substantial repair all hedges gates fences and roads and open scour cleanse and keep clean all ditches drains and watercourses on the premises including the eaves gutters and down pipes of the buildings and house and so leave the same at the end of the tenancy And also root up and destroy all docks thistles and weeds And that in case any damage shall be done to the part of the premises to be kept in repair by the Landlord through the neglect of the Tenant to execute such repairs to the premises as he is by these presents bound to do the Tenant shall pay to the Landlord the cost of making good such damage as aforesaid
  24. That in case the Tenant shall refuse or neglect to execute any of the repairs hereinbefore mentioned within three months after being served with a notice by the Landlord or his agent requiring him to do the same the Tenant will allow the Landlord his agents and workmen to enter on the premises and execute such repairs and will repay the Landlord the cost of the same such cost to be recoverable by the Landlord as additional rent
  25. To protect and plant all orchards with good plantable apple trees in the place of old or decayed ones when considered necessary by the Landlord or his agent and once in five years if the tenancy shall so long continue manure the same orchard land after the rate of ninety imperial bushels of lime to an acre
  26. To reside constantly upon the premises and not to assign let or underlet or part with the actual and personal possession of any part of the premises without the previous consent in writing of the Landlord
- (S. Yeo collection).

In 1909 the agricultural land at Bearwalls was said to total 105 acres at a rental of £58. 10s, with the rental for buildings being £9. 10s (DRO/1427A-4/PO6). Alfred and Mary Brendon and their four sons Alfred, Henry, Charles and Sydney, were all still at Bearwalls at the time of the census on 2 April 1911. It was noted that the Brendons had been married sixteen years and that all their children had survived. The dwellinghouse had six rooms (including the kitchen, but excluding a scullery, lobby, closet and bathroom).

#### 4.6. 1914-1945: Yeo

From Ladyday (25 March) 1914 the Brendons vacated the farm and Ernest John Yeo (born in 1875) took possession, moving from Orchard Barton, Lewtrenchard. The Yeo family were to remain there until the end of the Second World War. Ernest Yeo married Martha Pengelly (born 24 July 1890), at Lewtrenchard on 15 April 1914, the service being officiated by the Revd Sabine Baring-Gould. Their honeymoon was spent in Exeter and they were driven there in Baring-Gould 's car by his chauffeur (inf. S. Yeo). Martha was the daughter of William Pengelly, the stationmaster at Tywardreath, Cornwall.

An inventory (in possn. S. Yeo) was prepared to assess what Yeo might owe Brendon, and included:

1134 Grass in Alder Moor; 1143 Temporary Pasture ; 1142 Temporary Pasture ; 1151 Grass seeds and working ; 1140 Mangolds in cave; 1160 Temporary Pasture; 1150 Heap of Camp Manure; 1139 Hay Shed, Hay and Horse wheel

In Buildings: Picksley Sims Chaffcutter; Ladder; Heap of Oaten Straw; 8 Chain rings; 6 Roller blinds and fittings; The Kitchen Range; Partition top of stairs with door

'Mangolds in cave' refers to the then normal practice of covering a heap of mangolds with rushes and brambles to protect them from frost. The 'Camp Manure' presumably refers to horse manure from Willsworthy Camp. The 'Horse Wheel' for powering a threshing machine etc was located in the 'Mowhay' (see Fig. 36).

On 19 September 1914 the newly-married couple bought various items of furniture and fittings from Snawdon Brothers Ltd of Bedford Street, Plymouth totalling £27. 1s. 7d, which provides fascinating domestic insight:

3 piece Chesterfield set = £8.10s.0; pair dressing table = £5. 5s; rush seat chair = 4s. 9d; large centre[?] table = £2. 9s. 6d; 2 x fancy chair @ 12/6 = £1. 5s; 3 x white poles complete @ 2s. 11½ = 8s.10½d; 7 yards stair canvas @ 1s. 3d = 8s. 9d; 13 x stair rods = 3s. 6½d; 12 yds. curtain material @ 1s. 0½d = 12s. 6d; 4 x curtain tassels @ 3½d = 1s. 2d; linoleum for sitting room + waterproof underlay cork = £3. 11s. 3d; linoleum for bedroom & landing = £1 19s. 6d; dinner set =- £1 19s. 6d; fitters rail fares to Lydford = 2s. 3d (S. Yeo colln).

In about 1915 there was a major national survey of property by the Inland Revenue. Part of the farm was said to be owned by Palmer but occupied by Yeo, with a gross value of £350 – this is presumably that portion not sold to the War Department in 1907. This area, about 35 acres altogether, was bought at some time as freehold by Ernest Yeo's father (inf. S. Yeo) and was sold to the War Department in 1949 (see below). The main farm, owned by the War Department and consisting of 80.703

acres (farm + plantation) had a total market value of £1550 (land £900; buildings and structures £500; timber £100; other things growing on land £50) plus a tithe or rent charge of £95 = a gross value of £1645. In addition there were shooting rights worth £22 (TNA/IR58/66281).

Martha Yeo's niece, Ivy Pengelly, lived at Bearwalls between about 1917-1924 when aged 14-21. She lived to be 108 and died (as Mrs Steer) in February 2010 (inf. S. Yeo). Between 1918 and 1923 Ernest and Martha Yeo are listed on the electoral register for Bearwalls (DRO/ER) but from 1924-1930 Laurence Curtis is also listed with them – he may have been one of the two farm workers employed by Ernest Yeo when first at the farm (inf. S. Yeo). The Yeos had four children, all born at Bearwalls – Phyllis Elizabeth (29 January 1915), Edith Joan (12 August 1916), William Ernest (26 November 1918) and Stanley Luxmore (25 June 1923). A photograph shows the whole family at Bearwalls (Fig. 12).

Fig. 12 – Yeo family at Bearwalls c. 1930, outside kitchen window. L to R: William, Martha, Stanley, Ernest, Phyllis & Joan + dog Floss (Yeo colln)



Stanley Yeo has provided many recollections of the pre-War period, and several photographs illustrate this time. A four-wheeled wagon (for hay and loose corn in sheaves) in one of the fields dates to the 1920s or 1930s (Fig.13), but the people have not been identified.



Fig. 13 – harvesting hay at Bearwalls c. 1930 (Yeo colln)



Fig. 14 – crossing the ford on the R. Lyd c. 1930. L to R: unknown, Martha, Stanley & Ernest Yeo (Yeo colln)

A two-wheeled cart crossing the ford over the R. Lyd in about 1930 (Fig.14) shows Ernest Yeo at the front of the cart, with Stanley and Martha behind. An unknown woman stands beside the cart. The cart has the maker's name [illegible] and 'PETERTAVY' stamped on its side. Stanley Yeo remembers his father buying a new cart a few years later from Peter Tavy. Photographs survive of Phyllis and Joan Yeo on horseback in the farmyard (Figs 15-16).



Fig. 15 - Joan Yeo in farmyard 1930s (Yeo colln)



Fig. 16 – Phyllis Yeo in farmyard 1930s (Yeo colln)



Joan especially was a fine horsewoman and broke horses for Johnny Reep of Nattor. Work in the fields before and during the war is shown in Figs 17 & 18, and Martha Yeo is the subject of Fig. 19.

The walk to Lydford school via Skitt Lane and the War Memorial took up to about 45 minutes. Stanley and his siblings would often have to change their boots when they arrived at school. If the chimney in the kitchen needed sweeping they would pick up the sweeping sticks from High Down House on their way back – hire of them would cost one shilling.



Fig. 17 – Phyllis & Ernest Yeo working with horses in Big Field 1930s (Yeo colln)



Fig. 18 – Will and Stan Yeo cutting corn in Top Doetor Field c.1940 (Yeo colln)

Fig. 19 – Martha Yeo on steps to Granary 1930s (Yeo colln)



Bryan Huggins, Stanley Yeo's nephew, was born in 1932 and lived at Bearwalls until 1940 (inf. S. Yeo). A Miss Nora Bishop was on the electoral register for Bearwalls in 1938 (DRO/ER). Two names were added to the electoral register in 1939 – Edith Joan Yeo and Dorothy Finch. The latter came from London and had a daughter Betty whom she took to Lydford School on a carrier attached to her bicycle.

Stanley well remembers listening on the wireless with his mother to the announcement of the outbreak of the Second World War. Some of his recollections of wartime were published in 2006 :

'One of his elder sisters [Phyllis] had already left home and was working in Plymouth in a veterinary practice, so Stan, his father [Ernest] and elder brother [Willie] worked the farm, with help from his mother and another sister [Joan]. Before the war they had farmed beef and sheep and kept a few house cows, chickens and had mostly grown fodder crops and cereal for the animals. When war broke out, the MOD demanded a strict regime of extra crops for both human and animal consumption which included a set acreage of potatoes, but the farm had neither a potato digger or other machinery needed for planting or harvesting of potatoes, so all the extra work involved was done with horse drawn carts or by hand. They only had a reaping machine for the barley and oats, but no binder, so all the binding of the corn was done by hand before being put into stooks, and then built into haystacks. Later in the year the thresher would be in the area for all the farms to use and everyone pitched in to help, so you knew it would be a long week spent helping other farmers with their threshing (just as they had helped you), and then turning around at the end of the day and doing your own farming jobs at home. Being a good productive farm, well shielded from the worst of the Dartmoor winds, Bearwalls was able to produce good crops of flat poles (cabbages for the cows), potatoes, swedes, turnips, oats and barley.

With the milk from twelve dairy South Devon cows Mrs Yeo produced butter and cream which she kept in the dairy. Once a week she would take the butter and cream and catch the bus to Tavistock Market from Beardon Lane to hand over these goods to the Ministry of Agriculture in return for coupons for animal feed. This stopped farms from selling their wares on the black market. The dairy [i.e. butterwell] was the farm's pride and joy. Situated on the east [= west] side of the sheltered farm yard, it contained a 4 inch pool of water in the middle arising from the well. The level of this water never varied from summer through to winter, and the temperature of the water was always constant. Better than a fridge, butter and cream could be left standing in containers in the water and keep fresh for days on end. The farm also boasted running water inside years before any of the other local farms, although lighting was with paraffin lamps and heat was from a huge log fire. Stan said the family was never hungry or cold.

When Plymouth was bombed the Yeo household became home to some more children, the children of family friends; and also gained two RAF servicemen [Jack from Plymouth and a Welshman called Davies] who spent the whole war with them. These two officers worked in the buildings below the four huge wireless masts on Willsworthy [they slept in the sitting room]. No one ever knew exactly what they did, but it was rumoured this secret work

involved intercepting wireless signals and decoding them. As part of a larger team, these officers were not allowed to be billeted together in one place just in case it should be bombed, and all lost together. Mr Yeo was paid by the MOD for their keep and received his payments every fortnight from Captain Scott...

Out and about at 6.30 am, the days were long, starting with feeding the animals, milking, planting/hoeing/harvesting crops in the spring and summer, mending walls and gates in the winter, and attending to the horses and sheep all year round. Men and boys worked until the sun went down, and if it was too dark to see, paraffin lanterns were lit. Any spare time would be spent thinning out the rooks from the tops of the farmyard beech trees or ferreting for rabbits to supplement the rations. At the end of a long day on the farm, Stan would trudge off to spend the night doing home guard duty on the railway.

The family had no phone, the nearest being in the bungalow just below Beardon Farm (now known as the Sanctuary), and it was to the garage belonging to this bungalow that they took their accumulators to be recharged in order to have a working wireless. Fresh bread could be bought at the Post Office in Lydford and paraffin from the little shop near Pulborough Farm. Every now and again there would be a dance or social in the Nicholls Hall, frequently put on by the local soldiers or a touring gang, to which everyone was invited where Stan could practice his waltz or "two step", but on the whole life was endless unrelenting toil with every farm doing its bit for the war effort...' (Anon, 2006, 22, 27-8).

Three evacuee children from south-east London, sister and brother Sybil and Tony James, aged 7 and 9 respectively, and their cousin John Payne, aged 11, arrived at Bearwalls on 9 November 1940, having travelled to Lydford station. They paid 10s per week for their board and lodging. Sybil has left remarkable recollections of this period, which were published in three parts in the parish magazine December 2007 – February 2008:

'The owners of Bearwalls farm at that time were Farmer Yeo, his wife and three children, Joan (25), Willie (22) and Stanley (18). Joan was a bit stand-offish and wouldn't have much to do with us, but Willie and Stanley were smashing. They had six cows for milking and when they had calves we would feed them by putting our hands in a bucket of milk and letting them suck it off. There was one sow who regularly had litters of piglets which kept us in pork and when they were big enough they were taken to market in Tavistock on the farm cart. There was one carthorse who did all the work around the place and one riding horse who was the only form of personal transport on the place. There were also chickens which roamed around all over the place and it became one of our many jobs to search for the eggs. There were also three geese who would attack if you so much as looked at them. There were no tractors, just the carthorse, which we rode from time to time although as we were so small and it was so big, our legs stuck out sideways. The carthorse had to pull the plough, the tedder [for turning hay], the cart and anything else that needed a bit of a pull. The riding horse had a foal each year which was sold as a yearling.

The whole farm lived from hand to mouth and anything that could be sold, was. The boys caught rabbits with the help of ferrets and sold them for 1/6d (7 ½ p) in the village. Chickens and eggs were also sold although we could have as many as we wanted, which made a change from the rationing of one egg per person per week that we had had before. The riding horse was the only means of

transport for the family, so they had to take it in turns to go socializing in the village. It was our treat, if we could be at the bottom of the hill when someone came riding over High Down, because then we would be allowed a ride home.

We were soon engaged on our share of the work. Every morning and evening the cows were milked and our job was to use the separator to separate the milk from the cream. These were both scalded, the milk went into the Dairy (next to the kitchen and it was all concrete and marble [actually = slate] and the cream was floated on the well, which was at ground level inside a shed. The cream was mostly turned by Mrs Yeo into butter which was also sold and I had the job of filling the wooden mould with the butter and pressing it down with a patterned lid to make it individual. Some of the milk went to the village milkman who was married to the elder daughter Phyllis. Sometimes I watched as they pasteurized the milk and I put the cardboard tops on the bottles before we went off in their van to deliver it around the village. We ate very well, if plainly, but we were only allowed butter or jam on our bread, not both. Breakfast always consisted of fried teddies and egg cooked on the wood burning range and was delicious. There was usually half a pig hanging up in the scullery which had slices cut from it as and when required. We also ate rabbit. The only jam we had was either blackberry or wortleberry, which we had to pick. We had to fill the bottom of a jam jar with the fruit before we could eat any. Junket was eaten a lot and tripe, which we had to wash in the river.

There was no electricity, gas or running water. The scullery had a pump for cold water but the cistern in the outside lavatory had to be filled up each time with a bucket of water before it could be flushed [this is not correct and must refer to a particular incident according to S. Yeo]. We had candles for lighting and to go up to bed with and the only electricity we had came from a battery (large) which was used to make the radio work and on which we were only allowed to have the 9 o'clock news. In the winter it was warm in the big kitchen but very cold everywhere else. The only form of washing and bathing was by standing in a big basin and pouring a jug of cold water over you. Very Spartan. The shopping was done once a week, there were two buses a day to Tavistock and two buses back. Mrs Yeo and us kids, if we were not at school, would take a very large wicker basket and walk through the fields and over the moor to get to the main road and the bus to get the weekly rations. Mrs Yeo would not have butter on the rations, as she made her own, but had the allowance in margarine for cooking. We were not allowed sugar in tea because this was also used for cooking. Baking day was Tuesday and if I was at home, I had to beat the eggs, mix up congress tart mix and do as much of the preparation as I could manage. We would make enough pasties, cakes, egg tarts, parsley tarts and anything else that was wanted, for the whole week and store it all in the dairy, as we had no fridges or freezers. Cousin John could not bear the parsley tart or the beetroot sandwiches which we occasionally took to school and he used to throw them over the hedge on the way. I think this is what made him want to go home and he went after only a few weeks. We also had to peel the days potatoes before school. As it was winter when we started school, I remember the snow reaching above our heads as we went down through the fields, although the boys had cleared a path through. We had to cross the river and go over High Down to the road, then down the lane opposite to the village, a distance of perhaps three miles. Over the time we spent there we learnt a lot about nature and country matters which we had no opportunity to do in London. Of my entire childhood, my stay in Devon is my best memory. The infants room I started in was at the back and a large range which kept all our pasties hot as well as ourselves. There was also a large dolls house which I spent many hours with. When I moved up to the juniors, it was in the bigger room and was divided into rows depending on age. The teacher had to go from row to row, teaching different things. When it came to spelling there weren't enough books, so [we] were asked who thought they were good at spelling and I put my hand up and promptly went up a class. There was a school band and I played the triangle. Once I had a ride home on the back of the Headmistress's son's bike. The games we played in the playground were mainly things like 'Knock



down Ginger' and 'What's the time Mr Wolf'. ..On Sundays we would sometimes walk to the Post office to buy some Corona. During weekends and holidays, after doing our chores, Tony and I would walk up High Down to the bit behind the Dartmoor Inn to the local rubbish tip and pick up old saucepans and other useful bits of junk and we would make camps wherever there was a group of trees in the corner of the fields. The slope from the fields to the river was known as Badger's Holt because that was where they lived. We played beside the river and made harbours with bits of wood for boats. We also collected caddis fly larvae. Sometimes we would paddle along in the river on our hands, trailing our feet behind us to pretend we were swimming. We were surrounded by brown trout who were not in the least shy. During the summer holiday 1941 three more girls came to stay at the farm but they went home to school. After a year we went home to London but came back again the following year during Easter and summer holidays. We would go up on to Doe Tor to pick wortleberries, passing the old Pengelly farm on the way. We never saw the Pengelly's as their farm was so remote and there weren't any children our age to play with. Our sheep were turned out onto the moor and brought in once a year to be dipped and sheared and marked. Because there were so few fields attached to the farm, the bedding for the animals was not only straw, while it lasted, but dried ferns which the farm men cut down and stacked each autumn. Once Tony and I caught a baby rabbit and took it home to ask if we could keep it as a pet, but they wanted to kill and eat it, so we let it go. There was no rubbish collection that I remember; we didn't even have anything in tins. The jars were kept each year for jam and the vegetable peelings and left over food scraps were boiled up to feed the chickens and pigs. Anything else went on the dung heap with the dung and the rabbit and chicken waste. That second summer [1942] the airforce set up camp higher up on our side of the moor and we had three airmen staying at the farm. This meant the end of our sleeping at the front of the house and we had to join the rest of the family in the two back bedrooms. I slept with Mrs Yeo in a double bed with a bolster down the middle and Joan had a bed in the same room. The farmer, the two sons and Tony slept in the other room. The airmen dammed the river just under a small waterfall to make a proper swimming pool and one of them tried to make me learn to swim by throwing me into the deep end, it didn't work. When we were at school we sometimes played hockey on the flat bit of moor behind the Dartmoor Inn. My best memory of that was when it was foggy. There were no lines marked on the grass and as there were so many in each team I was stuck on the outfield. I heard what was going on but I couldn't see anybody or anything and I just stood out there and froze for the duration. On those days we would go back to the farm straight down along sheep and pony paths trying to avoid too much running through the heather as it was full of Vipers. Once I came across one and I was too scared to move. Tony thought he would be brave and tossed it with his hockey stick to get it away but, unfortunately, he tossed it at my leg. He was never allowed to forget it.

One momentous day the American army arrived to carry out manoeuvres and to camp in the big field. They dug ditches all round the edge and one day a light aircraft landed in the field and this was very exciting for us. We were all invited out to see it and were given sweets and doughnuts from a mobile canteen which also arrived. Crossing the main road on the way to school, the Americans driving by in their jeeps would throw out butterscotch to us. At haymaking time, the grass was cut with scythes and was left to dry in the sun. After a couple of days the horse drawn tedder would toss the hay about to dry properly before being loaded onto a cart and taken to the large roofed hayrick. We used to make holes in the hay and hide. When it was wheat harvesting time, we all had to pull our weight. It was cut down by scythe again by Willie and Stan and we all had to follow and make sheaves and then stook it up to dry. There was one threshing machine for the whole neighbourhood so we had to wait our turn but when it came, it was all hands to the forks to chuck it onto the machine and separate the ears from the straw. The barn in the farmyard was the home for the oats (we used to jump from the loft onto the oats for a soft landing but without the knowledge of the farmer). The straw was made into ricks, although some of it was chopped up into chaff for the chickens by a steam tractor which lived in

one of the sheds. Tony once got his finger caught in the machine and lost a fingernail. When they wanted to kill some chickens for market or to eat, they would stick a knife down their throats and leave them hanging upside down to bleed to death. Not a pretty sight but one got used to it. After they were gutted Tony and I had to pluck them, while they were still warm, as it was easier than if they were allowed to get cold. Everything on the farm had to be done the hard way and there was never any spare money for luxuries, so we were not wholly surprised when they decided to sell up on Lady Day 1943 [actually 1945]. They had an auction on site and all the farm implements were put into a field to await collection on the following Monday. Tony and I thought it would be fun to have a ride on the tedder, so I pushed it while Tony sat on it. Unfortunately, the field was on a slope and the tedder ran away from us. I yelled to Tony to jump, which he did, and the machine ended in the hedge with one of the forks broken. We heaved it back up the field and wedged the fork so it looked alright. The others were in the next field picking teddies (which we would normally have been helping with but had been let off for the day) and asked what all the noise had been about. We just said it was [a] game we were playing and they believed us. We dreaded what would happen on the Monday when the new owner came to collect his machine. Luckily on the Sunday our Mother came down unexpectedly and took us home on the Monday morning early, so we never heard what happened. For weeks I expected a knock on our front door with the farmer asking us for £5 for the repairs. This never happened, thank goodness. Mr and Mrs Yeo and Joan moved to Plymouth [Tavistock], Willie went to a farm in South Africa and Stan became a prison warder at Dartmoor Prison. Our Mother was working in London all this time and could only come and see us occasionally but every month we would get a parcel, she had kept our sweet ration books so that she could send us some sweets with comics and small toys. We looked forward to these parcels very much....In all my childhood memories, those years stand out, as I learnt so many things which I would never have known had I stayed at home. I remember them with gratitude.

During Spring, the dung heap would disappear as it would be carted to the appropriate fields and tossed about with a fork; afterwards the tedder would toss it all about. We learnt to suck the soft centre out of grass stems and to suck sorrel which tasted of vinegar. We also watched Willie as he tickled trout. We never went to the gorge or the castle. There were no 'outings' just everyday work. One evening Tony and I went out to the cabbage field and collected about thirty caterpillars. These we took back to the barn and made them a doll's house out of a cardboard box. The next morning, when we went to inspect them, they had all disappeared. I don't know whether the chickens had an early breakfast or if they had just slid their way out somewhere more desirous. When it was icy, we used to slide down the field behind the cowshed and ended up in the hedge at the bottom. We noticed that the ice was yellowish, but it was not until ages later that we realized we were sliding about on frozen cow's pee. As far as I remember we never had any fruit or green vegetables, just turnips and Swedes in our pasties. The only book I could find, that I wanted to read, was the children's version of Lorna Doone, which I read over and over and it became my favourite story until years later I read the original version. This I didn't like at all. One of my favourite foods was egg tart, which was just eggs and sugar cooked in a pastry case' (Jenkins, 2007-8).

In 1941, Stanley Yeo, then aged 18, joined the Railway Home Guard and would have to be on sentry duty at night.

In June and September 1941 a survey of Bearwalls was carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (TNA/MAF 32/687/354). On 4 June it was noted that Mr Yeo had been at Bearwalls 27 years. The annual rent was £40. Mr Yeo owned 25 acres of land, and the workforce comprised three male and two female family workers.

Crops and grass comprised 11 ½ statute acres of oats, 2 ½ acres of mixed corn (without wheat in mixture), 4 ½ acres of Clover, Sainfoin and temporary grasses for grazing (not for mowing this season), 12 ½ acres of permanent grass for mowing this season, 26 ¼ acres of permanent grass for grazing (not for mowing this season), but including 15 acres of rough grazings on which the occupier had sole grazing rights. Labour was recorded as provided by two males, one aged over 21 and the other under 18. No grass fields had been ploughed up for the 1940 harvest, but there was a temporary ley of 4 acres of cereal that year. For the 1941 harvest there were 4 acres of oats @ £2 an acre, and no temporary ley.

The farm had a total of 24 cattle and calves, comprising 6 cows and heifers in milk, 1 cow in calf but not in milk, 1 female two years old and above, 3 males one year old and under, 6 females one year old and under, and 7 cattle under one year old for rearing (excluding bull calves being reared for service). Sheep and lambs totalled 91 comprising (over one year old) 48 ewes kept for further breeding (excluding two-tooth ewes), 1 ram kept for service, 12 two-tooth ewes (shearling ewes or gimmers) to be put to the ram in 1941, and 30 other sheep and lambs under one year old. There were also 3 pigs over five months old, and 1 sow in pig. Poultry comprised 34 fowls over six months old, 8 fowls under six months old and 2 geese of all ages. There were four horses on the farm - 1 mare + 1 gelding, 1 light horse under one year old, and 1 other.

The Farm Survey of 26 September 1941 noted that Ernest Yeo was the full time tenant farmer of 60 acres from the War Department, with grazing rights on Dartmoor. In terms of condition, the following comments were made, indicating a very well run farm: 100% of land is light soil; farm is conveniently laid out; 60% of farm is naturally good; 40% of farm is naturally bad; situation in regard to road – bad; situation in regard to railway – bad; condition of farmhouse – good; condition of buildings – good; condition of farm roads – good; condition of fences – good; condition of ditches – good; general condition of field drainage – good. There were no infestations and no ‘derelict’ fields. Arable land and pasture were considered to be in good condition, with an ‘adequate’ use of fertilisers. Water was piped to the farmhouse, and a stream led to farm buildings and fields. There was no seasonal shortage of water. There was no electricity supply.

A photograph of baling hay at about this time at Bearwalls was published in 2006, though it is wrongly labelled as threshing (Anon, 2006, 27).

1944 was memorable for the presence of Americans immediately before D-Day. Stanley Yeo recalled ‘the road below the Fox and Hounds Hotel leading to Bridestowe being piled high with ammunition, crate upon crate, hidden under the beech trees from any overhead planes, whilst trying to move snorting, sweating nervous cows to

their keep at Blackabroom Farm further down the road' (Anon, 2006, 22). It was also significant as the year the Yeos sold the farm, though technically they did not give it up until Ladyday 1945.

As early as January 1944 the War Agricultural Executive Committee referred in a letter to Albert (Bert) Pengelly of Doe Tor to the fact that he was 'taking over Bearwalls Farm' (TG colln). A Sale of Stock at Bearwalls took place on 25 September 1944 realising £733. 14s 1d. net (S. Yeo colln), and a Grass and Root Sale raised £36 (S. Yeo colln). On 2 November 1944 Major Sheppard, the War Dept Land Agent, wrote to 'B. Pengelly, Esq., Bearwalls Farm' implying that Bert Pengelly was already in possession, and possibly in residence. The letter concerned a Mr Udy who had 'bought the hay and straw in the shed' and who was asking permission to take it off the farm (TG colln).

Ernest Yeo formally gave up the tenancy on 25 March 1945 (Inventory & Valuation 20.7.1946, S. Yeo colln).

#### 4.7. 1945-1999: Pengelly and Friend

Albert (b. 1908) and Beatrice Pengelly (b. 1910) moved from Doe Tor Farm to Bearwalls with their daughter Joyce, and also their nephews Claude, Cecil and Eric Allen. Eric worked there for about 18 months (inf. E. Allen). As a farmworker, Claude had his call-up for military service deferred indefinitely on 30 November 1945 (TG colln).

On 5 April 1945 Thomas J. Brown of Ward & Chowen, Tavistock, acting for Ernest Yeo, and Samuel H. Bassett of Messrs Harris & Co, Crediton, acting for Albert Pengelly, surveyed the farm, and recorded six arable fields under temporary pasture (OS 1135, 1143, 1145, 1151 and 1136 with a part rick of hay in field 1145). OS 1133 was also recorded as arable and, as part of the valuation, a note was made of 'The grass seeds on 2 ¼ acres and the labour of sowing'. Among an inventory of fittings they noted a kitchen table, a form and a front room table in the dwellinghouse; a Shippon for six beasts with six iron cow ties; a Calves House with two iron cow ties; and a Young Bullock House with four iron cow ties. In the Mowhay there was a small poultry house, a timber built and galvanised iron hay shed, and three ricks – of Hay, Straw and Bedding (S. Yeo colln).

The changeover was finally settled and cheques paid in July 1946 (Inventory and valuation in possn S. Yeo). Descriptions of some fields and the condition of boundaries was given:

OS No.1140. 3.929 acres. Arable. There is no liability on the Tenant to keep South fence to OS No. 1141. There is a Roadway against North hedge.

OS No. 1142. 6.287 acres. Arable. The South Boundary is a rough untrimmed one sided fence on the field side.

OS No. 1143. 4.007 acres. Arable. Where there are chains fitted to gates, no crooks are allowed for.

OS Nos. 1145 and 1144. 6.586 acres. Arable. No liability for division fence between these enclosures. 5 ½ acres cultivated, the remainder is uncultivated. The North and East boundary to Moor is to be kept from the Moor side only. In places, there is no fence on North boundary, only a steep bank to OS No. 1144.

OS No. 1146. 3.739 acres. Rough Pasture. North boundary to Moor and Water boundary is one sided, to be kept stock proof only.

OS No. 1160. 2.909 [= 2.919] acres. Arable. North boundary to Moor and OS No. 1159 no made fence and Tenant only liable to keep stock proof.

OS No. 1159. 1.367 acres; OS No. 1158. 1.267 acres; Pt OS No.128 0.575 acres. These areas of rough pasture are unenclosed to Moor and no allowance is made.

OS No. 1151. 3.278 acres. Arable. North to OS No.1158 etc. The West end of this fence to copse is only a rough deep bank with growth laid to keep stock proof.

OS Nos. 1156 and 1134 [= 1154]. 4.471 acres. Rough Pasture and Marsh. Run together. No allowance made for division fence. There is no fence against Mr. Yeo's ground. Water and War Department boundary stones form boundary.

OS No. 1136. 11.481 acres. Arable. The opening in the groyle [sic] to OS No. 1134 is filled in with post and rails to keep stock proof.

Garden. The West toe on the West end of the garden is uncultivated.

O.S. No.1135. 4A.3R.22P. Arable. The East Fence to War Department land is one sided above the gateway.

Pt. O.S. No. 1134. 10 acres Rough Pasture. Fence to River is a low Bank to be kept stock proof from the field side.

O.S. No.1133. 7A.3R.13P. Arable. South Fence to Moor is a one sided bank. The Low dough [sic] bank to coppice is allowed to go down. The timber built and galvanised iron Shed in corner is the property of the Landlord and is in good order.

#### 4.7.1. Pengelly papers 1945-1950

Occasional detailed information relating to the first five years (1945-1950) of Pengelly occupation of the farm comes from papers acquired by chance in Tavistock


by the present author in March 2001, and some of this is summarised and illustrated below. All items are from his collection.

### Stock

A notebook of Bert Pengelly's provides some information about the buying and selling of animals. He purchased two calves at Tavistock market on 23 May 1945, three bullocks from Mr Arscott on 31 May 1945 and two cows from 'Mr Evens' on 12 July 1945. He also sold two bullocks to Mr Arscott on 31 May and another three to him on 28 September, and one to Mr Gloyn on 7 June. On 20 September 1945 he sold twenty lambs and bought thirteen at Sourton Market. One cow was sold at Okehampton on 6 October. A pony was sold to Mr White on 27 October. Two pigs were bought from Mr Atwall on 14 November and another two from Mr Palmer on the following day. On 1 December he bought a cow and calf at Okehampton from Mr A.S. Yeo of Broadbury but it turned out to be 'slack in one quarter'. On 5 December he sold 3 pigs in Tavistock. All these beasts had to be transported and an invoice for £2. 2s. from E.P. Down of The Garage, Mary Tavy dated 1 November 1945 (Fig.20) provides insight into costs:

May	To account rendered	7. 0
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2 Cows 1 Calf from Tavistock Cattle Market	12. 6
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2 Store bullocks 1 Cow & calf to Tavistock Cattle Market	12. 6
6 <sup>th</sup> October	1 Bullock from Lydford to Okehampton Market	10. 0

'Phone No. 42.



**THE GARAGE.**  
**MARY TAVY, DEVON**

*1<sup>st</sup> November* 194*5*

M. *Pengelly*

**Dr. to E. P. DOWN**

SMALL CARS AND 14-20 SEATER ALL WEATHER COACHES FOR HIRE  
LORRY FOR HAULAGE. FILLING STATION.  
FURNITURE REMOVED.

<i>1945</i>	<i>To account rendered</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>26<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>	<i>2 Cows 1 Calf from Tavistock Cattle Market</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
		<i>12</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>26<sup>th</sup> "</i>	<i>2 Store bullocks 1 Cow &amp; calf to Tavistock Cattle Market</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
		<i>12</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>6<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>1 Bullock from Lydford to Okehampton Market</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>
		<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
		<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Fig. 20 –invoice for movement of animals 1945



On 18 July 1945 Bert Pengelly was written to about the subsidy scheme for hill sheep. The War Agricultural Executive Committee (WAEC) were recommending payment 'at the full rate (7/6 per eligible ewe or shearling) in respect of 32 Scotch Blackface ewes and shearlings, and at half rate (3/9 per eligible ewe or shearling), in respect of 44 Exmoor Horn ewes. 'You sold your Exmoor Horn ewe lambs 1944 and bought the same number; as a consequence your Exmoor Horn flock is regarded as being maintained by purchase and eligible at half rate only.' On 19 November 1945 Pengelly sold 22 sheep carcasses for a total of £57. 4s. 5d (Min. Of Food Certificate).

On 26 April 1946 Pengelly applied for subsidy on 70 ewes and 18 shearling ewes or gimmers.

One 'lease cow' was sold at Tavistock market on 8 May 1946, and 3 bullocks sold at Okehampton in July. Fifteen lambs and a cow and calf were sold at Okehampton in August 1946.

A handwritten note on the back of a calendar records that on 4 December 1946 Pengelly had 35 Exmoor ewes; 10 Exmoor two teeth; 30 Scotch ewes; 10 Scotch two teeth; 10 Scotch ewe lambs; and 8 Exmoor ewe lambs; and had sold 26. A reflection of the severe winter of early 1947 is perhaps indicated by another note on the calendar: 'lost 3 Exmoor, 2 Scotch'. On 4 December 1947 Pengelly noted '42 Ewes; 18 Two Teeth Ewes; 2 Rams / 2 Lambs Ram; 16 Ewe Lambs 6 Ewes [?]; 4 Other sheep' [handwritten on calendar – some of these figures may relate to 4 June 1948 which is also written within the box]. Hill Sheep subsidy was claimed on 30 April 1948 for 27 x Exmoor Ewes, plus 8 x Exmoor Shearling ewes; plus '1948 Total' of 15 x Ewes and 10 x Shearling ewes. Written in ink is 'Exmoor Lambs 6' and 'Scotch Lambs 10' and '45 Lambs June 4 1948'.

An undated auctioneers docket for c. 1946 records the purchase of 2 pigs @ 40/- = £4 and 1 pig for £2 5s 6d = £6 5s 6d, less commission of 1s 9d = £6 3s 9d .

On 30 April 1948 Hill Cattle subsidy was claimed on 2 x Devon and 1 x Scotch steer (over 1 year old), 5 x Devon heifers, 1 x Scotch (over 1 year old); 2 x Devons in calf and 2 x Scotch breeding cows and heifers suckling calves. Their period on the hill was given as 17 May 1948 to 31 September 1948.

In April 1950 Pengelly purchased veterinary items for 16s 4d from Harkers Veterinary Remedies Ltd, 8 St George St, Hanover Sq., London W1 – including 'Ringworm Ointment' 2s 6d and 'Maggot Fly Dressing' 3s 4d.



T.H. Atwill of Whitstone Farm, Brentor was interested in buying a rick of hay in about 1946.

In 1949 MAF proposed cropping for that year was for 10 acres Oats; 3 acres Mixed Corn; 2 acres Potatoes – maincrop and second earlies; 1 acre Roots and green crops for stockfeeding; 80 acres Grass, Permanent and Temporary. Eight acres of grassland were to be laid down in 1949 for two years.

### *Milk*

In August 1945 there were discussions about converting the old shippin (on the east side of the farmyard) for milk production, but the existing premises were deemed unfit in early September. However, on 17 September Bert Pengelly began supplying Messrs Ambrosia Ltd with milk (MMB to Pengelly 17.10.1945). In November he was said to have seven 'cows and heifers in milk' and one 'heifer in calf (first calf)' (contract posted 14 Nov 1945). From October 1945 cheques were regularly received from the Milk Marketing Board for the sale of milk (Fig.23):

TELEGRAMS: MILMARBO, THAMES DITTON.

MILK MARKETING BOARD  
THAMES DITTON, SURREY.

TELEPHONE: EMBERBROOK 4101.  
A5199

Date 1st August, 1946

A. Pengelly, Esq.,  
Beaswell Farm, Rydford,  
Okehampton, Devon.

Dear Sir,

We are enclosing our cheque for £ 14 : 16 : 1 d. in settlement for the milk supplied under your Wholesale Contract as detailed below.

Yours faithfully,  
MILK MARKETING BOARD,  
C. A. Sloper,  
Chief Accountant.

Producer's No.	Ref. No.	Month	Year	Gallons	Pool Price	Amount	ADD		Quality Premium	Transport	Other deductions	Net Payment
							Basic	Other				
10/70495	10/30	6	46	229.5	1 4 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	15 15 3	9	6		1 8 8		14 16 1
	042											
TOTAL											14 16 1	

ACI 1708A

Fig.23 – statement re milk sales for June 1946

September[?] 1945	155 gallons	£19 16s 4d
October 1945	188 gallons	£19 16s 3d
November 1945	193 gallons	£24 18s 6d
December 1945	164 gallons	£21 4s 11d
January 1946	186 gallons	£23 17s 11d
February 1946	147 gallons	£19 16s 10d
March 1946	109 gallons	£16 0s 7d
April 1946	130 gallons	£11 7s 6d
May 1946	214 gallons	£14 1s 3d
June 1946	229.3 gallons	£14 16s 1d
July 1946	273 gallons	£19 12s 11d
May 1947	129 gallons	£9 0s 1d

In September 1946 there were some problems with the keeping quality of the milk after routine tests by Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, though it was not possible to give a reason for it.

### *Miscellaneous*

Incidental glimpses into life at Bearwalls include the arrival at Lydford station of a mattress from Manchester on 5 June 1945. Major Sheppard, the War Dept Land Agent, wrote on 29 June asking, 'Have you a sack of potatoes that would do for boiling for my hens? I shall be calling one day next week & if you can let me have them I will collect'. What must have been a very welcome letter and cheque arrived for Bert from his father-in-law in Bristol, Dick Henderson, in July: 'Herewith cheque to the value of £40 as promised. I thought at first of sending a Money Order but as you would have had to cash it at Lydford PO I thought perhaps you would prefer to pass it through your bank rather than let anyone know your business at the PO, as they are likely to talk. Don't forget to use it whenever you think fit and do not trouble about its return...'. On 11 September 1945 H. W. Trevan wrote to Bert Pengelly from 12 Holborn Place, St Judes, Plymouth: 'I am in rather a predicament. I cannot get any rabbits. I wondered, as I have done you good turns in the past, if you could do the same for me now, and get any rabbits for me? I will be up your way tomorrow, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.' The letter was sent Express Delivery at a cost

of 8½d in stamps. On 15 May 1945 Mrs Pengelly was written to by potential summer visitors called Pawly of 80 Craven Ave, Lipson, Plymouth: 'Could you put my wife & self up, in July from 10<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, Please state Terms, will you kindly let us know as soon as possible, for we have to put our Holiday Chart in now'.

Pengelly had access to help with farm work from prisoners of war - in January 1946 the Devon WAEC invoiced him for £1. 12s, representing 32 hours of work at 1s per hour, for 'prisoner of war labour' for the week ending 6 October 1945 (Fig.24).

DATE	DETAILS	ITEMS	AMOUNT DUE
Week ended 6.10.45	TO PRISONER OF WAR LABOUR: 32 hours @ 1/- per hour		£1 12s

This account is due for payment within seven days from date of invoice.  
Cheques should be made payable to "DEVON W.A.E.C." and crossed "Barclays Bank Ltd., Exeter." An official receipt should be obtained.

Fig. 24 – invoice for Prisoner of War labour 1946

In March 1946 he received a handwritten invoice from N. R. Pengelly, Lydford station for blacksmithing work on his plough:

Jan.7 <sup>th</sup> . Rethreading wheel clip for plough. 1. ¾ Stud	1s. 6d
sharpening coulter riveting on new steel shoe	
plate for plough	6s. 0d
Jan.24 <sup>th</sup> . Welding plough toe & 1 new bolt	<u>3s. 6d</u>
	11s 0d

In March 1946 Bert Pengelly attempted unsuccessfully to get a reduction in the tax payable on his motorcycle:

'I am writing to know if you could inform me if I could get a reduced rate for my Motor cycle with a box attached in the place of a sidecar for taking milk from my farm to the milk stand where the milk lorry picks it up, my farm is about a mile from the main road & I have only got to go about 100 yds on the highway with it after leaving my farm, it will be only used for that purpose...' The Local Taxation Office replied on 13 March 1946 to say 'If Cycle draws trailer of any kind, the additional duty is payable'.



However, he did manage in the same month to get an exemption for paying for a licence for his two dogs kept 'solely for use in tending sheep or cattle'.

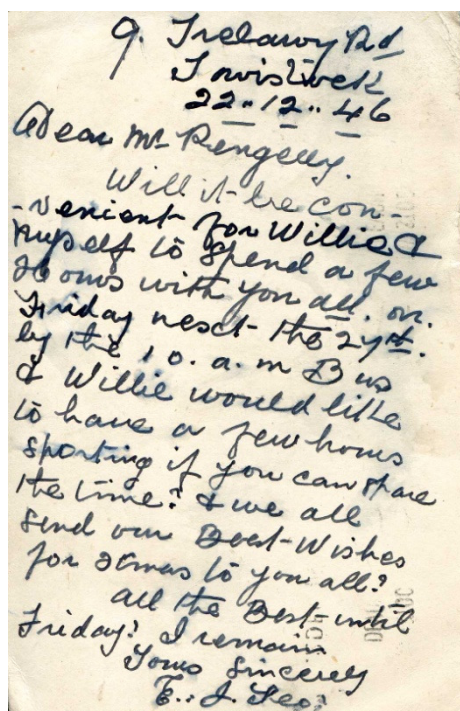


Fig. 25 – postcard from Ernest Yeo December 1946

On 22 December 1946 Ernest Yeo wrote to Bert Pengelly from 9 Trelawny Road, Tavistock: 'Will it be convenient for Willie and myself to spend a few Hours with you all on Friday next the 27<sup>th</sup> by the 10.a.m. Bus & Willie would like to have a few hours sporting if you can spare the time & we all send our Best Wishes for Xmas to you all' (Fig.25).

On 17 April 1947 C. R. Petherick of Lydford delivered 5 cwt of coal in 5 sacks.

When Pengelly first took over the farm, everything was horsedrawn, but eventually a tractor was purchased, which Eric Allen records as being 'very old' (inf. E. Allen).

A cheque stub dated 18 August 1947 records £30 paid for 'Crocker Tractor'. In June 1948 the hire purchase of Fordson Tractor Engine no. S.11833 (apparently manufactured April-May 1920) was being negotiated, and a Certificate of Insurance survives for the machine, issued for the period 6 June 1950 -7 June 1951.

#### 4.7.2. The War Department/Ministry of Defence 1949 ff

The War Department increased the annual rent from £45 to £56 5s. as from 25 March 1949 after acknowledgement that the boundaries of OS 1131 (the lower of the two 'Newtake' fields) had been 'neglected for several years during the military occupation of the land'. The field was deleted from the holding. The rent had previously been £50 but had been reduced 'for the past few years' to £45 owing to military use of OS 1131 (TG colln). Pengelly also had a grazing licence on the Doe Tor fields.

On 30 April 1949 the War Department acquired the freehold of the remainder of Bearwalls from Ernest Yeo (the four westernmost fields + the two small plantations at the entrance, plus 'Stubble Hill' and the unenclosed piece of ground between the



Newtakes and the cornditch wall corner at the east end of the holding) (Anon, 1999, Map 3). The area totalled some 36.6 acres. An official pencilled note on an OS map (Sheet 88.14) in possession of the author has '£730' written over these fields, which may well have been the purchase price. It is possible that some of the War Dept boundary stones were repositioned at this time.

Beatrice Pengelly, and her parents Lucy A. Henderson and Richard D. Henderson, were listed on the electoral register for Bearwalls in 1949 (DRO/ER). Her parents both lived there in old age and Richard (Dick) Henderson died at Bearwalls (inf. D. Friend).

A new rent of £2 per week was fixed from 25 March 1957 for 'house, buildings and 93 acres' (Comdt file 19.10.73 + Nov. 73).

Major J. P. A. Devitt, Hygiene Officer for the War Department, regularly visited the farm and his reports from 1958-1978 reveal much about the state of the property. On 24 February 1958 he noted 'Severe penetrating damp on rear wall of farmhouse. Barn roof requires urgent repair. Tenant farmer would like hard standing in farmyard. This was promised by WDLA some time ago.' The hardstanding for the yard was costed at £293.18s.10d in May 1958, together with replacing the slate roofs of both the Granary (£103.10s.10d) and the Barn (£209.14s.4d), due to recent gales. The Land Agent commented, 'The sum of £293 for the yard is more than I anticipated, in fact nearly 50% more. You may recollect that there is quite a considerable slope from the cow byre to the roadway and on my instructions the D.C.R.E. has allowed for stepping same so that in the winter time the cattle can gain access with safety...The tenant, Mr. Pengelly, is a hard working man and I feel that if we do not help him in this matter he will leave and I doubt very much whether we shall be able to obtain a tenant of his integrity in the future.' Authority for the work was approved in August, to be carried out by the Royal Engineers. In the event, the contractor Mr Burley was unable to start in early September 'due to the fact that the yard is thickly covered with cow dung', but by 26 September work was nearly completed (Comdt file).

In June 1961 the walls of the milking house, where there were eight 'standings' and also those of the Milk Room (former Root House), were to be cement rendered smooth to a minimum height of 4ft 6in., to comply with regulations of 1959. The rendering was being undertaken by Pengelly in mid – July. The Milk Officer inspected the water supply in August 1961: '...I visited the intake of the source [of water supply] just outside the fenced field and, of course, had a look at the filter also. I was a little surprised to find that the tank which receives the spring has in fact only three sides, the upper side being open to surface water, leaves, vegetable debris, etc, coming down beside the hedge as well as access by small animals and birds...' They suggested bricking the open side of the chamber and fixing a cover to exclude access, plus a small ditch to divert water coming down the bank side (Comdt file).

In the severe winter of 1962-3 all water supplies froze up except for the butterwell – all water, for beasts and humans, had to be carried in buckets from here (inf. D. Friend).

In the mid-1960s consideration was given to supplying mains electricity to Bearwalls but SWEB were concerned about a hazard from military aerals passing under overhead wires along the farm track, and the cost of undergrounding was considered uneconomic (Comdt file). Bert Pengelly told his grandson Derek Friend that Dartmoor National Park Authority objected to overhead wires. In the event, electricity was never supplied to the farm and, right to the final occupation in 1998, all lighting was by Tilley lamps with candles used upstairs (inf. D. Friend). Derek Friend did eventually install a black and white television powered by batteries charged from a shearing machine.

In September 1966 it was noted that 'All arable land is now down to grass, the tenant having informed me [the Land Agent] that corn crops have not been grown since the last War. Mr Pengelly takes the plough "round the farm" and every 5 to 6 years and in some cases possibly longer, direct re-seeds. The arable areas are therefore mainly temporary lays [sic] which are hayed some of which are on good flat land, others being rather inaccessible on sloping land...' (Comdt file)

From 1967-1971 annual inspections by J. Devitt, Hygiene Officer, listed numerous relatively minor repairs that needed attention. Pengelly wrote to the Land Agent on 2 October 1970: 'There[h]as not been any repairs done yet & it is got in a bad state the windows & doors are got very bad & there is some slates missing & one of the cattle sheds is in a very bad repair it is not safe to put cattle in it & I should like it done before the rough weather comes' (Comdt file).

By September 1971 the Ministry of Defence was considering the option of terminating the tenancy and demolishing the buildings and letting the land without buildings, as the rental did not cover the cost of repairs and maintenance (Comdt file), but fortunately this drastic solution did not take place.

The floor of the Granary was due to be replaced by Pengelly in April 1972 (Comdt file). A 'Coalhouse' was mentioned at this time – this was the southernmost former calthouse, underneath the Granary.

Devitt's inspection in July 1972 was much more positive than usual, reporting the following repairs completed:

- (1) Roof of farmhouse and outbuildings repaired. Slates re-newed.
- (2) Exterior decoration carried out.
- (3) Chimney stacks repaired.
- (4) Doors to barns and loose boxes repaired.
- (5) Window frames and sills repaired and puttywork made good.

These repairs cost a total of about £500 (Comdt file 19.10.73), and the rental was to be increased to £148.00 from 29 September 1974, but had to be temporarily reduced by £20 to comply with The Counter Inflation (Agricultural Rents no. 2) Order 1973 (Comdt file 8.1.74).

Derek Friend (b.1957), grandson of the Pengellys, left school at the age of 15 in 1972 and went to live and work at Bearwalls with his grandparents. He received board and lodging and £5 per week spending money. As a child he had frequently visited the farm, and the family would usually spend about 5 weeks of the summer there. No post or papers were delivered to the farm in his time there – items were left by the milk stand at Beardon. Nor was there any telephone (inf. D. Friend).

In the drought year of 1976, it was reported by Devitt on 26 August that 'No difficulty has yet been experienced with the water supply, and the farmer is able to graze his cattle in fields where the springs are still running.' Apparently Bert Pengelly managed to secure an additional supply via a ½-inch hose leading from the leat on White Hill (inf. D. Friend). A replacement 'wash boiler' which was said to be 'urgently required' in September 1975 had still not been replaced by July 1978 (!), when Pengelly agreed to invest in a Calor Gas boiler (Comdt file).

The inflationary influences of the 1970s and early 1980s were reflected in a proposal for rent to be increased to £930 per annum from 29 September 1981 (Comdt file), and in September 1984 Pengelly was advised that rental would be increased to £1500 per annum. In that year £5000 had been spent on repairs. Pengelly eventually agreed to a new rental of £1250 per annum from 29 September 1984.

Only three years later the rent was proposed to be increased to £2,100 per annum – a figure of £1800 was agreed in November 1987.

Five gates were supplied to Bearwalls in July 1991 at a total cost of £218.55 from B. & J.W. Hutchison of 1 Bowrish Cottages, Crease Lane, Tavistock (Comdt file).

In November 1994 the MoD obtained permission from Dartmoor National Park Authority for a new building (for agricultural purposes) to replace the timber and galvanised cowshed at the inner entrance to the farm. TT Buildings Ltd of Bideford were the contractors (with Terry Dirk overseeing). Work was virtually completed by

the end of February 1995 (see Fig. 46). The final invoice (including additional drainage works) totalled £20,138 inclusive of VAT.

Albert (Bert) Pengelly died in 1994 at the age of 86 and his tenancy was terminated on 23 June 1994 (Comdt file). Derek Friend, his grandson, now took over the farm and continued living there until the autumn of 1998, when the dwelling was finally abandoned (Fig. 26). His lease expired on 25 March 1999 (inf. D. Friend).



Fig. 26 – the farmyard in January 1999 (*Elisabeth Stanbrook*)

The Ministry of Defence maintains and uses the farm buildings for training purposes. A stable and lookout was built at the south-west end of the upper Newtake (OS 1130) in the early 1980s as part of the refurbishment of the Willsworthy small-arms range (Fig. 27).

Fig. 27 – MoD stable and lookout in Newtake (*TG*)



Fig. 28 – repairs in progress on roofs, 2006 (*Ann Yeo*)



Fig. 29 – view of repairs in progress seen from Silo Field, 2006 (*Ann Yeo*)

Repairs to the roofs of some of the farm buildings were made in 2006 (Figs 28 & 29).

The current tenants of the fields are Roger Cole of Higher Beardon and Colin Friend of Lower Beardon. A fenced drinking area for livestock has been made by Roger Cole over the stream on the north side of Lower Oat Field (Fig. 30).

Fig. 30 – drinking area over stream, Lower Oat Field (*TG*)





## 5. ARCHAEOLOGY & BUILDINGS

### 5.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Archaeological features on open moorland in the immediate vicinity of Bearwalls were recorded on a map by Simon Probert in 1998 (Fig. 31).

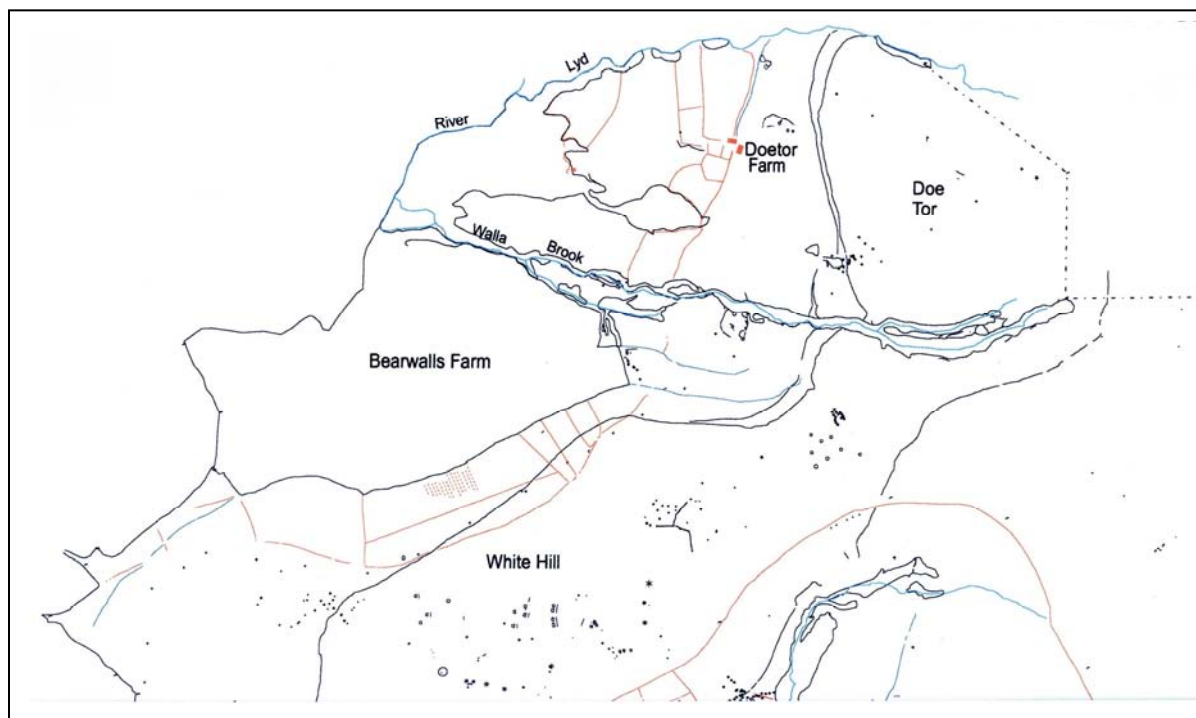
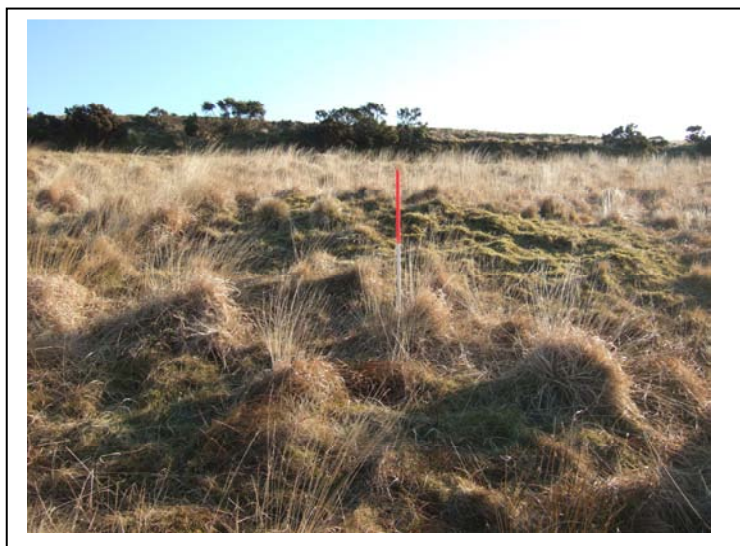


Fig. 31 – detail from map showing archaeological features (Probert, 1998, Fig. 20)

A selection of these and additional features are noted below:

**Prehistoric cairn** (Fig. 32) – a discrete stony and moss-covered cairn within former Plantation OS 1130, at SX 53091 84066. Approx. 5m diam. x 0.70m in ht. Probably an outlier of a prehistoric cairnfield.

Fig. 32 – prehistoric  
cairn within Newtake  
SX 53091 84066.  
Scale: 1m  
(TG)





**Prehistoric reave and hut circle** – within part of the unenclosed ground acquired by the MoD in 1949, and extending NEwards for about 300m from the NE corner of the 19<sup>th</sup> century plantation enclosure of Bearwalls (OS 1130), is the spread stony bank of a substantial prehistoric reave (territorial land boundary), probably dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC. Although identified as a possible reave by the present author in September 1981 (HER SX 58 SW 200/61796) it was wrongly identified by Probert and Fletcher as a ‘medieval or later field boundary’. The reave is up to about 4-5m wide and about 1m in height. At SX 53298421 are the remains of an intact prehistoric hut circle attached to the W side of the reave – this had previously been identified by the present author in 1981 as a ‘platform’ attached to the reave, and was correctly identified by Probert and Fletcher as a hut circle (NMR no. SX 58 SW 131/1156808), but wrongly identified by them as having been truncated by the boundary (reave). The hut circle is indistinct under heather and grass but has an internal diameter of about 4m and its walls remain as a stony bank up to about 0.5m in height. It might be expected that the line of the reave is fossilised in the Bearwalls enclosure bank and ditch forming the upper edge of the former plantation, but limited fieldwork suggests that its line actually extends south-westwards on to White Hill for about 150m before turning westwards downslope for about 100m until it meets the Bearwalls enclosures where it is no longer visible.

**Ridge and furrow** (NMR no. SX 58 SW 171/1159675) – indistinct traces of post-medieval cultivation ridges from an episode of ploughing can be seen within OS 1131, the lower of the two ‘Newtake’ fields. These were recorded by M. Fletcher of English Heritage in 1998/2001 but are now (2010) barely visible, partly due to growth of gorse and grass. The ridges are aligned up and down slope.

**Gatepost** - granite, pre-1800 – on SE side of farm lane entrance SX 52868436. Has two visible wedgecuts each approx. 0.10m wide x 0.05m deep (max), indicating a date pre-c.1800.

**Gatepost** - granite, pre-1800 – on NW side of gateway into OS 1140, SX 52888435. Has wedgecuts visible, each approx. 0.14m wide, indicating a date pre-c.1800.



**Stile** (Fig. 33) – 3 x worn granite slabs set into S side of hedge as steps between OS 1140 and Mowhay (OS 1139), SX 52938438. This was on the route taken by the postman Wat [rhymes with ‘hat’ =

Fig. 33 – step stile from Mowhay.  
Scale: 1m (TG)

Walter] Cooke from Bearwalls to Doetor before the Second World War (inf. S. Yeo).

**Horse engine (site of) in Mowhay** (see Fig. 42 for location) – slight circular depression in ground surface, with nettles, on SE side of threshing barn. Approx. 4.5m diameter. Probably 19<sup>th</sup> century. It had gone out of use by the arrival of the Yeos in 1914 (inf. S. Yeo).

**Possible building on W side of Stubley Hills Gert** – SX 53320 84513. Terraced rectangular feature on steep slope, 4m x 2.8m internally. If not a building, it might be a rock cut shaft head.

**Adit (blocked)** – a probable blocked adit lies at the foot of Stubley Hills Gert on the left bank of the Blackabrook at SX 5332 8453. Noted by Hemery (1983, 923). It has upcast spoil on its E side, and a strong flow of water is issuing from it. It predates the leat (below). Possibly 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**Leat** (Figs 34-35) – the course of an abandoned leat up to 1m wide can be traced from the site of its headweir on the left bank of the Blackabrook at SX 5334 8453. It cuts through the spoil from the adit (above) thus indicating that it post-dates the adit. It can then be followed distinctly into the former plantation (now scrub woodland) OS 1144 and can be traced right through the plantation until it emerges into OS 1146 at SX 53158459.

Fig. 34 – leat cutting through adit spoil, Stubley Hills Gert. Scale: 1m (TG)



Fig. 35 – leat from Blackabrook in Plantation (OS 1144). Scale: 1m (TG)

There are no signs of openings in the plantation boundaries for the leat to pass through, which may indicate that it predates the boundaries. Once in OS 1146 the leat becomes very indistinct but can be followed for several metres before fading out altogether. Its height would have been sufficient to pass through the gateway between OS 1146 and 1150 and it aligns with an apparent leat in OS 1149 which follows the contour for about 40m to a point on the SW boundary of the field, not far below the butterwell. Stanley Yeo recalls bumping over this feature as a child, riding a trolley made from an old wheeled sheep feeder. The leat may therefore be an early feature relating to the farm, perhaps of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date, but this is by no means proven.

**Leat** – an abandoned leat about 1m wide can be traced for about 100m in the upper portion of OS 1134, apparently tapping a spring and leading WNWwards along the contour, only about 10-20m below the hedge line. SX 52658433. Its further course is obscured by gorse.

**Tin streamworks** (Figs 36-37)– an extensive area of tin streamworks of likely medieval or 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century date extend along the left bank of the River Lyd within OS 1161 (Second Marsh) and OS 1134 (Great Marsh).



Fig. 36 – tin streamworks in Second Marsh (TG)



Fig. 37 – tin streamworks in Second Marsh (TG)

They are most prominent in OS 1161 (SX 524445) where they take up about the lower one-third of the field. Distinctive linear ridges of waste material are bounded on the south by a substantial scarp 3-5m in height running approx. E-W about 40m south of the river. This scarp defines the working edge of the tinworks. The area is now extensively wooded with thorn, hazel etc. and fieldwork conditions are difficult. In OS 1134 the streamworks are less obvious being largely covered with gorse, scrub and grass, but the scarp defining the area can be traced almost to the eastern boundary of the field where it is reduced to no more than about 1m in height.



Although only part of the extensive evidence of tinworking along the R. Lyd, this is a significant area, not least because it is within enclosed ground. In OS 1161, westwards from SX 52381 84437, which is the edge of the scarp, an indistinct *relict boundary* can be traced for about 50m as far as the field edge.

**Tin openwork and trial pits** (NMR SX 58 SW 119/1151141) – known as Stubble Hills Gert, the openwork is located on a steep piece of ground attached to Bearwalls and known as Stubble Hill (inf. S. Yeo). The openwork is about 8m wide and 3.5m deep and is orientated NNW/SSE. It is about 80m in length and has an adit (see above) and a possible building (see above) associated with it. Its upper end coincides with a corner of the cornditch forming the eastern boundary of Bearwalls. An abandoned and unusually broad leat leading to this point was probably serving the openwork (for sluicing waste), and was perhaps used as a reservoir. Southwards, the line of the openwork is continued by a line of trial pits, of which there are also some to the west.

**Packhorse route?** (Fig.38). – on the southern side of the northern hedge of Down Field is a strikingly substantial ditch-like feature which resembles a sunken lane, perhaps originally for pack animals. This leads to a gateway and access to the open moor and is likely to have been a heavily-used route, perhaps dating from the earliest period of the farm.



Fig. 38 – possible packhorse route or track to open moor in Down Field. Scale 1m (TG)

**Bank and pits in field OS 1146.** An indistinct bank and scarp (approx. 2m wide in total) running approx. E-W can be seen between SX 53098 84590 and SX 53071 84600. Possibly a former hedge line. Two shallow and modern rectangular pits (approx 2.5m x 1.5m x 0.20m deep) associated with military training (inf. R. Cole) can be seen on the S side of the bank, at each end, though unconnected with it. A third pit (2.5m x 2m x 0.20m) can be found upslope at SX 53076 84557.



**Cairn in OS 1160** (Fig. 39) – a discrete low cairn of small stones is situated in the lower part of the field. SX 52978467. Approx. 6m in diameter and 0.4m in height. Probably relatively modern.

Fig. 39 – cairn in Lower Oat Field.

Scale: 1m (TG)

**War Department Boundary Stones** (NMR SX 58 SW 138 – 141/ 1158253, 1158271, 1158272, 1158274) - five inscribed granite stones set up in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to mark the boundary of the War Dept ownership, border part of Bearwalls land. The stones are the following: *WD 10* and *WD 11* (Fig. 40) are set either side of a gateway at the head of a deep lane about 100m in length that forms part of the western boundary of Bearwalls, at SX 52388416.



Fig. 40 – War Dept boundary stones WD 10 and WD 11.

Scale: 1m (TG)

*WD 12* is at SX 52398429 where an E-W field boundary meets the western boundary of Bearwalls where the lane widens out. *WD 13* (Fig. 41) is at SX 52308444 on the left bank of the R. Lyd at the NW end of the Bearwalls enclosures. *WD 14* is at SX 52648447, on the left bank of the R. Lyd.



Fig. 41 – War Dept boundary stone WD 13 (TG)

## 5.2. BUILDINGS (Figs 42-43)

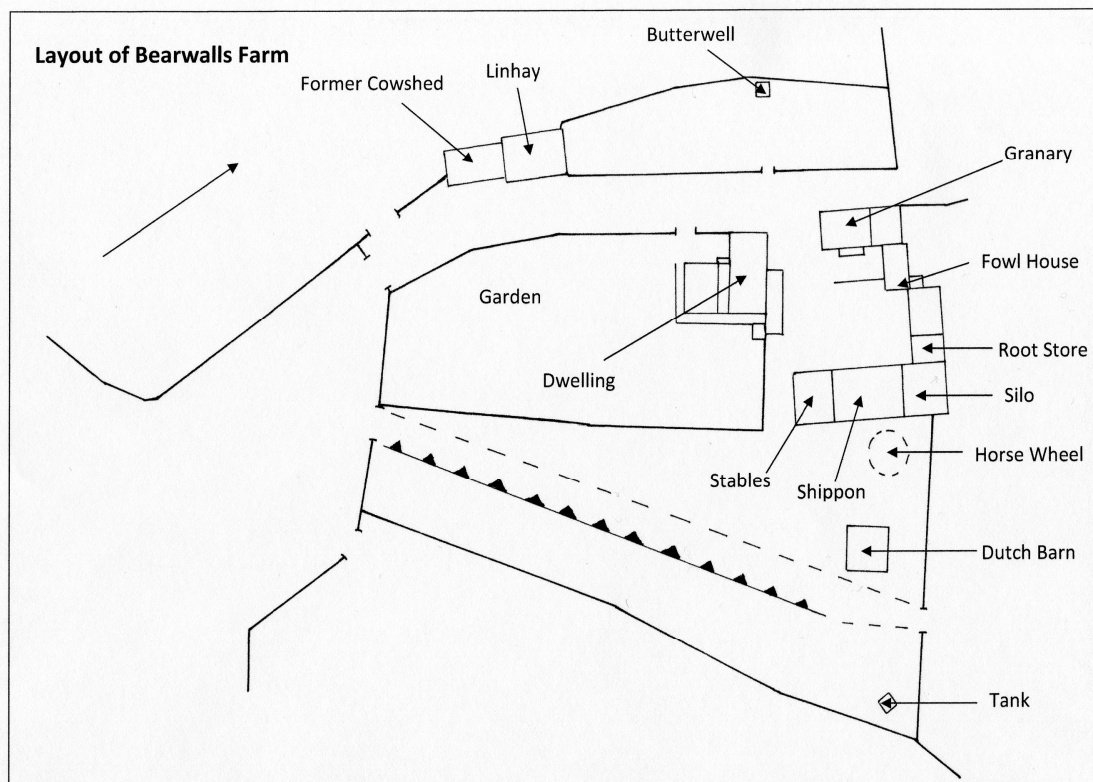


Fig. 42 – Layout of farm buildings etc, based on plan of November 1990 in Comdt file. Arrow top left indicates direction of north.

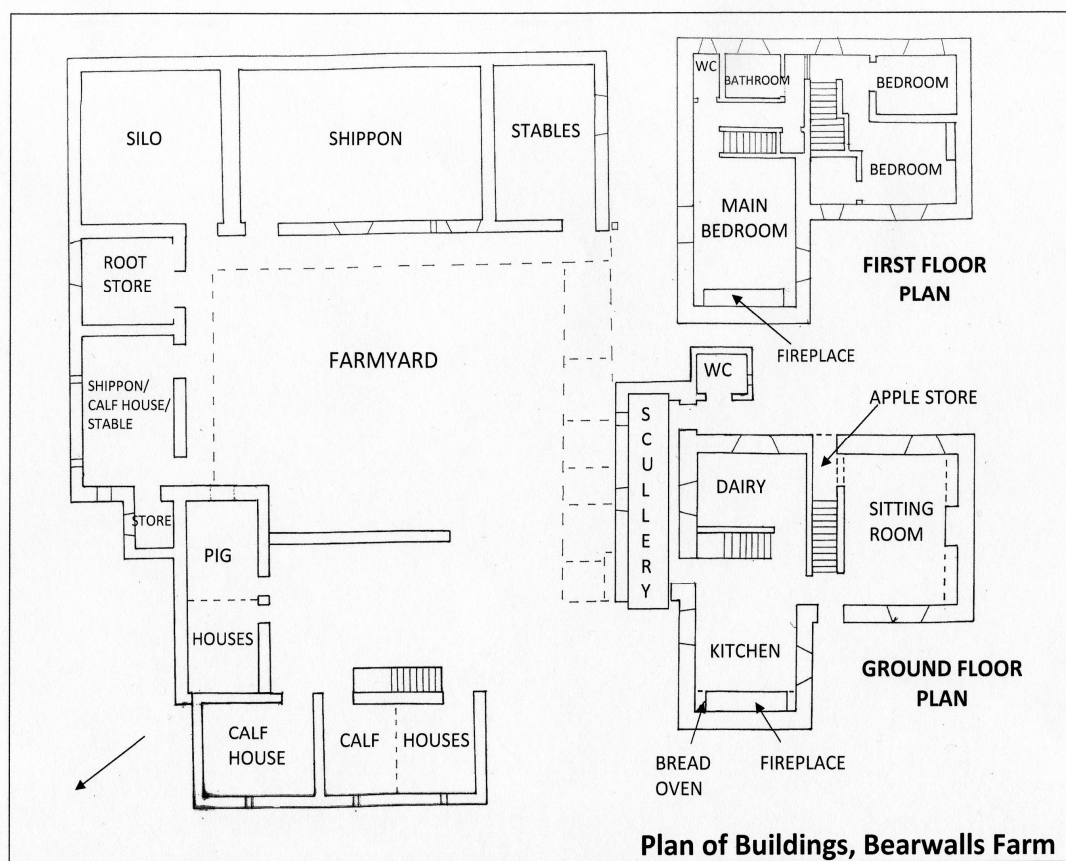


Fig. 43 – plan of buildings, based on plan of July 1964 in Comdt file. Arrow bottom left indicates direction of north.



**Shed/Linhay at S entrance to farm fields** (Figs 44-45) – SX 52428415. Approx. 5.67m x 4.16m internally. Six roughly squared granite posts with a recent timber frame built round them to support a pitched corrugated roof and timber sides on W and S.



Fig. 44 – shed at entrance used for hay storage, January 1999 (TG)



Fig. 45 – refurbished shed 2010. Scale: 1m (TG)

Open on E and N sides. All granite posts show evidence of narrow drill marks. Ht of posts 1.44m – 1.65m; each roughly 0.30m square. Spacing between posts on E and W sides is approx. 2.4m and on N and S sides approx 3.2m. Five of the posts have iron rods set in the top, extending about 0.07m. An iron single-furrow horse-drawn plough hangs from the rafters. To the E of the shed is a hazel copse with mature conifers at its E end. In the 1920s and 1930s the harvest machinery was stored in the shed in the winter: a grass cutter (pulled by 2 horses); a horse-drawn hay ‘tedder’/turner; and a horse-drawn rake (inf. S. Yeo). When Derek Friend was at Bearwalls the shed was clad in corrugated iron, and largely used for storing hay.

**Cowshed (site of)** on left of farm entrance lane where the new MoD shed (Fig. 46) now is. It was of stone and corrugated iron. Six cows were kept here before the Second World War (S. Yeo inf.), and cows and calves kept here in Derek Friend’s time (1972 ff).

Fig. 46 – new shed built in 1995 for MoD , in 2010 (TG)



**Linhay** (Figs. 47-48) – on W side of farmyard track, SX 52858439. Open-fronted onto track on E side, with two granite pillars. N, S & W walls of mortared random rubble – granite + metamorphic slabs. Good dressed granite quoins on corners. Pitched gables N and S. Slate roof on E, corrugated iron roof on W; clay ridge tiles.



Fig. 47 – linhay in January 1999 (TG)

Internally approx. 7m x 5m. Internal height of walls 2.13m (7ft). Thickness of N and S walls: 0.45m. Granite pillars both 0.3m square at base, tapering towards top and with 'feather and tare' drill marks. Each pillar about 2m in height. When the Yeo family were in residence, the following items were kept here, from S to N:

a) Corn Drill (2 horses pulled it) b) 2-Wheeled Waggon c) 2-Wheeled Farm Cart, and also a car – a Citroen bought from Glass's Motor Engineers of Okehampton by Stan's father before Stan's time – a wood division separated the garage from the rest of the linhay. The garage was used as a potato store during WW2 and the car was then pulled by a horse and dumped into the 'ravine' between OS 1153 and 1152. When Derek Friend lived here (1972-1998) there were double doors on the northern compartment. A car was kept in the middle, with two tractors housed either side.



Fig. 48 – linhay in 2010 (TG)

**Butterwell** (Figs 49-51) – in an enclosure (possibly once laid out as a garden – inf. D. Friend) across approach lane, on the W side of the dwellinghouse. Partly sunk into the ground. Stone-built (dressed granite and local metamorphic stone) structure with massive granite roof slabs (2 x pieces from same source). Total dimensions of





Fig. 49 – the Butterwell. Scale: 1m (TG)

1.04m. A slate shelf (single slab each 0.32m wide x 0.03m thick) is set against both the W wall and the E wall, 0.75m below roof. Cement-rendering covers the walls from roof down to the shelves, and is continued into the doorway, abutting the inner side of the former door jambs. In centre of each wall, 0.53m above each shelf, is a ventilation opening approx. 0.20 x 0.06m. Before the Second World War there was a blue slate slab set 4-6 inches below water level on which pails of milk could be stood. The other two slate shelves were above water level (inf. S. Yeo). Eric Allen recalls the 'night milk' being taken down there in buckets to be kept cool.



Fig. 50 - east elevation of Butterwell. Scale: 1m



Fig. 51 – entrance and slate shelf of Butterwell .  
Scale: 30cm (TG)

roof (which extends beyond the walls of the structure and which slopes from N to S) 2.35m W-E x 1.86m N-S x 0.16m max thickness.

Entrance on N side 0.92m wide where walls are 0.31m thick. Position of door jambs visible 0.10m wide.

Internally 1.21m N-S x 1.56m W-E. Maximum visible height from floor to underside of roof is

*Fowl House* (site of) – this wooden structure was N of the Butterwell, within the enclosure, and could accommodate about 50 fowls which were the responsibility of Mrs Martha Yeo, who went to market on Fridays (inf. S. Yeo).

**Granary** (Figs 52-55) – forms first floor level of W and NW side of farmyard complex. Granary built pre-1883, originally freestanding (see Fig.9), but Fowlhouse attached by 1904 to create L-shaped space.



Fig. 52 – the Granary etc from the farmyard (*Elisabeth Stanbrook*)

Stanley Yeo recalls that one hundredweight sacks of corn were carried up to it. The space was divided into wooden bins in which was stored barley or oats, not wheat. The south end of the granary was used as a workshop – the workbench (+ vice) is still in situ, just as in pre-War days (inf. S. Yeo). In Derek Friend's time wool was kept here, plus 'odds and ends'. Knives were sharpened here (inf. D. Friend).



Fig. 53 – the steps to the Granary  
(*Elisabeth Stanbrook*)



A flight of 9 x granite steps (width 0.95m, ht 1.87m), originally without a rail, lead up to a doorway (1.16m wide) in centre of E side. Softwood roof timbers (4 x A-frames). Corrugated asbestos roof. 1 x splayed window in centre of S gable (0.97m max. splay, 0.74m min. splay, height 1.10m; softwood lintels, broken sill, intact glazing). 1 x splayed window in W wall (max. splay 0.97m, min. splay 0.74m, height 1.07m; sloping timber lintel, slate sill). Internal length 9.30m, width 3.22m. Height to wall top 1.80m. Evidence of former vertical partition 4.3m S of N wall, on S side of W window and 0.70m N of E door, with subsidiary vertical partitions visible on W wall at 1.31m and 2.78m from N wall. Evidence of vertical partition on N wall 1.27m E of W wall. Cement render/plaster on W and N walls between all partitions to height of 1.02m. *Workbench* under window consisting of 7 x timbers 0.10m/4in square, supported on 4 x legs. Width 0.74m x length 2.80m. Height of working surface above floor level 0.81m. Vice attached to N side – grooved timbers with iron plate between, with iron handle etc on the outside edge near the top, + an additional wooden wedge. Large square nut and bolt set in top of workbench. Iron bracket on side. *Artefacts* include an iron cogged wheel 0.25m in diameter with < MHF> 626081M4 and Δ 1 cast into it; an old wooden - handled saw; a spanner; and a broken iron plate with a curved edge.



Fig. 54 – workbench in Granary. Scale: 1m (TG)

**Fowl House** (Fig. 55) – at first floor level, at right angles to the Granary to which it was attached between 1883 and 1904. Slate roof. Length 4.70m, width 2.35m. Wall height 2.03m. Up to about 100 fowls were accommodated at the E end (inf. S. Yeo). From the Granary there is a step up of 0.22m into the Fowl House through an opening 1.45m wide (the original roofline of the Granary can be seen both sides of this opening). Doorway on S side 0.93m wide could be reached only by ladder – its granite threshold stone is shallowly scooped. Doorway 0.91m wide, with softwood lintel, on E side in centre of gable – it can be reached from the farmyard by means of a large square granite block (0.77m x 0.71m x 0.30m in height) used as a step. At E end, 1.22m above floor level, there are 2 x small splayed slit windows (one in N wall, one in S wall), externally 0.09m wide, internally 0.25m wide x 0.33m height. Each window has a timber frame 0.46m x 0.38m on its inside edge originally with a sliding wooden shutter (one of these survives loose, measuring 0.22 x 0.32m).



Fig. 55 – entrance to Fowl House from farmyard.  
Scale: 1m (TG)

**3 x Calf Houses** (Figs 56-58) – situated under Granary. Built pre-1883. The outside SE corner of this building has 7 x courses of chamfered quoin stones to the height of the top of the doorway into the southern Calf House. Chamfer is about 0.12m in width. The 5<sup>th</sup> quoin stone from the base has 3 x neat circular holes (each about 0.025m diam.) drilled into its S face, one above the other on a slight curve. *Southernmost*: E doorway (1.11m wide) at base of steps up to Granary. Internally 3.19m x 2.70m (to wooden partition separating it from middle house). Good cobbled floor. Splayed window in W wall externally 0.10m wide, internally 0.43m wide x 0.60m ht. Stone lintels. Wooden partition wall rests on 4 x large contiguous granite blocks which extend 0.18m above floor surface. Blocks are 1.24m, 0.57m, 0.62m and 0.75m in length. Iron bracket/spike in E wall. This house was used as a coal and log store in





Fig. 56 – partition between S and Middle Calf House. Scale: 1m (TG)



Fig. 57 – manger in Middle Calf House. Scale: 1m (TG)

Derek Friend's time (inf. D. Friend). *Middle*: Doorway 0.97m wide, on N side of Granary steps. Internally 3.22m x 2.77m. Good cobbled floor. Damaged slit window on W side (0.14m wide externally, 0.45m wide internally x 0.66m ht) with stone lintel. Manger and hay rack against wood plank partition on S side. N wall of stone. *Northernmost*: Doorway 0.96m wide in E wall. Internally 3.55m x 3.23m. Good cobbled floor. Slit window in W wall (ext. 0.13m wide, int. 0.30m x 0.65m ht). S wall is straight-jointed onto W wall. Timber post in NW corner. Mrs Beatrice Pengelly had responsibility for the calves after 1945 (inf. D. Friend).



Fig. 58 – slit window of Calf House (exterior) (TG)

**Pigs' Houses** (Figs 59 - 60) – underneath Fowl House. Built between 1883 and 1904. 2 x doorways (0.88m wide) on S side separated by squared granite pillar. Several bricks in door jambs. Total internal length 4.89m x 2.49m width.



Fig.59 – slate division in Pig House. Scale: 1m (TG)

Partition of 4 x contiguous thin slates running N-S across house from granite pillar divides it into two. Slates originally 1.10m in height (2 survive intact; others broken off). Slates slotted between two iron brackets at base of N wall; on S side are shaped against granite pillar. Recesses in N wall (0.12m x 0.12m) and in pillar (0.08m x 0.065m) indicate the position of a timber beam on W side of slate partition about 0.13m below top of slates. No window. The outside (NE) corner of the previously freestanding Granary, with good quality quoin stones, is visible in the W wall which has been extended 0.39m Nwards. Before 1945 there was a trough just inside the door. The pigs were given a mix of separated milk and barley. There were four pigs in each house – they were eventually taken to Tavistock by horse and cart (two at a time with a pig net over them), to the manager of the Co-op in Market Street (inf. S. Yeo). Sheep dogs (up to four) were kept here after the War (inf. D. Friend).



Fig. 60 – W wall of Pig House showing orig. NE corner of Granary. Scale: 1m (TG)





Fig. 61 – floor of shippon. Scale: 1m (TG)



Fig. 62 – stone for tethering post.  
Scale: 30cm (TG)

**Shippon** (Figs 61-62) – on N side of farmyard. Built between 1883 and 1904. Originally a shippon for cattle and calves it was modified to include a stable for a horse. Stanley Yeo recalled that the westernmost door led into a calf house for calves when first weaned (10 -14 days old). It used to have slate divisions. On the E side of it was a loose box for one horse (inf. S. Yeo).

E wall is of blockwork. Corrugated iron roof. Internally now 5.16m x 3.05m but formerly subdivided (vertical mortar stripe on S wall 1.15m E of W door, + recesses for beam in N and S wall – latter has sawn trunk of conifer still within it). Two door openings on S side. Two small windows on N side each approx 0.20m x 0.36m + one window in W wall which has a remnant of a slate sill and which has an opening 0.66m wide x 0.76m in height. Wall height approx. 2.5m. Good cobbled floor of vertically set thin stones with granite edging. N side of former E compartment shows evidence of a feeding area approx. 0.46m wide between N wall and edging stones, extending 3m from E wall, and including 2 x stones ('saltree' or 'stiller' stones) set in the floor with rectangular slots for fixing vertical posts, to which cattle would have been tethered with iron rings and chains. The slots are approx 0.09m x 0.04m x 0.03m depth. On S side of former E compartment seven granite edging stones survive, forming a gap of about 0.69m between them and the S wall.

**Store** – on W side of Calf House. Built between 1883 and 1904. Lean-to slate roof. Slate threshold fills width (approx. 0.46m) of wall in doorway. Internally 1.3m square. Splayed window 0.61m in height in N wall, with slate sill. Door 'lintel' formed by 3 timbers – Emost timber is chamfered and has two shallow rebates on its underside. Remnants of cement render on N and E walls and on sides of doorway. It was used for storing hay and oats before the War (inf. S. Yeo).

**Root House** (Fig. 63) – on E side of N range of farmyard. Built between 1883 and 1904. Corrugated iron roof. Mostly new roof timbers apart from one older A-frame.

Block wall on W side. Cement render on all walls to height of 1.47m. Internally 3.03m x 3.01m. Width of doorway 1.20m.



Fig. 63 – ramp to N side of Root House. Scale: 1m (TG)

Loading window/chute (1.37m wide) on N side opens onto field (OS 1148) – where there is a ramp leading to it, for tipping (from a cart) swedes, mangolds, turnips and flatpolls (inf. S. Yeo). Ramp is 4.94m in length and 0.60m in height, stone faced on W side. Miscellaneous ironwork/nails in E, N and S walls. Softwood door lintel. This became the Milk House and Dairy after 1945. Churns etc were kept here, and it was cement rendered c. 1961. Cattle cake and sugar beet was kept in here. It was also used as the shearing house (inf. D. Friend).

**Silo** – Built before 1883. On NE side of farmyard, forming most northerly building of E range. One doorway into yard, 1.20m in width. One window at high level in middle of N gable. Doorway high up at S end of E wall gives access from mowhay – the door opening is 1.06m wide – green grass was tipped through here. Slate roof. All walls cement-rendered, except apex of S gable. Internally is an undivided space to a height of two storeys, internally 5.15m x 4.65m. Floor level is 0.45m below level of farmyard. Large granite threshold stone 0.62m wide x 1.37m long x 0.13m thick. In floor in centre of N wall is a drain hole 0.14m x 0.14m. Another drain hole in NW corner approx. 0.42m x 0.25m. Eric Allen recalls cutting out silage with a hayknife in the late 1940s. Derek Friend says that there was a gap in silage production but that it

was renewed after 1972. A full silo could feed about twenty cattle all winter (inf. D. Friend).

**Bullock House/Shippon** (Figs.64-67) – built before 1883 but refitted after 1945. Internally 8.66m x 4.60m. Before 1945 it had capacity for about twelve bullocks chained to posts (inf. S. Yeo). Now consists of four brick and concrete bays, each 1.85m x 0.60m, and each with two troughs, set back 0.86m from E wall.



Fig. 64 – the Bullock House 11 Aug 2009  
(*Elisabeth Stanbrook*)

A brick wall 0.84m in height forms the back of each bay, and another, 0.28m in height, forms a step at the front. The concrete troughs have rounded corners – their dimensions are 0.82m x 0.47m x approx. 0.15m deep.

Fig. 65 – troughs in Bullock House.  
Scale: 1m (TG)







Fig.66 – post and chains in Bullock House. Scale: 30cm (TG)

At the front of each bay iron brackets are attached to vertical timber posts on each side of the bay. Each bracket is about 0.70m in length. An iron ring is attached to each bracket and a chain is attached to each ring – these fittings were for tethering cattle. Extending westwards from the vertical timber posts are tubular metal rails defining each bay. These are set into a concrete platform which extends 1.69m from the bays and which is raised 0.14m above a channel 0.53m wide which extends the full N-S length of the building. The channel leads to a gutter against the foot of the N wall.

Between the channel and the W wall is a raised and grooved concrete standing 0.85m wide which slopes towards the channel at which point it is only 0.035m in thickness. The shallow grooves define sections of the concrete resembling timber planks each about 0.15m wide. N, S and W walls are cement-rendered to a height of 1.42m. The E wall is of blockwork. Five massive steel girders support the floor above, but three original (?) wooden beams survive. There are two splayed windows in the W wall. Each window has a max. ht of 1.00m and a max. splay of 1.33m and a minimum splay of 1.02m. The N side of each splay is of brickwork. One vertical slit window survives in W wall, only 0.44m N of the southernmost splayed window. The slit is approx. 0.23m wide and has a height of approx. 0.59m. The thickness of the W wall here is 0.59m. Old pipework extends along the top of the cement rendering on the S wall. A tap in the S wall is attached to a plastic (? alkathene) pipe.



Fig. 67 – slit window of Bullock House. Scale: 30cm (TG)



**Stable** (Figs. 68-69) – at S end of E range of farmyard buildings. Built before 1883. Internally 4.9m x 3.82m. Window with single slate sill in S wall.



Fig. 68 – hayracks in Stable (TG)

Wooden hayrack along full extent of N wall. Space is divided by timber partitions into three bays, each about 1.6m wide. Cobbled floor, partly covered by concrete, sloping from N wall to four long pieces of granite laid end to end across the E-W space, each



Fig. 69 – granite gutter in Stable.  
Scale: 30cm (TG)

stone with a shallow gutter cut in its centre. The piece of granite nearest the door measures 0.43m x 1.10m and the central groove is 0.13m wide. Cobbles also extend from the granite gutter to the S wall. Width of door opening is 1.25m. The window has a max. splay of 1.22m and a min. of 1.05m. Granite threshold stone in doorway is approx. 1.25m in length x 0.52m wide. The continuation of the gutter is cut into its N end and leads out into the farmyard. At a height of 1.5m above the floor the S wall has a recess between the window and the door. The recess measures 0.35m wide x 0.24m horizontal depth x 0.28m in height. Below the window is a shallow recess 0.35m x

0.79m in height x 0.11m, set above a semicircular plinth raised above the cobbles. There is pipework and a tap below the window. Pipework runs round the E wall and part of the S wall.

Before 1945 two carthorses were kept in the two easternmost partitions (Madam in the centre; Prince on the east). Troughs were for oats. Horse tackle was kept in racks on the west side (inf. S. Yeo). After the Pengellys had given up horses, about six cows and calves were housed in the stable for the winter (inf. D. Friend).

**Threshing Barn** (Figs 70-71) – over Bullock House and Stable. Built before 1883. Internally 12.95m x 5m. Corrugated asbestos roof supported on 6 x softwood A-frames. Wooden floor. Two door openings (each 1.20m wide) in E wall (one at S end, one in middle), both with granite threshold stones.



Fig. 70 – Threshing Barn over Bullock House from farmyard (TG)

One door opening (1.24m in width) in centre of W wall, opposing door in E wall – both these central doors have hinged upper halves. There is a small window on the E side of the N gable. On the N side of the doors all three walls have plastered/cement-rendered walls to a height of 1.54m. Immediately above the plaster on the E wall is a small area of cement-rendering approx. 0.18m x 0.09m with an inscription on three lines: A.E.L./R.L. OCT/1942. On the N side of the central E door is a recess in the wall measuring 0.20m x 0.15m ht x 0.32m horizontal depth. In the floor on the S side of the central E door is a trap door 0.64m x 0.79m with two metal hinges – this was used for dropping hay down to the cattle below (inf. E.

Allen). Three planks at the S end could be lifted for dropping feed down into the stable below (inf. D. Friend). An iron bracket and ring is fixed into the N wall. The threshold stone of the central E door is 0.66m x 1.08m and that of the S door is 0.60m x 1.18m x max. thickness of 0.14m. All doors have stone exterior lintels, softwood ones inside.



Fig. 71 – Threshing Barn from Mowhay (TG)

Before 1945 there was a 'Magneto' petrol engine at the S end. The N end was a store for straw etc. There was a water tank for cooling the engine. A belt from the engine passed through a partition and drove a machine for grinding oats, a chaffcutter, a turnip pulper, a circular saw bench for sawing logs in summer, and would also cut sheaves of corn. Sam Stratford (an MoD employee from Willsworthy Camp) put in a new floor above the Bullock House when Stanley Yeo was aged about 12 [i.e. c.1934/5]. Army personnel (including grooms for horses) slept here when they were flooded out at Willsworthy Camp during the Second World War – horses (up to about 20) were brought to the farm from Willsworthy on the same occasion. Stanley slept here with his brother, and recalls the grooms shaving cocoa into cups, from blocks of cocoa about 1 ft square and 1in thick. This barn had previously held an indoor threshing machine worked by the horse wheel (in the Mowhay to the east) – but this was before his parents' day (i.e. pre-1914) (inf. S. Yeo).

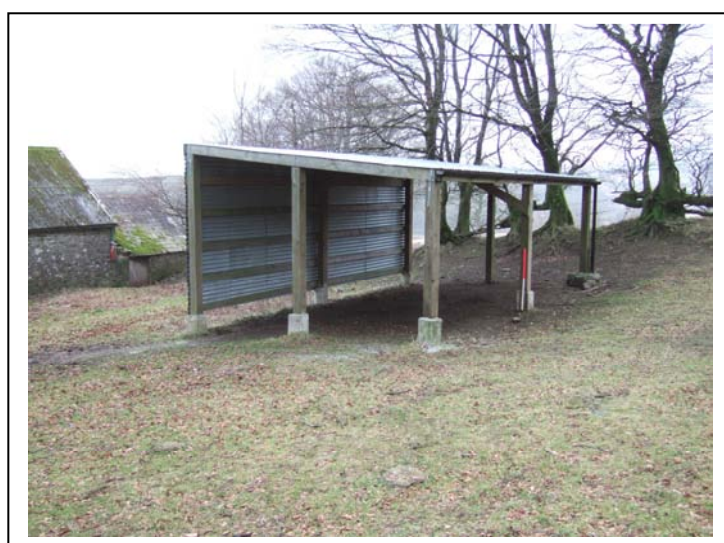


**‘Dutch’ Barn in Mowhay** (Figs 72-73) – modern structure built by MoD, replacing earlier structures. A very large hay shed ‘with five great openings’ stood here, built by May’s of Lydford when the Yeos farmed Bearwalls . There were also free-standing ricks in the Mowhay, including a Fern Rick, but there was no Furze Rick (inf. S. Yeo).



Fig. 72 – shed in Mowhay  
January 1999 (*Elisabeth Stanbrook*)

Fig. 73 – Dutch Barn in  
Mowhay 2010 (*TG*)



Mounce of Lifton brought a traction engine for threshing the corn – the engine stood against the beech trees. The Yeos would order steam coal for the engine – it was the only coal bought by the Yeo family (inf. S. Yeo). A flimsier structure was extant in 1999.

8 x squared timber uprights (7 of them set in concrete) supporting sloping (from W to E) corrugated iron roof which on E side is 2.33m above ground level. Corrugated iron also forms W side; otherwise is open on E, S and N.

**Filter and holding tank in NE corner of Mowhay** (Fig. 74) – built of brick with cement rendering inside and out. Externally 1.37m x 1.44m. In the centre of the ‘tank’ is a timber box 0.64m x 0.64m of horizontal planks and 4 x uprights in each corner, surrounded by gravel. On the S side an additional rendered brick feature is attached - externally 0.88m x 0.45m (internally 0.66m x 0.34m). An inlet pipe runs over this. Outflow pipe on W (downslope) side. Severed pipe on E (upslope) side.



Fig. 74 – tank in Mowhay. Scale: 1m (TG)

**5.2.1. THE FARMHOUSE** (Figs 75-77)– the original house is a single rectangular structure aligned downslope, with a massive chimney stack at the west (lower) end, suggesting perhaps a 17<sup>th</sup> century date. Shown on tithe map of 1840. Present layout of house built by 1883.



Fig. 75 – farmhouse from E side (TG)





Fig. 76 – farmhouse from NE (TG)



Fig. 77 – rear door of farmhouse + WC. Scale: 1m (TG)



**Kitchen** – internally 4.41m (W-E) x 3.76m (N-S). Concrete floor. A massive fireplace (blocked by Pengelly) with granite lintel, extending across most of the W wall now has a cream-coloured Rayburn (no. 217 A [? 4 ] in front of it. N doorway (1.04m wide) leads to Scullery – fittings for a wooden towel rail are on the back of the door. S doorway (1.10m wide) was the original front door of the dwelling. Thickness of S wall is 0.61m and of N wall 0.57m. On the E side are the original [?] stairs and another doorway which leads to the Dairy. Splayed S window (1.50m max. splay, 1.04m minimum splay, 0.85m ht) near fireplace was only window until after 1945. Below the window is a recessed seat set into the panelling (recess is 1.26m max width, 1.04m min width and 0.27m horizontal depth). N window (post-1945) has max. width of 1.30m, min. width 1.21m and a height of 0.88m. Red-painted wooden panelling extends round S, W and N sides of the room (except against Rayburn) to a height of 1.07m. There are cupboards (painted dark red and yellow and with brass doorknobs) either side of the original fireplace – on the S side the cupboard (0.53m wide x 0.71m deep) reaches from floor to ceiling, with one shelf in the upper half; on the N side the cupboard (0.55m wide x 0.68m horizontal depth x 0.77m high) is above the panelling. It contains 1 x small triangular shelf at base of cupboard at back. On its S side a domed feature is part of a bread oven or cloam oven within the original fireplace (Fig. 78).

From cupboard to cupboard the fireplace width is 2.71m – the Rayburn is set in front of a blocked recess measuring 1.78m in width – this probably gives the original internal width of the fireplace. In the floor around the Rayburn are marks indicating the probable position of an earlier range, within a max. area of 1.32m x 0.69m. There is no ceiling, but exposed joists, three of which against the N wall have been partly cut away to accommodate a dresser (inf. S.Yeo) which stood where the N window now is. On the S side of the room, extending 3.02m x 1.14m, wooden boards have been attached to the



Fig. 78 – cloam/bread oven visible in cupboard.  
Scale: 30cm (TG)

underside of the joists. Salt was stored on these boards in the time of the Yeo family inf. S.Yeo) Under the stairs is a hot water tank.



Fig. 79 – cupboard in sitting room.  
Scale: 1m (TG)



Fig. 80 – ceiling plate for lamp (TG)

**Sitting Room** – on the ground floor of the southern extension to house. Used for important family gatherings such as Christmas and funerals (inf. D. Friend). 5.03m (W-E) x 4.10m (N-S). Doorway (0.94m wide) to hall at W end of N wall. Doorway (0.95m wide) to Apple Store (under main stairs) at E end of N wall. Woodwork painted dark green, with trefoil openings cut in cupboard doors (Fig.79) and apple store door. Fireplace in centre of S wall with 2 x large cupboards each side, extending from floor to ceiling (E cupboard 1.41m wide; W cupboard 1.48m wide). 1 x window in W wall (max. width 1.48m, min. width 1.36m, sill horizontal depth 0.30m, ht 1.60m) with modern telephone socket on left side; 1 x window in E wall (max. width 1.54m, min. width 1.18m, ht 1.66m, sill depth 0.31m). Mantelpiece 1.57m x 0.20m over fireplace. Domed iron fireback with kettle stands each side (one survives intact). Centre of ceiling has circular metal plate (0.14m diam.) with hook for hanging lamp (Fig.80)

**Dairy/Larder** – on E side of Kitchen (door has inset frame for glass window). Internally 3.84m x 2.62m. Modern ceiling. 1 x window on E side (max. width 1.55m, min. width 1.31m, ht 0.99m, horizontal depth of sill (single slate) 0.33m; 1 x window (with wooden shutters in top half) on N side (to Scullery) with wooden sill (max width 1.17m, min width 1.05m, ht 0.84m, horizontal depth of sill 0.44m). Slate shelves (Fig.81) on N and E sides supported on 6 x stone supports each 0.64m in height and 0.16 – 0.20m wide + iron brackets. Two of the slates still intact and in situ (1.31m x 0.47m and 0.84m x 0.41m). Small wooden shelf supported on 3 x wooden



Fig. 81 – slate shelves etc in Dairy (TG)

brackets on N wall. Recess (max. width 1.22m, ht 1.16m, horizontal depth 0.27m) in S wall, has shelf above wooden 'sill'. Tap and pipework on E side. Drain hole 0.26m x 0.18m under slate shelf by SE corner. Pipework in NE corner.

**Scullery** – on N side of dwelling, against farmyard. In existence by 1883 but not shown on tithe map of 1840. Internally 7.14m x 1.71m. 1 x window in centre of N wall (max. width 1.07m, min. width 0.86m, ht c. 1.0m, horizontal depth 0.23m). 1 x window on S side with 8 x 'lights' (to Dairy). A single piece of iron horse equipment hangs above the S window. 1 x small window (with 9 x 'lights') at E end of N wall (max. width 0.53m, min. width 0.50m, ht c. 0.57m, horizontal depth of slate sill 0.25m). Doorway on W side to farmyard with threshold stone which has a shallow channel about 0.10m wide, cut into its N end. Formerly an iron footscraper used to be outside the door into the farmyard. Step up to S doorway (1.10m wide and with corrugated iron 'porch' outside) in S wall leads to outside WC and the back (E side) of the dwelling. Fittings for roller towel on back of door. Shelf above door within door recess. Doorway to Kitchen. Area of glazed white tiles 0.99m x 0.33m on S wall between door to Kitchen and S window. Vertical pipework and tap between tiles and window, continued above door. Pipework in NE corner and under small window in N wall. Pipework from hot water tank under stairs passed through S wall by door to Kitchen leading to feature (0.40m square) in floor. Washing 'copper' was sited at top end (inf. D. Friend).



**Apple Store** – under main stairs. Doorway to Sitting Room. Window on E side to outside. Not accessible.

**Outside WC** (see Fig. 77) – attached to E end of Scullery but only accessible from outside, with doorway facing house on W side. Internally 1.30m x 1.20m. Roof slopes to east. 1 x window on S side (0.55m wide x 0.67m in ht).

**Staircases** – original staircase inaccessible, but panelled. Main staircase (from front door) has 13 x stair treads. Linoleum on landing. Landing window in E wall (max. width 0.95m, min. width 0.73m, ht 1.22m, horizontal depth of sill 0.24m). Hatch to roofspace from landing. Banisters round top of original stairs on E and S side (Fig.82) Two steps down into original house from landing. *Cupboard over original stairs*: 1.03m x 0.69m, with 3 x shelves (2 slatted, one missing).

Fig. 82 – banisters round top of original stairs (*Elisabeth Stanbrook*)



**Bedroom on SE side** – internally 3m x 2m. 1 x window (max. width 1.20m, min. width 1.05m, ht 1.54m, horizontal depth 0.27m) in E wall. 4 x hooks on N wall (one missing).

**Bedroom on W side with Side Room** – bedroom internally 4.60m x 2.89m. Window in W wall (max. width 1.50m, min. width 1.19m, ht 1.51m, horizontal depth of sill 0.25m). Chimney breast in S wall 1.41m x 0.37m with small fireplace (Fig.83). *Side Room* - over stairs, accessed from bedroom. Internally 1.44m x 1.13m. Window in W wall (max. width 0.88m, min. width 0.73m, ht 0.44m, horizontal depth of sill 0.25m) with roller for blind in situ. 10 x hooks (Fig. 84) on wall (6 intact, 2 broken, 2 missing).



Fig. 83 – fireplace in W Bedroom .  
Scale: 1m (TG)

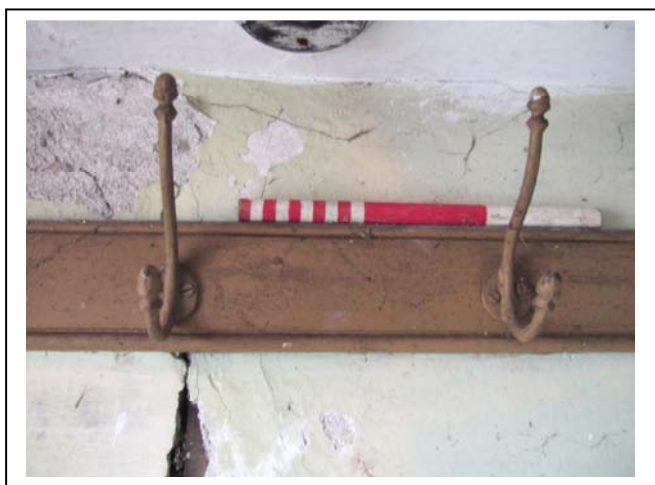


Fig. 84 – hooks in side room off W bedroom. Scale: 30cm (TG)

**Master Bedroom** – above Kitchen, in original dwelling. Internally max. 5.22m x 3.91m. Massive chimney breast in W wall 2.83m wide, with 2 x recesses each about 0.50m wide, either side. Part of the timbers of 2 x original A-frames of roof are visible. Window in N wall (post 1945) is 1.19m wide x 0.89m ht and with a horizontal depth of sill 0.41m. The E end is formed by original (?) overlapped wooden panelling (Fig.85) (made from planks about 0.15m wide) against original stairway. 5 x hooks are fixed to the panelling (3 intact, 2 missing). S window (max. width 1.05m, min. width 0.88m, ht 0.97m, horizontal depth of sill 0.48m). Contained two double beds (inf. D. Friend).

Fig. 85 – wooden panelling in main bedroom against stairs  
(Elisabeth Stanbrook)



**Upstairs WC** – created from 4<sup>th</sup> Bedroom, in NE corner. Internally 0.92m x 1.57m. Window in E wall (max. width 0.58m, min. width 0.42m, ht 0.58m, horizontal depth of sill 0.37m).

**Bathroom** – created from 4<sup>th</sup> bedroom. On S side of WC and against E wall. Internally 1.57m x 2.03m. Window in E wall (max. width 1.23m, min. width 1.08m, ht 0.96m, horizontal depth of sill 0.33m). 3 x small windows set in hardboard 'wall' on W side.



## 6. CONCLUSION (Figs 86-87)

With documented human occupation extending for almost three hundred years from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the very end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Bearwalls Farm makes a significant contribution to the history of Dartmoor as a whole. Material for the 20<sup>th</sup> century is specially rich.

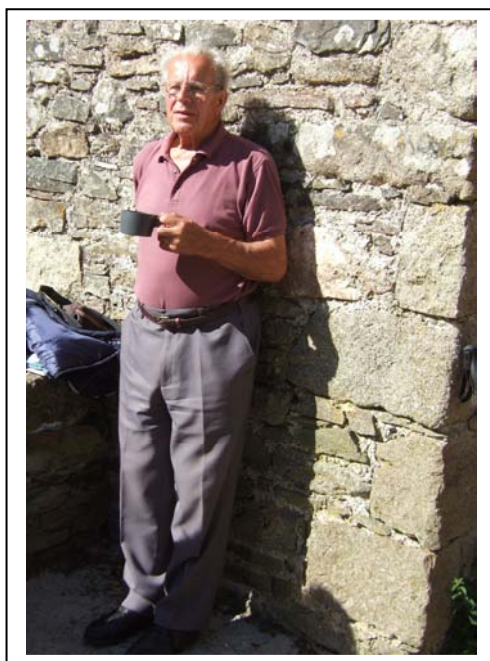


Fig. 86 – Stanley Yeo at Bearwalls  
11 August 2009 (TG)

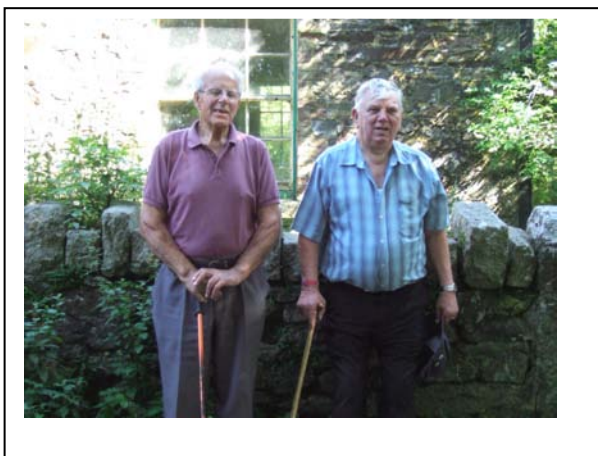


Fig. 87 – Stanley Yeo and Bryan Huggins at  
Bearwalls 11 August 2009 (TG)

The farmhouse, which may be of 17<sup>th</sup> century origin, and the farmyard buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, are notable for their completeness and for the survival of several interesting internal fittings. The Silo is of special importance for the story of agricultural development on Dartmoor and west Devon, and the Butterwell is also an unusual structure.

The field pattern is remarkable for the fact that there has been so little change to it since at least 1840. Archaeologically, only a small number of features have been identified but these include a previously unrecorded area of likely medieval tin streamworks, within the enclosed land, and also a well-preserved stretch of unrecorded leat taken off the Blackabrook.

Overall, the conservation interest in the human and cultural elements of Bearwalls is considerable. It is to be hoped that this report will help guide management decisions for the future.

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