



# Archaeological Sites within Okehampton Training Area, Dartmoor National Park, Devon: A condition survey on behalf of Defence Infrastructure Organisation January 2014

Report prepared on behalf of WYG by  
Dr Phil Newman of South-West Landscape Investigations

Ropemaker Court, 11-12 Lower Park Row, Bristol, BS1 5BN

Tel: +44 (0)117 924 4144

Email: [martin.brown@wyg.com](mailto:martin.brown@wyg.com)

Dr Phil Newman MIFA, FSA

6 Burnley Close, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1YB

Email: [phil.newman@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:phil.newman@blueyonder.co.uk)



## Document Control

Project: Okehampton Range Monument Condition Survey

Client: Landmarc Support Services (for Defence Infrastructure Organisation)

Job Number: A084064

### Document Checking:

Prepared by:	Phil Newman. South-West Landscape Investigations	Signed:
--------------	---	---------

Checked by:	Martin Brown Principal Archaeologist	Signed: 
-------------	---	---

Verified by:	Signed:
--------------	---------

Issue	Date	Status
1	March 2014	Draft
2	March 2014	Issue Draft
3		
4		

## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1
The Survey Area	1
Methodology	2
<b>LEGACY CONDITION AND MONUMENT TYPE</b>	2
Cairns	3
Hut circles and settlements	3
Reaves	4
Medieval/post-medieval agriculture	4
Medieval/post-medieval industrial	4
Nineteenth/twentieth century military remains	5
Miscellaneous	6
<b>THE CONDITION SURVEY</b>	
Scheduled Monuments	6
Gradual decline: scheduled sites	7
All heritage assets (SMs and non-SMs)	7
Stability and change	8
Gradual decline non-scheduled sites	10
Management measures	10
<b>RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT WORKS</b>	
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	10
NON-SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	12
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	12
References	12

Appendix 1 (DVD) – Archaeological Condition Spreadsheet

Appendix 2 (DVD) – DIO Heritage Asset Condition Survey Forms

Appendix 3 (DVD) – Digital photographic record of Heritage Assets in Okehampton Training Area January 2014 (CD)

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1 Map showing location and boundary of Okehampton Training Area.

Fig 2 (rear of report) Map of Okehampton Training Area, including all recorded sites with MoD DE- HMS ID numbers.

Fig 3 Graph showing (top) statistics for stability and change in scheduled monuments; (lower) statistics for stability and change in all heritage assets.

Fig 4 View of the upper surface of the Quintin's Man cairn (443946), showing the circular structure constructed from cairn fabric.

Fig 5 View of Hangingstone Hill summit cairn (443723), showing erosion on the north side.

Fig 6 View of the cairn on Watern Tor Ridge (443720), showing interference on the upper surface.

Fig 7 Erosion and slumping on one of the military observation post (967377).

Fig 8 Erosion and slumping on one of the military observation post (967699).

Fig 9 An example of a demolished military observation post (967100).

Table 1 (rear of report) Discredited or non-existent sites not included in the 2014 condition survey.

Table 2 (rear of report) List of scheduled monuments within Okehampton Training Area.

## INTRODUCTION

A survey was requested by Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) as part of the on-going management and monitoring of heritage assets within the Okehampton Training Area (OTA). The purpose of the work is to provide an updated, comprehensive condition assessment for all known archaeological sites within OTA. This includes scheduled monuments (SMs) and non-scheduled sites recorded in the Dartmoor HER and the NMR, but excludes listed buildings.

### The Survey Area (Fig 1 & 2)

Okehampton Training Area (OTA) forms a major portion of the Dartmoor Training Area (DTA), and covers 6180ha within the northern sector of Dartmoor National Park. Much of the land falls within the Ancient Forest of Dartmoor, but additional areas lie within the common lands of several peripheral parishes, including Throwleigh, Gidleigh, Belstone and Okehampton. The brief of this survey includes the danger, or live firing area, marked on current OS maps, but also the dry training area that surrounds it in places (Fig 1). The latter includes 300ha of moorland between Rattlebrook and Doetor Brook; although not part of OTA, this area is used in conjunction with the MOD Willsworthy freehold and would otherwise fall outside the main areas of archaeological assessment. The entire area is open moorland, excluding the enclosed farm tenancy of East Okement Farm; this is not included in the current survey but has been assessed separately by Greeves (2009). Although the status of the training area is Access Land, the public is not permitted to enter the danger area during live firing exercises. Vehicular access to the live firing area is restricted to a series of rough military trackways, which are not available for use by the public at any time.



Fig 1 The Dartmoor Training Area showing Okehampton highlighted.

## Methodology

The current condition survey is the third of its kind at Okehampton, and follows earlier surveys in 2010 by Wessex Archaeology and in 2004 by English Heritage (EH), the latter forming the original baseline survey. The essential methodology of these surveys has not changed and requires a field inspection and report for all the heritage assets listed in previous surveys. Any deterioration or improvement in condition is noted, and recommendations made as to future management. Photographic evidence for each heritage asset acts as visual means of monitoring site condition over time and digital photographs from each survey are archived by DIO for reference.

The current survey has made use of the 2004 EH baseline condition survey of Okehampton Training Area as a means of establishing location and extent of the 238 archaeological sites recorded in that report (Fig 2). However, the new requirement of twelve-figure grid references (NGRs) has meant that many of the smaller, isolated sites have needed rechecking and this has been achieved using mapping grade GPS to update coordinates where necessary.

In 2010 a further sixteen sites were added to the total by Wessex Archaeology. The MoD DHMS UID numbers for these sites are prefixed with 'WA' in DIO Heritage Asset Condition Survey Forms (Appendix 2) and the Archaeological Condition Spreadsheet (Appendix 1). These have all been rechecked for accuracy and updated. Sixteen additional sites, including one scheduled monument (SM), have come to light as a result of the current survey, each of which has been surveyed and photographed using the above methodology and recorded with the prefix 'SWL' (South-West Landscape Investigations). In the following report, reference to all sites in brackets uses the MoD DHMS UID number; SM numbers and Dartmoor HER numbers (prefixed MDV) may be found in the accompanying spread sheet (Appendix 1).

Of the 272 heritage assets for which records now exist, 56 form the whole or part of scheduled monuments (SMs). This number has increased since the 2004 survey when only 47 were designated as SMs (see below; Table 2)..

## LEGACY CONDITION BY MONUMENT TYPE

Condition of field monuments is to some extent dependent on their age. A prehistoric site, which may be up to 4000 years old at Okehampton, may have less visible fabric but has had much longer to decline and stabilise than a 20<sup>th</sup>-century military structure, whereas the condition of modern sites can decline rapidly if unprotected and subject to abuse. Clearly, a consistent approach when applying a condition category is difficult for an assemblage of monuments with such a diversity of ages. Allowances therefore have to be made for the legacy condition, which is described below for each category. For the purposes of this survey the *Condition* terms (good, fair, poor) have to take this into account but are still somewhat arbitrary depending on the observer. However, the *Stability and Change* record for each monument is more accurately gauged and is related solely to threats or otherwise visible at the time of inspection. These observations can be cross-referenced to past inspections to establish whether the site's status has declined, improved or remains static since previous inspections.

The archaeology of Okehampton Training Area (OTA) can be broken down into seven distinct categories, based on chronology:

- Prehistoric burial – cairns
- Prehistoric settlement, hut circles and reaves
- Medieval agriculture – field system, cultivation ridges
- Medieval/ post medieval industrial – tinworking, peat cutting
- Nineteenth-century industrial – tin, copper mining, granite cutting
- Nineteenth and twentieth century military
- Miscellaneous (mostly post-medieval) – boundary stones, tracks, fords, large stone artefacts

Although these represent a typical assemblage of archaeological site types found elsewhere on Dartmoor's moorlands, they do not represent the full suite, with prehistoric ritual monuments (stone circles and rows) being notable absentees. Reaves are not common within the area, with only two major examples, and medieval farming and settlement are mostly absent, especially on the higher moors. However, OTA does possess the finest assemblage of military structures and earthworks on Dartmoor, and although relatively modern their significance should not be overlooked.

## **Cairns**

There are 27 records for prehistoric cairns in the training area, of which 19 are scheduled. Three cairnfields, of mostly smaller cairns, have also been recorded as prehistoric, and are included in the schedule. Records exist for a further 11 cairns which have either not been found by successive investigations (including this one) or are known to have been completely destroyed (see Table 1). The most significant of the cairns as landscape features are the larger hilltop examples including Quintin's Man (443946), Watern Tor (443720), Yes Tor (440858), Fordsland Ledge (440458) and Homerton Hill (968118), but numerous smaller, less notable examples survive as well. Cairns were frequent targets for unrecorded interventions by antiquaries in the past, often leaving the remains heavily disturbed; they remain among the most vulnerable features on the moor, some examples being subject to repeated interference to the stonework (see examples below).

## **Hut circles and settlements**

Records exist for eighteen sites where prehistoric settlements survive with elements of enclosure walls and/or containing one or more hut circles or round houses. The smallest number of huts in a settlement is one, and the largest, Watern Oke (440603), has over 90 and is among the most extensive hut settlements on Dartmoor. Fourteen of the hut settlements or individual huts within OTA are scheduled. Two sites previously recorded as hut circles are very unlikely examples (443766, 894263) and

one recorded settlement (1063580) persists as a 'not found' in all surveys to date. Hut circles on this part of Dartmoor are, on the whole, smaller in size when compared to other parts; some particularly small examples in West Okement Valley (1397886) were clearly not built as enduring structures and offer a striking contrast to those elsewhere on the moor, for example, at Kestor or Fernworthy.

Many hut circles have been subject to archaeological investigation in the past, principally in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, though, unlike cairns, these have usually been recorded to some extent. Notable within the OTA is the settlement at Watern Oke where the majority of its huts were dug in 1906. Robbing of stone by wall builders has been less of a problem for huts within OTA. These huts are generally situated in the more remote areas of the north moor and, when compared to other parts of Dartmoor, many have survived well with damage being infrequent. However, the overgrowth of peat and vegetation, although stabilising and preserving structural elements of the monuments, has made many examples difficult to observe.

## **Reaves**

Reaves (prehistoric linear boundary banks) are uncommon on the far northern sector of Dartmoor, only two having been recorded within the OTA, both of which are scheduled. These linear banks of earth and stone are normally very stable and unsusceptible to casual damage. One of the main threats to reaves on Dartmoor generally, is traversing by heavy wheeled vehicles. However, both reaves within OTA are well away from the area where vehicles are used and currently under no such threat.

## **Medieval/post medieval agriculture**

Agricultural activity from the medieval period is not extensive within OTA. Most significant is the single large area of cultivation ridges (ridge and furrow) on the northern ridge of Longstone Hill (1395925). These robust earthworks are avoided by modern trackways and survive in good condition.

Two pillow mounds (1392929) to the east of Belstone Tor represent the remains of very minor rabbit warrening activity, probably in the post-medieval or modern period, and survive in an undisturbed location.

## **Medieval/post-medieval industrial**

Tinworking covers the greatest area of land of any of the archaeological evidence within OTA. Although many tinworks are scheduled elsewhere on Dartmoor, only two of the recorded examples in OTA have been so designated. Tinworks are present in all but a few of the river valleys and several cover vast areas of ground. The workings in the East Okement valley (831645) for example, between its southern extremity on Okement Hill and East Okement Farm, extends for 4.3km and covers over 68ha. Openworks at Kerbeam (1393451) on the west side of Rattlebrook are also very deep and impressive in scale. Tinworking remains of this type represent episodes of major upheaval within the landscape,

sometimes for considerable periods of time, followed by abrupt abandonment. The activity leaves deep scars rather than the more subtle evidence of some other past activities. The interiors of the tinworks comprise much discarded material left behind by the extraction process, now often overgrown by turf. Despite the inherent robustness of tinworks they have, over time, become subject to encroachment by mires, which, in some cases (Taw Valley [966876], Steeperton Brook [966876], Ruelake Pit [6191840, East Okement (831645), West Okement and Brim Brook [1063402]) have completely obscured parts of the evidence and rendered large areas inaccessible. Since their abandonment, the main cause of decline at human hands has been the construction of military roads along or through them. Beyond this minimal intervention, they have not been subject to robbing or re-use of stone and survive, as far as can be known from observation, largely undisturbed. Artificial water courses (leats) and storage ponds associated with tinwork survive as earthworks, often heavily silted to the point of being difficult to trace. Pit works of various size and extent are found in several places within OTA but have not been subject to any interference since they were abandoned, though the soft earth of the spoil mounds has in some cases made a home for burrowing animals.

Small rectangular buildings or shelters are commonly associated with the tinworks, often built within the worked area, and usually referred to as tanners' huts. Of the 35 recorded within OTA, only seven are scheduled. Rather inconsistently, some other fine examples have been omitted from the scheduling list. These small buildings constructed from stone and often reinforced by banking up the exterior with earth, survive in various degrees of completeness and, although the walls of many have partly tumbled, the overgrowth of turf has often stabilised them. Occasional damage is inflicted by people rebuilding them and some are affected by miry ground.

The cutting of peat or turf occurred on a large scale within OTA in the past but as yet the turf ties, from where the material was removed, have not been recorded in detail, and are not normally considered as heritage assets. However, small stone shelters, similar in style to tanners' huts survive within the peat grounds, and are assumed to have been used by the peat cutters. Like the tanners' huts most are now in a dilapidated but stable state, though none are scheduled. Many survive on and around Whitehorse Hill.

The manufacture of peat charcoal, probably in the medieval period, is evident on Wild Tor Ridge where 43 meiler (charcoal hearth) platforms survive (SWL1027). These earthen mounds, which have a similar appearance to barrows, are a new addition to the OTA monument data base, having only recently been recorded in detail (Newman 2010). Most of the platforms survive in good condition though several near the track have become eroded.

There are remains of two 19<sup>th</sup> century metal mines within OTA, at Steeperton and Black Down. The surface remains comprise shafts, adits, spoil heaps leats infrastructure and ruined buildings. Mine buildings were often demolished following abandonment but on the whole the surface layouts of these mines remain clear and unaltered, if a little overgrown.

### **Nineteenth/twentieth century military remains**

Okehampton has been serving as a military training area since the 1870s and as a result, a wide variety of associated earthworks, structures and artefacts survive on the moor, reflecting over a century of



change in the technology and strategy of military manoeuvres. Trenches, redoubts and shooting butts all survive as earthworks; some may date from the earliest period of range activity, before the Great War. Although in some cases these have been backfilled, or have become eroded over time, the majority of the earthworks survive in good or fair condition.

Many observation posts (OPs) once existed within OTA. The structures were robustly built from concrete and stone (or in some cases timber), and reinforced with turf to protect them from blast damage. Only seven OPs survive upstanding, although the condition of some is declining, suffering erosion of both the turf and the stone reinforcement (Figs 7-8). Eleven other OPs have been demolished, leaving scant evidence (Fig 9) and in one case at Dinger Tor (1063939), no trace at all.

Target railways include one on West Mill Tor (1397720), which, although disused, is all but intact including the rails and the shed for the locomotive. Fine examples of target railway earthworks also survive on Black Down (1396549), where one is approximately 1 km long, and in the East Okement valley (832018), where the concrete, turf-covered target shed was later adapted to become an observation post.

Military roads are not considered to be heritage assets, however, granite bridges over which they pass at East Okement (916625) and Black-a-ven Brook (440879) are of interest; both are still fully functional.

## **Miscellaneous**

Inscribed granite boundary stones and rocks mark both the boundary of the Forest of Dartmoor with its border parishes, and the limits of the firing range at several key points, the latter usually inscribed 'WD'. Though some comprise natural earthfast boulders, most are upright stones of up to 1.5m in height, set into the ground, with inscriptions on one or more faces. Of the 44 boundary stones within OTA all but one are currently standing, although some have suffered animal erosion around their base, causing water to accumulate.

Various trackways built to access mines, peat works and military features thread across the area. Most are still used to some extent and under no great threat.

## **THE CONDITION SURVEY**

### **Scheduled Monuments (SMs)**

Since the baseline survey of OTA in 2004, the numbering system for SMs has been changed by English Heritage. The numbers were not updated by the previous contractor for the 2010 condition survey but for the 2014 survey the new numbers have been used on both the *DIO Heritage Asset Condition Survey Form* (Appendix 2) and the *Archaeological Condition Spreadsheet* (Appendix 1), although legacy numbers are included in the latter for back reference.

Fifty-six heritage assets (HAs) within OTA are designated as individual SMs, or form part of an SM. This includes one hut settlement on Higher Tor (SWL 1032), previously omitted from the condition survey. Of these SMs, 29 are prehistoric cairns, including three cairnfields, two are reaves, 15 are settlements

or individual hut circles. Among the non-prehistoric SMs, eight tinnerns' huts or shelters and two areas of tin streamworking are included; however, only a very small portion of the streamwork along Doetor Brook (1398493) lies within OTA. No 19<sup>th</sup>-century mining evidence, peat industry evidence or any aspect of the military training legacy is included in the schedule.

Of the 56 SMs evaluated in 2014 (Table 2), 21 (38%) may be said to be in good condition, 26 (56%) fair and 9 (16%) poor. This is at slight variance to previous records (2004, 2010), probably due in part to the subjectivity of the method rather than changes in condition, but it is encouraging that only 9 (16%) may be considered to be in poor condition in 2014, in all cases reflecting their legacy condition rather than recent decline.

Under the more objective measure of *Stability and Change*, 47 (84% - up 1.5% on 2010) remain in a stable condition and, while nine (16% - up 1% on 2010) are reported as in gradual decline (Fig 3), in most cases this is due to very insignificant patches of erosion. Only four SMs have suffered any notable damage and in only one case has this been deliberate or recent (443946 see below). One other example has been subject to controlled archaeological intervention (443720 see below). Statistically, the number of SMs in stable condition has increased slightly since the baseline survey of 2004.

Although the percentage of sites in gradual decline is up slightly on the 2004 and 2010 figures, it is skewed by the adjusted total, which now includes seven SMs omitted from the 2010 survey. The total also includes three tinnerns' huts, which have separate UID numbers in the MoD database but form a single SM number, increasing the figure of individual sites included in SMs from 47 in 2010 to 56 in 2014 (see Table 2). It should also be noted that five single entries in the MoD database, where a number of features are spread over a large area, have multiple schedule entries. In the case of the cairnfield on Longstone Hill (1393516), inexplicably, each cairn has been scheduled separately (24 in total). However, for the purposes of this report this counts as one scheduled site.

### **Gradual decline: scheduled sites**

1. Quintin's Man (443946) see below.
2. A large cairn on Hangingstone Hill (443723) see below.
3. A cairn on Watern Tor Ridge (443720) see below.
4. A cairn with cist recorded on Whitehorse Hill (1376648) was considered so vulnerable by DNPA, that a full archaeological excavation was undertaken in 2011. Although the stony parts of the cist were left in place, the archaeological content has now been removed.

### **All heritage assets (SMs and non-SMs)**

The total number of heritage assets (HAs) recorded in OTA, including SMs and non-SMs, stands at 271. Within this total are 238 sites recorded for the 2004 baseline survey, and 16 additional sites recorded in 2010. However, two sites recorded in the latter survey are outside the boundary of OTA and have

previously been recorded under Willsworthy Training Area; they must therefore be deducted from this total. The total figure also includes a further 17 assets recorded as part of the present (2014) survey, which are discussed below. The additional categories of not found, destroyed, built over, natural feature and non-antiquity account for a further 19 sites (see Table 1) for which no evaluation can be made and in most cases no photograph has been taken. It is recommended that these 19 sites, plus those two outside OTA recorded in error, are omitted from the brief of future condition surveys.

The breakdown of condition statistics for the remaining 250 genuine heritage assets is as follows.

Good - 124 (49.5%)

Fair - 83 (33.25%)

Poor - 43 (17.25%)

The number rated as 'Poor' is falsely high due to eleven military observation posts in the list which were demolished some decades ago. Discounting these would reduce the total to 32 (13.5% of the adjusted figure of 239). For all other sites rated as Poor, this can be regarded as a legacy condition and in no instance as a result of recent disturbance.

## Stability and change

This category measures the extent to which a heritage asset may be said to be stable or otherwise, and notes any changes following previous surveys. This also acts as an indicator as to whether intervention may be beneficial in halting the decline, especially where caused by human agency.

The figures are as follows: The table includes the statistics from previous surveys for comparison:

<b>2014 survey of <u>248</u> heritage assets assessed</b>	No.	% of total
Stable	221	89.5
Gradual Decline	26	10.5
Rapid Decline	1	0
Improving	0	0
<b>2010 survey of <u>253</u> heritage assets assessed</b>		
Stable	211	83.5
Gradual Decline	38	15
Rapid Decline	1	0.4
Improving	1	0.4
<b>2004 survey of <u>220</u> heritage assets assessed</b>		
Stable	193	87.5
Gradual Decline	25	11.5
Rapid decline	0	0
Improving	0	0
Other	2	1

NB: total number of heritage assets assessed excludes discredited, not found or destroyed sites, and natural features recorded in error.

Fig 3 Graphs showing (top) statistics for stability and change in scheduled monuments; (lower) statistics for stability and change in all heritage assets

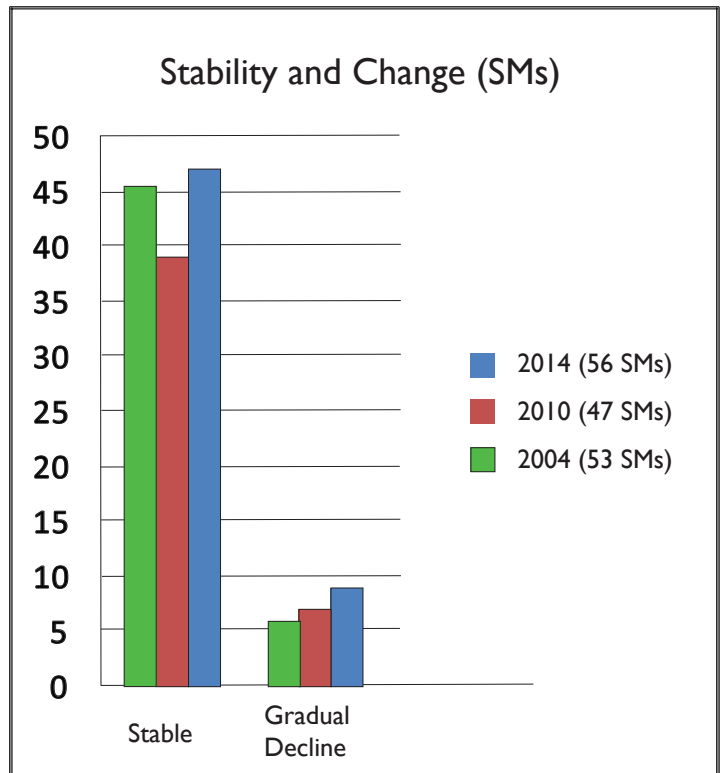


Table I Graph showing statistics for stability and change in sheduled monuments.

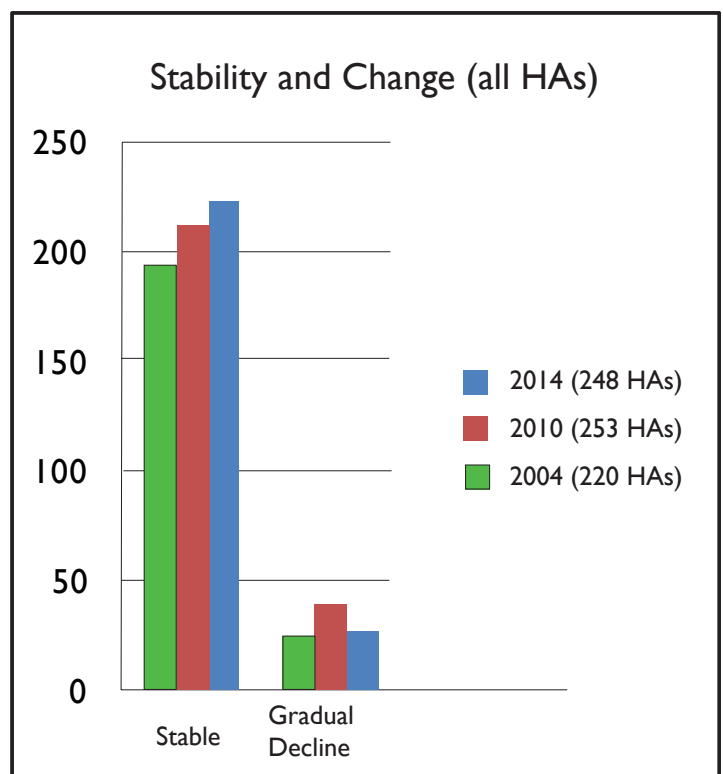


Table I Graph showing statistics for stability and change in heritage assets.

These figures represent an increase of 6% in the total number of heritage assets reported to be in a stable condition, while those considered to be in gradual decline has fallen by 4.5%, representing a healthy reduction in the number of sites with current or potential management concerns.

### **Gradual decline: non-scheduled sites**

There is little to report in the way of specific damage or erosion at individual non-scheduled sites in OTA. However, a decline in the condition of some of the military structures and earthworks is notable, particularly the OP's, where soil erosion is causing patches of the soil and stone parts of the splinter-proof coverings to slump.

The earthworks protecting the timber firing positions on F range(1396606) have been subject to some erosion. However, these features are recently disused and their decline is natural at this stage as the timbers rot and the earthworks stabilize.

Several boundary and memorial stones have suffered erosion around their base and account for seven of the instances of gradual decline. The problem is caused primarily by cattle/sheep erosion and exacerbated by water accumulating in the resulting hollow. However, none of the stones appear to be in imminent danger of toppling.

### **Management measures**

No management measures are currently in use for any of the sites, scheduled or unscheduled, within OTA. The threat levels are minimal in this training area where use of vehicles is not permitted away from road/tracks and exploding ordnance is no longer used. Stocking levels of sheep, cattle and ponies are extremely low and the pressure from civilian visitors is negligible.

## **RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT WORKS**

*[nb. All suggested works on scheduled monuments would need approval by EH and DNPA archaeologists and undertaken with archaeological supervision.]*

### **SCHEDULED MONUMENTS**

#### **Quintin's Man (Fig 4)**

NGR 262099, 083868

MOD DE-HMS ID no. 443946

SM no. 1017991

Dartmoor HER no. MDV19465, MDV27709, MDV27710, MDV60310, MDV60299, MDV60306

**Description:** The remains of a large, stony, prehistoric cairn located on the southern tip of Whitehorse Hill. Stone, originally part of the monument's fabric, has been removed and used to construct a circular

shelter on top of the mound by persons unknown. The removal of this stone has already disturbed the integrity of the cairn and if this continues, additional stone currently making up the original mound, will also become removed, risking further damage and exposure of archaeological layers beneath.

It is suggested that this additional circular structure should be recorded, then carefully removed, and the stone used to remodel the cairn. This process has previously been achieved successfully on Dartmoor via the English Heritage Historic Environment Field Advisor (HEFA), based at Dartmoor National Park HQ, with manpower provided by volunteers. It is strongly recommended that liaison between the MoD, DNPA and EH could bring a positive outcome to the management of this heritage asset.

### **Hangingsstone Hill Cairn (Fig 5)**

NGR: 261703,086113

MOD DE-HMS ID no: 443723

SM no: 1017481

Dartmoor HER no: MDV4377

**Description:** A large stony round cairn of over 1m in height on the northern summit of Hangingsstone Hill. Legacy damage to the site comes in form of a stone-built military structure imposed on the southern arc of the cairn. However, the northern side of the cairn is actively declining due to a probable combination of livestock erosion and wet weather. This has caused a scarp to develop along the peat and turf covering, exposing it to depth of approximately 0.5m. To prevent further exposure, the scarp needs to be covered, either by loose stone or turf or a combination of both.

### **Watern Tor Ridge Cairn (Fig 6)**

NGR: 262913,086078

MOD DE-HMS ID no: 443720

SM no: 1017924 Dartmoor

HER no: MDV4376

**Description:** A prehistoric round cairn on the ridge to the south of Watern Tor. This stony cairn is among the largest of its type within OTA, and although suffering interference to the loose stone of its interior, much of this is legacy damage, which has created a hollowed appearance to the profile of the cairn. Interference continues, however, with the building of small cairns from the fabric of the main pile. This is difficult to combat but removal of existing stone piles may discourage further stacking of the stone. This feature needs to be discussed with the EH HEFA and a joint decision taken as to whether or not to act.

## NON-SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Artillery observation posts 967377 (Fig 7), 967699 (Fig 8), 967045

Decline is notable in the condition of three artillery observation posts. Soil and stone which make up the splinter-proof coverings has weathered and begun to slump. This is not a recent problem, nor is it serious, but it is ongoing and will worsen as time goes on. These are significant and nationally rare structures to be surviving in the modern National Park and certainly worth conserving. Works to remediate this decline are probably not necessary yet, but it is advised that a policy on whether or how these structures will be managed in the future should be formulated soon.

## CONCLUSION

Apart from minor problems highlighted above, the survey and resulting statistics reveal that the great majority of heritage assets within Okehampton Training Area survive in a good to fair condition, those that are classified as poor are mainly so by way of legacy. In terms of stability and change, the percentage of sites reckoned to be in decline has fallen from 15% to 10.5% since the last survey of 2010, while conversely those now considered to be stable has risen from 83.5% to 89.5% of the total. The statistics for scheduled monuments are equally encouraging, with no notable increase in the number of sites in decline.

The picture for the whole period since the baseline survey of 2004 shows the number of heritage assets in a stable condition has increased slightly but the status of the majority has remained static. Only two instances of the need for repair works are highlighted and although other recommendations for future management are offered, they cannot be seen as priorities.

## References

Greeves, T 2009 *East Okement Farm, Okehampton Hamlets and Dartmoor Forest – an historical and archaeological survey*. (unpub report for Landmarc on behalf of the MoD)

Newman, P 2019 *Domestic and Industrial Peat Cutting on North-west Dartmoor*. (unpub report for DNPA)



Fig 4 View of the upper surface of the Quintin's Man cairn (443946), showing the circular structure constructed from cairn fabric.

Fig 5 View of Hangingstone Hill summit cairn (443723), showing erosion on the north side.



Fig 6 View of the cairn on Watn Tor Ridge (443720), showing interference on the upper surface.





Fig 7 Erosion and slumping on one of the military observation post (967377).

Fig 8 Erosion and slumping on one of the military observation post (967699).



Fig 9 An example of a demolished military observation post (967100).

National Monument Record No	Dartmoor HER No	DOI Record No	Description	Status	NGR if recorded
NMRE440462	MDV12849	440462	An alleged cairn south of East Mill Tor.	Not Found	2599-- 0895--
NMRE443702	MDV4389	443702	The clapper bridge which is reported to have spanned the River Taw 100m north of Steeperton Tor Mine.	Levelled	
NMRE443772		443772	Tumulus (NF)	Not Found	260200 087700
NMRE443983	MDV13033	443983	An alleged cairn SE of Quintin's Man.	Built over	262099 083800
NMRE443984		443984	Two alleged cairns in Teignhead Newtake (NF).	Not Found	261000 083000
NMRE444188	MDV6936 MDV4375	444188	An alleged stone row with terminal cairn and cist, sited supposedly on the western slope of Oke Tor.	Not Found	
NMRE894327		894327	An alleged stone circle.	Not Found	260800 191900
NMRE894740		894740	An alleged openwork. Probably refers to modern trackway .	Not Found	261800 090500
NMRE895437		895437	Alleged earthworks. Non-archaeological site probably caused by military activity.	Earthworks/ Non-antiquity	259970 090652
NMRE967719		967719	Cranmere Pool. A large natural hollow.	Natural Feature	260330 085810
NMRE1063580		1063580	An alleged enclosure.	Not found	256350 084150
NMRE1063789		1063789	An alleged tinnerns' cache. Natural feature.	Natural Feature	257150 257150
NMRE1063795	MDV19435	1063795	An alleged barrow. Natural feature.	Natural Feature	257360 82850
NMRE1063939		1063939	The site of a nineteenth century observation post on Dinger Tor.	Levelled	
NMRE1064321		1064321	An alleged cairn	Not Found	262094 083940
NMRE1064559	MDV28318	1064559	An alleged hut circle is a shell crater. Non archaeological feature.	Non-antiquity	256580 083370
NMRE1147634		1147634	An alleged leat. Misinterpreted from AP. Probable footpath.	Non-antiquity	
NMRE1395906		1395906	An alleged tinnerns' hut at Wild Tor Well. (NF)	Not Found at this NGR	
		WA1005	Evidence for tin working in the upper reaches of Wallbrook Head	Not in OTA	254250 084495
		WA1006	A structure associated with tin streamworks on southern bank of the Doetor Brook.	Not in OTA	254860 085850
		WA1011	An unfinished millstone identified to the south east of a tinnerns' hut on the east bank of Steeperton Brook.	Relic/Not found at this NGR	262357 088988

Table 1 Discredited or 'not found' sites previously recorded in Okehampton Training Area and omitted from the 2014 statistics.

## Table 2 Scheduled Monuments

NMR (England) No.	Dartmoor HER No	Scheduled Monument No	MoD DE ID No	Description	Form	NGR	Condition				Stability and Change			
							G	F	P	U	Im	St	GD	RD
NMRE440458	MDV3169	(24160) 1010594	440458	Cairn to the north of Fordsland Ledge	Earthwork	257577 088891	√					√		
NMRE440483	MDV7723	(28732) 1018929	440483	A ruined tinnerns' hut situated on a terrace overlooking the Brim Brook and West Okement River.	Ruined Structure	258725 086917			√			√		
NMRE440486	MDV7721	(28731) 1018928	440486	The remains of a tinnerns' hut on east bank of Brim Brook	Ruined Structure	258980 087500		√				√		
NMRE440489	MDV11805 MDV60360	(29710) 1018911	440489	A collection of six or possibly seven hut circles forming a settlement with a field, below Lints Tor	Ruined Structure	257812 087302		√				√		
NMRE440492	MDV7722	(28731) 1018928	440492	The foundations of a rectangular building, possibly associated with Wheal Providence tin mine	Ruined Structure	258866 087327		√				√		
NMRE440500	MDV20152 MDV20153	(24159) 1010593	440500	A revetted mound (possible cairn) adjoins the south side of one of the granite outcrops at High Willhays	Earthwork	258015 089433		√					√	
NMRE440594	MDV3572	(20352) 1007539	440594	A settlement comprising 22 hut circles on the slope of the east bank of Rattlebrook.	Ruined Structure	256240 084565		√				√		
NMRE440600	MDV3311	(22238) (22239) 1011233 1011234	440600	Sixteen hut circles set on the west slope above the Rattlebrook within a fragmentary enclosure.	Ruined Structure	256218 084283		√					√	
NMRE440603	MDV27108 MDV50165 MDV50168 MDV3521 MDV50163 MDV50164 MDV3312 MDV50154	(20354 20356-20359 20361 20362) 1011567 1011586 1011565 1011562	440603	A group of ninety mutilated hut circles and fragmentary enclosure walls on the crest and SE flank of Watern Oke,	Ruined Structure	256456 083475		√				√		
NMRE440608	MDV3564	(28735) 1018932	440608	A probable tinnerns' hut, situated on a slight terrace overlooking Cut Combe Water.	Ruined Structure	259139 083651			√			√		
NMRE440649	MDV7735 MDV3312	(20363) 1011568	440649	The remains of a rectangular building, probable tinnerns' hut on the N bank of the Tavy.	Ruined Structure	256975 083418	√					√		
NMRE440652	MDV7736	1018933	440652	A tinnerns' hut within a small area of streamworking remains between two branches of the Black Ridge Brook 1 km ENE of Little Kneeset.	Ruined Structure	259343 084493		√					√	
NMRE440858	MDV52508 MDV4813	(24162) 1010595 1010596	440858	The remains of two disturbed prehistoric cairns on the summit and summit plateau of Yes Tor.	Ruined Structure	257987 090192		√					√	
NMRE440888	MDV58789 MDV59588	(28717) 1016634	440888	A cluster of 34 small clearance cairns and fragments of an apparently contemporary field system on the W flank of Halstock Down.	Earthwork	259812 092380		√				√		

NMRE443701	MDV34257 MDV43888	(28722) <b>1016639</b>	443701	Thirteen, possibly 14 hut circles and three associated enclosures located on the north east flank of Steeperton.	Ruined Structure/ Earthwork	262159 089078	√						√			
NMRE443705	MDV4370	(22377) <b>1010781</b>	443705	A turf-covered cairn on slightly elevated ground between Wildtor Well and Gallaven Mire.	Earthwork	262911 088103		√					√			
NMRE443706	MDV4390	(28661) <b>1017482</b>	443706	A possible prehistoric round cairn situated on flat ground 15m north of Watern Tor.	Earthwork	262907 086819	√						√			
NMRE443720	MDV4376	<b>1017924</b>	443720	A prehistoric round cairn on the southern ridge of Watern Tor.		262913 086078	√								√	
NMRE443723	MDV4377	(28659) <b>1017481</b>	443723	A prehistoric round cairn situated on the summit of Hangingstone Hill.	Earthwork	261703 086113		√							√	
NMRE443728	MDV29120 MDV6528	(26894) <b>1018916</b>	443728	A 'D' shape prehistoric semi-circular enclosure containing a single hut circle 400m SE of Gartaven Ford.	Earthwork	263780 088383	√						√			
NMRE443769	MDV19465 MDV27709 MDV27710 MDV60310 MDV60299 MDV60306	(28723) <b>1010640</b>	443769	A series of enclosures and hut circles located on the gently sloping western side of Oke Tor Ridge.	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	261651 089438			√						√	
NMRE443946	MDV6765	(28679) <b>1017991</b>	443946	Quintin's Man. The remains of a round cairn situated on a prominent ridge of Whitehorse Hill.	Ruined Structure	262099 083868		√							√	
NMRE444160	MDV6881	(28670) <b>1017873</b>	444160	A round cairn situated on the ridge between Higher Tor and Oke Tor.	Earthworks/ Ruined Structure	261110 091351	√						√			
NMRE444173	MDV6867	(28667) <b>1017870</b>	444173	A Bronze Age ring cairn situated below Belstone Tor within the valley of the East Okement River	Ruined Structure/ Earthwork	260781 091952	√						√			
NMRE444210	MDV13059	(28724) <b>1016641</b>	444210	A turf covered cairn on a north west facing slope overlooking Taw Marsh	Earthwork	262120 090481		√					√			
NMRE444211	MDV13061 MDV33597	(28724) <b>1016641</b>	444211	A cairn and a leaning inscribed stone on the north western foot of Metheral Hill above Taw Marsh.		262168 090426			√				√			
NMRE619190	MDV58283	(34438) <b>1015760</b>	619190	The Taw Marsh Reave starts at Steeperton Brook, and passes just to the west of the Whitehill.	Earthwork	262377 089916	√						√			
893664	MDV52832 MDV13059	(28724) <b>1016641</b>	893664	A flat topped cairn located at the north western foot of Metheral Hill.	Ruined Structure	262100 090470		√					√			
893682	MDV51214	(28724) <b>1016641</b>	893682	A much disturbed cairn on gently sloping stoney ground at the north western foot of Metheral Hill.	Earthwork	262180 090380			√				√			
893788	MDV60315 MDV51215	(28724) <b>1016641</b>	893788	Four small turf-covered cairns, located on the gently sloping ground at the north west foot of Metheral Hill above Taw Marsh.	Earthwork	262160 090346			√				√			
893803	MDV60312 MDV60313 MDV51216	(28724) <b>1016641</b>	893803	Two hut circles sited on the north western foot of Metheral Hill.	Earthwork	262128 090305			√				√			
965852	MDV21296	(24158) <b>1010592</b>	965852	A probable cairn on the eastern side of an outcrop of High Willhays.	Ruined Structure	258027 089219			√				√			
965885		(22352) <b>1007663</b>	965885	An enclosed settlement of twelve identifiable hut circles on a west-facing slope below Sharp Tor.		254690 084859	√						√			

967741	MDV52470	(24149) <b>1010774</b>	967741	A possible ring cairn lies on the crest of Homerton Hill 550m E of the ford at Vellake Corner.	Earthwork	256153 090455		√							√		
968118	MDV 12884	(24154) <b>1010178</b>	968118	A small, cairn containing three stones of a cist lie on the crest of Homerton Hill.	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	256128 090646		√							√		
969069	MDV52507	(24157) <b>1010591</b>	969069	A cairn 630m SSE of the flagpole on Longstone Hill.	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	256899 090527		√							√		
969170	MDV5575	(24180) <b>1010587</b>	969170	A cairn on the level summit of Longstone Hill 60m E of the flagstaff.	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	256703 091126		√							√		
1063402	MDV5556 MDV28079 MDV28080 MDV28082 MDV28083 MDV28084	<b>1018928</b>	1063402	Streamworking remains on the West Okement River and its tributaries, Brim Brook and Lint's Tor Brook.	Earthwork	258650 086808		√							√		
1063585		(28711) <b>1018912</b>	1063585	One or two hut circles and a short length of field boundary lie on a shelf on the steep NE facing slope of Kitty Tor.	Earthwork	257542 087426		√							√		
1063612	MDV5557 MDV34446 MDV61738	(28709) <b>1018910</b>	1063612	A ruined stone shelter on the right bank of the West Okement River 350 NW of Lints Tor.	Ruined Structure	257675 087670		√							√		
1063642	MDV5557 MDV60359	(28709) <b>1018910</b>	1063642	A prehistoric settlement on Lints Tor comprising nine hut circles and fragments of enclosures.	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	257750 087666		√							√		
1064225	MDV7721	(28731) <b>1018928</b>	1064225	A tinnern's hut on east side of Brim Brook	Ruined Structure	259025 087657		√							√		
1160554	MDV66657 MDV58438	(28675) <b>1017897</b>	1160554	An agglomerated prehistoric enclosure containing six stone hut circles and a post-medieval shelter on a southeast facing slope of Higher Tor overlooking the valley of the River Taw.	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	261509 091619		√							√		
1160572	MDV26792	(28676) <b>1017988</b>	1160572	Three stone hut circles situated on a south east slope of Higher Tor	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	261392 091433		√							√		
1184975	MDV50166	(20358) <b>1011569</b>	1184975	Four hut circles and two short lengths of enclosure wall on the right bank floodplain of the River Tavy at its confluence with the Rattle Brook.		256122 083722		√							√		
1209146		(28703) <b>1018909</b>	1209146	A robbed cairn on the crest of the N slope of Harter Hill above the right bank of the Black-aven Brook	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	260113 091908		√							√		
1233465		(28725) <b>1016642</b>	1233465	A cairn lies on the northern flank of Metheral Hill.		262558 090115		√							√		
1233486		(28725) <b>1016642</b>	1233486	A small cairn on the northern flank of Metheral.		262482 090089		√							√		
1303230		(28694) <b>1015760</b>	1303230	Bronze Age reave south and east of Kennon Hill.	Earthwork	263870 088422		√							√		
1339454	MDV61330	(28749) <b>1019226</b>	1339454	Bronze Age round cairn situated on Black Down 410 metres south west of Anthony Stile.	Earthwork	258459 092323		√							√		
1339476	MDV61332	(28750) <b>1019227</b>	1339476	Bronze Age round cairn containing a cist situated on Black Down	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	257397 091532		√							√		
1376648	MDV66367	(34445) <b>102871</b>	1376648	Bronze Age cist near the summit of Whitehorse Hill.	Earthwork/ Ruined Structure	261742 085479		√							√		

1393507	MDV52470 MDV12886	1010773 1010774 1010775 1010776 1010777 1013473 1010778 1010779 1010780	1393507	A hut circle, fragments of at least three contemporary enclosures and at least 20 clearance cairns on the crest of Homerton Hill.	Earthwork	256156 090478	√						√		
1393516	MDV5577 MDV54276 MDV5571	1010597 1013422 1010579 1010580 1010581 1010582 1010583 1010584 1010585 1010588 1010589 1010590 1010598 1010599 1010600 1010601 1010602 1010603 1010604 1010605 1010606 1010607 1010608 1013421	1393516	A cairnfield containing 39 small irregular cairns on the crest and upper slopes of Longstone Hill.	Earthwork	256796 090819	√						√		
1398493		1021214	1398493	Tin streamworks at Great Links Tor and Doe Tor (Only part of site within Okehampton Range)	Earthwork	255269 085774	√						√		
		1021043 (34471)	SWL1032	Three or four ruined hut circles on Higher Tor.	Ruined Structure	261324 91733	√						√		

# Okehampton Training Area Archaeological Condition Survey

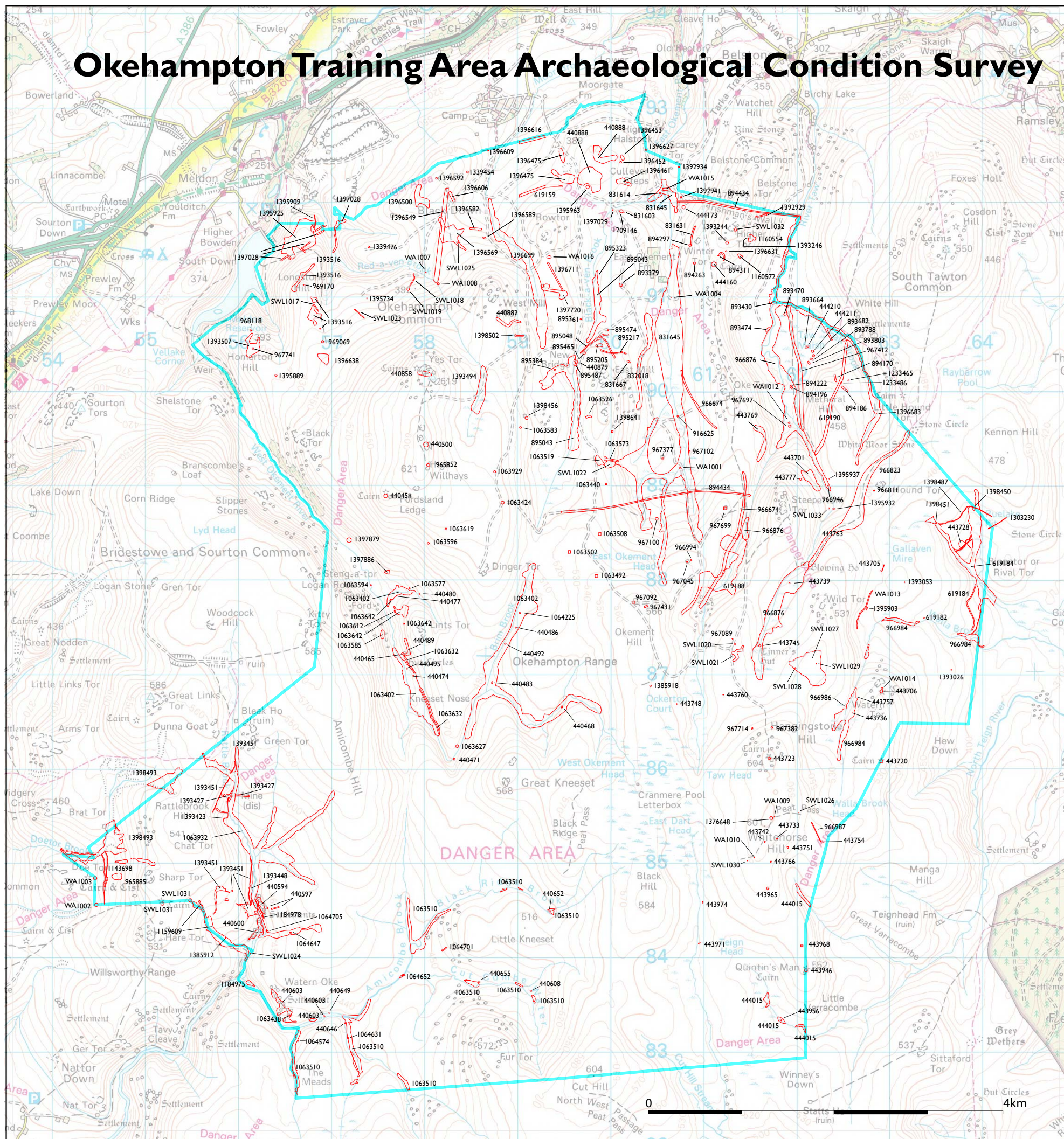


Fig 2 Map of Okehampton Training Area, including all recorded sites with MoD numbers.

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office ©Crown Copyright. Unauthorized production infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. WYG Licence No.AL100017603.