

Devon Historic Environment Record

Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council
Matford Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road
Exeter, Devon EX2 4QW



Tel: 01392 382246 Fax: 01392 383011 e-mail: archaeol@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/archaeology

Monument

20-Oct-11

5183 Huntingdon Warren

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Type: RABBIT WARREN | OS Map: SX66NE SX66NE/13 | Broad Period: Modern |
| NGR: SX66406640 | Historic Parish: LYDFORD | Period: Modern, World War I, XIX, XX |
| Admin Area: Dartmoor National Park | Civil Parish: Dartmoor Forest | |
| Evidence: Documentary Evidence | Listed Building Grade: | |
| Class: AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE | District: West Devon District | SM No: |

Summary

Huntingdon Warren, established in 1808 for farming rabbits. This warren contains around 100 artificial pillow mounds and several vermin traps. This site is included in the local list of Nationally Important Dartmoor sites.

Description

(Site visited in 1962?) The pillow mounds in general have their axes down slope. Lengths vary from 9.0 meters to 44.0 meters, widths 4.5 meters to 10.0 meters, heights from 0.7 meters to 1.6 meters. 102 mounds have been identified from air photographs. Ceased to be a warren in 1882. Comprises 610 acres, bounded by rivers Wallabrook and Avon to the east and south, and by a reave to the north and west. The warren has an unusually large number of buries - at least 80. Four vermin traps have been found, suggesting perhaps an earlier warren. (Haynes, R. G. 1970)

Huntingdon Warren at the head of the Avon Valley was established 1808. No sign of any trap sites in the warren. Inspected by R. G. Haynes, 1962. (Cook, R. M. L. 1964)

In Huntingdon Warren are situated 102 pillow mounds, the majority of which have their main axes down slope. The lengths vary from 9.0 meters to 44.0 meters, widths 4.5 meters – 10.0 meters and the heights 0.7 meters - 1.6 meters. All the mounds are ditched. (Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division 1977)

Huntingdon Warren and house existed here prior to 1809, when a lease was granted to Thomas Michelmores to work the warren. Walls enclosing the uninclosed land on the hill were built between 1809 and 1819, as per the conditions of the lease. The vermin traps are likely to be later. Hemery believes a longhouse and smaller warren predated Huntingdon Warren, the remains of which would have been reused in the building of Huntingdon Warren House. Warrening at Huntingdon ceased shortly after the Great War, although the house was lived in until 1956. (Hemery, E. 1983)

The boundaries to Huntingdon Warren: Western Walla Brook from SX66476803 to SX66506615, River Avon from SX66506615 to SX66016614, wall from SX66016614 to edge of map at SX65006700, linear feature from SX65006741 to SX66476803.

Total enclosed area 250 hectares. Main concentration of pillow mounds between SX665673 and SX663663, below the 1450 foot contour. 75 pillow mounds are visible, mostly in south-east of the warren, near Western Walla Brook.

There is evidence of extensive mining within boundaries with deserted buildings and field system. SX66NW/99. (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1985)

Warren depicted on Butler's map. (Butler, J. 1993)

This site was considered for designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument during the Monument Protection Programme. The programme ended before the entire list of sites was successfully scheduled so this is included on a local list of Nationally Important Sites. (Gerrard, S. 2004)

Centred at SX665669. The remains of a large 19th century enclosed warren comprising 116 pillow mounds, a destroyed Warreners House and a complex series of drainage channels lies on the east, south and west flanks of Huntingdon Warren some 8.0 kilometres west of Buckfastleigh. (For the warren-house, see 14372).

The most numerous features of this area are the well-built pillow mounds which average 5.5 meters wide but vary in length from 5.2 meters to 42.5 meters and stand between 0.5 meters and 2.0 meters high. Most possess drainage ditches and are positioned across the contours. Several of these mounds are irregular or ovoid in shape and two are obviously unfinished.

To protect the mounds from waterlogging a number of drainage channels were constructed on the southern flank of the warren. The lower portions of these utilise former tanners openworks and measure up to 10.0 meters wide and 5.0 meters deep while the upper extremities of this system are little more than leats around 1.0 meters wide and 0.5 meters deep. Overall they form a grid pattern running diagonally across the slope. (Probert, S. A. J. 1996)

Sources

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | | |
| CPE/UK 1890 | | | 1946 | 4272, 4275-6 |
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | | |
| RAF/3G/TUD/UK/223 | | | 1946 | 5037 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------|---------------|
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | 1948 | 4117-8 |
| | RAF/CPE/UK/2494 | | | |
| Aerial Photograph | National Monuments Record Aerial Photograph | (National Monuments Record) | Unknown | 1, 4, 9 |
| | NMR SX6666 | | | |
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | 1953 | 0043 |
| | RAF 58/1110 | | | |
| Article in Serial | Post-Medieval Archaeology | (Haynes, R. G.) | 1970 | 4 163 |
| Article in Serial | Transactions of the Devonshire Association | (Cook, R. M. L.) | 1964 | 96 196 |
| | Old vermin traps on south-west Dartmoor | | | |
| Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Card | Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Card | (Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division) | 1977 | |
| | SX66NE43 | | | |
| Aerial Photograph | National Monuments Record Aerial Photograph | (National Monuments Record) | Unknown | 1 |
| | NMR SX6566 | | | |
| Monograph | Industrial Archaeology of Farming in England and Wales | (Harvey, N.) | 1980 | |
| Monograph | Farms in England: Prehistoric to Present | (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England) | 1983 | |
| Aerial Photograph | Devon Aerial Photograph | (Griffith, F. M.) | 1990 | 4-7 |
| | QG | | | |
| Monograph | High Dartmoor | (Hemery, E.) | 1983 | 309-313 |
| Article in Serial | Medieval Archaeology | (Linehan, C. D.) | 1966 | 10 113-144 |
| | Deserted Sites and Rabbit-Warrens on Dartmoor, Devon | | | |
| Cartographic | Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England Aerial Photograph Primary Recording Project | (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England) | 1985 | |
| Monograph | Dartmoor Atlas of Antiquities: Volume Four - The South-East | (Butler, J.) | 1993 | Four |
| Un-published | List of Sites Remaining to be Considered for Designation on Dartmoor | (Gerrard, S.) | 2004 | |
| Cartographic | Ordnance Survey | (Ordnance Survey) | 2011 | |
| | MasterMap | | | |
| Report - Survey | Royal Commission for the Historical Monuments of England Field/Recording Input Form | (Probert, S. A. J.) | 1996 | |
| | Dartmoor Royal Forest Project | | | |

Relationships

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Associated with | BUILDING | 14372 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14373 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14374 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14375 |
| Includes | ENCLOSURE | 24763 |
| Includes | ENCLOSURE | 24764 |

Printed: 20/10/2011 09:06:48

© Copyright Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Disclaimer

Please note that this information has been compiled from a number of different sources. It is provided for information only and must not be relied on for legal or planning related work without further reference to the Historic Environment Service. The information may be freely used for private or commercial research but the source must be acknowledged.

Most archaeological sites in Devon are on private land. The inclusion of a site in the Historic Environment Record does not imply any right of public access.

Devon Historic Environment Record

Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council
Matford Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road
Exeter, Devon EX2 4QW



Tel: 01392 382246 Fax: 01392 383011 e-mail: archaeol@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/archaeology

Monument

20-Oct-11

14142 Ditsworthy Warren

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Type: RABBIT WARREN | OS Map: SX56NE SX56NE/88 | Broad Period: Multi-period |
| NGR: SX584-663- | Historic Parish: SHEEPSTOR | Period: Modern, Post Medieval, World War I, World War II, XIX, XVII, XVIII, XX |
| Admin Area: Dartmoor National Park | Civil Parish: Sheepstor | |
| Evidence: Documentary Evidence | Listed Building Grade: | |
| Class: AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE | District: West Devon District | SM No: |

Summary

Important rabbit warren containing over 50 pillow mounds and a number of vermin traps. Records of this warren date from 1676 until 1947. This site is included in the local list of Nationally Important Dartmoor sites.

Description

Depicted on map by Butler. (Butler, J. 1994)

Ditsworthy Warren House (SX56NE/7). The warren now consists of about 1100 acres. But originally probably only of 230 acres, the remainder being added in the mid 19th century. It ceased to operate as a warren in the 1930s. The warren is well-equipped with buries and has 14 vermin traps, 2 of which are almost complete. (Haynes, R. G. 1970)

Extensive documentary reasearch into the history of the Warren. (Robertson, J. G. 1991)

Vermin traps:- SX56NE/88-92; SX56NE/93/1; SX56NE/96-99; SX56SE/65/2; SX56NE/250-259 pillow mounds:- SX56NE/149. (Unknown 1996)

The warren is of approximately 1 square kilometre, and incorporates some 53 pillow mounds, average length 16.0 meters, though the longest is 165 meters. Four are made from an old boundary bank. Close dating difficult. Ordnance Survey reference quotes at length from Haynes' historical notes. (Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division 1977)

Ditsworthy warren. Examples of revetted stonework in pillow mounds, of which 21 have been observed. (Linehan, C. D. 1966)

Recorded in aerial photograph project. (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1985)

This site was considered for designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument during the Monument Protection Programme. The programme ended before the entire list of sites was successfully scheduled so this is included on a local list of Nationally Important Sites. (Gerrard, S. 2004)

Records regarding Ditsworthy as a warren date back to 1676, when Sir Nicholas Slanning leased the holding to Edward Meade who was described as a Warrener. Meade held the land until 1719 when it transferred to William Nicholls who also held Legis Tor Warren. Apart from a break between 1782 and 1800, the Nicholls family remained tenants at Ditsworthy until 1830 when the land passed to Nicholas Ware who leased the holding until the end of warrening in 1947.

Within the warren are a total of 54 pillow mounds, the vast majority of which are orientated with their long axes cutting the contours and well-defined drainage ditches around their upper ends and flanking their long sides. The mounds vary in length from 6.5 meters to 35.0 meters but are generally around 7.5 – 8.0 meters in width and around 1.3 meters in height. Most mounds have rounded ends and flat tops and apart from one exception they are built from soil on a base of large stones. North-west of Ditsworthy farmhouse are two mounds only 3.0 meters apart, the eastern of which has stone revetted sides and a turf cap as well as not possessing a drainage ditch.

Four pillow mounds were also constructed within the workings of the former Eylesbarrow Mine after 1859, when Ditsworthy land was increased to take over the holding of the mine company. These mounds have stone bases with soil or turf caps and square ends, ranging in length from 12.5 – 19.0 meters, 4.8 - 5.7 meters in width and are generally 1.2 meters high.

Eight vermin traps were recorded in the Ditsworthy area, mostly consisting of in-situ trap boxes and /or funnel walls, the best-preserved examples consisting of stone-lined channels that formally contained an operating catch which triggered a mechanism to seal the tunnel with shutters sliding in grooves at the trap ends.

Elaborate kennels were constructed adjacent to Ditsworthy farmhouse to house the dogs used by the warreners. (Fletcher, M. + Newman, P. + Probert, S. 1999)

Haynes' grid references are sometimes unreliable. There are therefore probably more recorded on the Sites and Monument Record than exist in fact. (Griffiths, D. M. 1996)

Events

Name: Survey of Drizzlecombe, Eylesbarrow, Ditsworthy and Hartor

Type: Survey

Max Date: 30 November 1999

Min Date: 01 June 1999

English Heritage

Category:

Date Range Qualifier: Between

Sources

Monograph

Dartmoor Atlas of Antiquities: Volume Three - The South-West (Butler, J.)

Three

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|------|---------|
| | | | 1994 | |
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | | |
| RAF/CPE/UK/2494 | | | 1948 | 4130-31 |
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | | |
| RAF 58/1110 | | | 1953 | 0038 |
| Article in Serial | Post-Medieval Archaeology | (Haynes, R. G.) | | 4 |
| | | | 1970 | 160 |
| Post-Graduate Thesis | | (Robertson, J. G.) | | |
| The Archaeology of the Upper Plym | | | 1991 | |
| Unattributed Sites and Monuments Register Entry | | (Unknown) | | |
| | | | 1996 | |
| Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Card | Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Card | (Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division) | | |
| SX56NE111 | | | 1977 | |
| Article in Serial | Medieval Archaeology | (Linehan, C. D.) | | 10 |
| Deserted Sites and Rabbit-Warrens on Dartmoor, Devon | | | 1966 | 139-143 |
| Cartographic | Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England Aerial Photograph Primary Recording Project | (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England) | | |
| | | | 1985 | |
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | | |
| RAF/106G/UK/1190 | | | 1946 | 4261 |
| Un-published | | (Gerrard, S.) | | |
| List of Sites Remaining to be Considered for Designation on Dartmoor | | | 2004 | |
| Report - Survey | Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England Report | (Fletcher, M. + Newman, P. + Probert, S.) | | |
| Drizzlecombe, Eylesbarrow, Ditsworthy and Hartor areas in the Plym Valley, West Devon | | | 1999 | 6-8 |
| Personal Comment | | (Griffiths, D. M.) | | |
| Ditsworthy Warren | | | 1996 | |
| Un-published | Typescript Notes in Plymouth City Library | (Haynes, R. G.) | | |
| Ditsworthy Warren | | | | |
| National Monuments Record Database | National Monuments Record Database | (National Monuments Record) | | |
| 438818 | | | 2011 | |

Relationships

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Associated with | ENCLOSURE | 4023 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14618 |
| Includes | BUILDING | 14617 |
| Includes | FARMSTEAD | 76851 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3386 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3388 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3389 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3390 |
| Includes | DESERTED SETTLEMENT | 3391 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3392 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3395 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3396 |

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3397 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3398 |
| Associated with | VERMIN TRAP | 3420 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 3472 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 3493 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 3583 |
| Associated with | ENCLOSURE | 3976 |
| Associated with | HUT CIRCLE | 3977 |
| Associated with | HUT CIRCLE | 3978 |
| Associated with | QUERN | 3985 |
| Associated with | ENCLOSURE | 4016 |
| Associated with | CAIRN | 4027 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14618 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14629 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14630 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14631 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14632 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14633 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14634 |
| Includes | BRIDGE | 14635 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14637 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14638 |
| Associated with | TROUGH | 22765 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 3387 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14628 |
| Associated with | FIELD SYSTEM | 25267 |
| Associated with | RIDGE AND FURROW | 25283 |
| Associated with | FIELD SYSTEM | 25284 |
| Associated with | STREAMWORKS | 25285 |
| Associated with | ENCLOSURE | 25286 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29183 |
| Includes | FARMSTEAD | 76851 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79205 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79207 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79209 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79210 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79211 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79212 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79213 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79214 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79215 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79217 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79218 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79220 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79221 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79222 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79224 |

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79225 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79253 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79254 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79255 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79256 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79257 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79258 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79259 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79261 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79262 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79263 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79264 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79265 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79270 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79271 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79272 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79273 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79274 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79275 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79277 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79280 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79281 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79282 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79283 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79285 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79286 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79287 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 79288 |

Printed: 20/10/2011 09:06:48

© Copyright Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Disclaimer

Please note that this information has been compiled from a number of different sources. It is provided for information only and must not be relied on for legal or planning related work without further reference to the Historic Environment Service. The information may be freely used for private or commercial research but the source must be acknowledged.

Most archaeological sites in Devon are on private land. The inclusion of a site in the Historic Environment Record does not imply any right of public access.

Devon Historic Environment Record

Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council
Matford Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road
Exeter, Devon EX2 4QW



Tel: 01392 382246 Fax: 01392 383011 e-mail: archaeol@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/archaeology

Monument

20-Oct-11

14148 Trowlesworthy Warren

Scheduled Monument

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Type: RABBIT WARREN | OS Map: SX56SE SX56SE/198 | Broad Period: Medieval |
| NGR: SX568-648- | Historic Parish: SHAUGH PRIOR | Period: Medieval, Modern, Post Medieval, XIII |
| Admin Area: Dartmoor National Park | Civil Parish: Shaugh Prior | |
| Evidence: Earthwork | Listed Building Grade: | |
| Class: AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE | District: South Hams District | SM No: 24233 |

Summary

Trowlesworthy Warren, was the oldest warren on Dartmoor, in existence by 1651 when it was occupied by John Hamblin, a skinner from Plymouth. The warren appears to have remained in constant use from this time until the first half of the 20th century. The warren contained at least 64 pillow mounds and 40 vermin traps scattered along the slopes of Little and Great Trowlesworthy Tors.

Description

Trowlesworthy Warren House is sited at SX568648 (information regarding vermin traps comes from a number of different sources; some entries in the SMR may be duplicates due to unreliable grid refs). (Griffiths, D. M. Unknown)

A small number of archaeological features were recorded during the insertion of a below ground electricity supply to Trowlesworthy Warren Farm (see subsheets 125-132). Areas cutting through tin streaming works recorded by photograph only. (National Trust 1997)

Trowlesworthy continues in use as a hill farm of 500 acres. It includes two tors (Great and Little Trowlesworthy). Vermin traps can be seen on Great Trowlesworthy, and along the banks of Lee Moor leat. 39 are known on this warren. (Haynes, R. G. 1970)

Author discusses warrening techniques with some references to Trowlesworthy. (Haynes, R. G. 1978-1981)

Evidence of the oldest of the Dartmoor Warrens can be found in Risdon's "Survey of Devon", dated about 1630. "Trowlesworthy Warren" was granted before date of deeds by Baldwin de Redvors, Earl of Devon, to Sampson de Traylesworthy at some period between 1135 and 1272. In 1551 it was leased to William Woollcombe and in 1560 was conveyed in fee. Trowlesworthy Warren contains at least sixty seven pillow mounds, sixty-three rectangular, six built against walls, one circular and one adapted hut circle. The rectangular "Buries" measure on average 24m long, 6m wide and 1m high above its ditch and range from 10m to 52m long, 3m to 8m wide and 0.6m to 1.4m high. They are aligned with the maximum slope. All are ditched, the average width being 2m and usually all round with, quite often a tailing ditch continuing down the slope. The majority lie on moderate slopes, a few lie on the valley floors and on steep river cliffs. They are constructed of earth over stone bases, visible in many instances as revetments, especially at the ends. One at SX56946472 has possibly been truncated by a field wall. The "Buries" built against extant field walls are similar, except that there is only one side ditch, and one SX5719506 is 131m long. The circular pillow mound at SX57396498 is 10m diameter, 0.6m high and a hut circle has been adapted by infilling the interior and digging an encircling ditch. Trowlesworthy Warren remained under the same family ownership until January 1969, when it was left to the National Trust. It continues as a hill farm. It is bounded on the west by Blackabrook; by the Plym on the north; Spanish Lake on the East; and Cotta Brook on the south. A water barrier on all sides, except the few yards between Spanish Lake Head and Cotta Brook. In fact, almost an island. These few yards were filled by a short piece of stone walling. The boundaries thus defined remained unaltered for many centuries. An area of 489 acres shown on Tithe Map of 1842. The late warrener thought it about 600 acres. There are no apparent medieval remains, but the warren house, post 1842, stands on earlier remains, and what must have been a longhouse once stood at the yard gate and was used by R. Giles in the 1930's to build the yard wall. This longhouse was connected to the field system on Shadyback Plateau. The present enclosed fields of the warren are probably founded on walls of this period. Names from Tithe Map of 1842, post 1842 enclosures were never named. This warren has been extensively drained for the benefit of rabbits and ditches occur everywhere. Notably on the steep slopes of Trowlesworthy Tors, inverted V shaped ditches have been dug, leaving a dry area between the arms of the V in which rabbits burrowed. (Ordnance Survey 1977)

Williamson and Loveday cite Trowlesworthy as the only Dartmoor pillow mounds that lie within an area where a possible medieval warren is documented. All other mounds with documentary references are of the 17th-19th century. (Williamson, T. + Loveday, R. 1988)

Occupies 200 hectares, bounded by River Plym, Spanish Lake + Blacka Brook. Ceased to operate as a warren in 1956. (National Trust 1994)

Includes c64 pillow mounds + 40 vermin traps. Robertson expresses doubt about its medieval origins. Existed by 1651. Used until first half of 20C. (Gerrard, S. 1995)

Trowlesworthy Warren. Earliest documentary reference 1292 - a grant of additional land for a rabbit warren (citing Hemery and Crossing). Linehan observed 18 pillow mounds. (Linehan, C. D. 1966)

Visible and recorded. (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1985)

A survey of field boundaries at Trowlesworthy Warren Farm was undertaken in 2003. (Berry, N. 2003)

Trowlesworthy Warren and many pillow mounds are depicted on the modern mapping. (Ordnance Survey 2011)

This monument includes a complex prehistoric and historic archaeological landscape situated within Trowlesworthy Warren which lies between the River Plym, Blacka Brook and Spanish Lake. The medieval archaeology includes a field system bounded by a cornditch, and the post-medieval remains include a field system, pillow mounds, vermin traps and animal runs forming part of a warren, clearance cairns, a rectangular building, a dam, leats, gravel pit and areas of alluvial streamworks.

Rabbit farming was also an important activity within this area during the post-medieval period and part of Trowlesworthy Warren lies within this monument. The boundaries of Trowlesworthy Warren, which includes around 64 pillow mounds and 40 vermin traps scattered along the slopes of Little and Great Trowlesworthy Tors, are denoted by the River Plym, Spanish Lake and Blacka Brook. Trowlesworthy Warren is generally accepted as the oldest warren on Dartmoor, although recently doubt has been expressed concerning its medieval origins. It is however known that the warren existed by 1651 when it was occupied by John Hamblin, a skinner from Plymouth. The warren appears to have remained in constant use from this time until the first half of the 20th century. At least 24 pillow mounds survive within the monument and most of these survive as flat-topped, sub-rectangular mounds of soil and stone surrounded by the ditch from which material was quarried during their construction. The mounds vary in length between 10.5m and 190m, with the average being 30.5m. Their widths vary between 3.5m and 8m, with the average being 5.66m. The heights of the mounds vary between 0.5m and 1.5m, with the average being 0.93m. All of the mounds are surrounded by a visible ditch and these vary in depth between 0.1m and 0.7m with the average being 0.28m. Scattered throughout the part of the warren lying within the monument are at least 15 vermin traps. Vermin approaching their quarry tend to seek a route that provides visual cover and the purpose of a trap was to funnel predators along ditches or beside walls to a central point where they could be trapped. Fourteen of the traps were constructed against or across earlier field boundaries or leat banks and were clearly intended to entrap the vermin following these artificial barriers. The traps survive as 'X'- or 'V'-shaped lengths of walling leading to a trapping area in which a stone box was originally placed. Within the warren at least 17 gullies, some of which are closely associated with pillow mounds, are visible. These gullies generally survive as shallow, relatively steep-sided hollows with a width of less than 1m, and are associated with a low bank which represents the material upcast during their construction. In the past these gullies have been seen as drainage ditches. However, the location, shape and alignment of many indicates very clearly that they could not all have had a drainage function. Their close association with vermin traps in several instances suggests that they are more likely to represent animal runs. Gullies such as these could have been excavated to control the movement of vermin. For full details see the National Heritage List for England. (Scheduled 1952, amended 2001). (English Heritage 2011)

Events

| | | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Name: | OSA=SX56SE66 | | | |
| Type: | Site Visit | Max Date: | Min Date: | 16 June 1977 |
| | Ordnance Survey | Category: | Date Range Qualifier: | |
| Name: | | | | |
| Type: | Site Visit | Max Date: | Min Date: | 01 January 1987 |
| | National Trust | Category: | Date Range Qualifier: | |
| Name: | MPP/140356 | | | |
| Type: | Site Visit | Max Date: | Min Date: | 01 January 1995 |
| | English Heritage | Category: | Date Range Qualifier: | |
| Name: | An Archaeological Watching Brief on Electricity Supply to Trowlesworthy Warren Farm | | | |
| Type: | Watching Brief | Max Date: | Min Date: | 01 March 1997 |
| | National Trust | Category: | Date Range Qualifier: | |

Sources

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Personal Comment | | (Griffiths, D. M.) | | Unknown |
| Article in Serial | Transactions of the Devonshire Association | (Cook, R. M. L.) | | 103 |
| | Second Report of the Industrial Archaeology Section | | 1971 | 200 |
| Aerial Photograph | Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph | (Royal Air Force) | | |
| | CPE/UK 1890 | | 1946 | 4288-9 2295-6 |
| Report - Watching Brief | National Trust Archaeological Survey Report | (National Trust) | | |
| | An Archaeological Watching Brief on Electricity Supply to Trowlesworthy Warren Farm | | 1997 | 1 |
| Article in Serial | Post-Medieval Archaeology | (Haynes, R. G.) | | 4 |
| | | | 1970 | 147-164 |
| Article in Serial | Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries | (Haynes, R. G.) | | 34 |
| | The Care of Rabbits on Dartmoor Warrens | | 1978-1981 | 55-57 |
| Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Card | | (Ordnance Survey) | | |
| | SX56SE66 | | 1977 | |
| Article in Serial | Archaeological Journal | (Williamson, T. + Loveday, R.) | | 145 |
| | | | 1988 | 310 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|
| Report - non-specific | National Trust Archaeological Survey Report | (National Trust) | 102.130 |
| | The Upper Plym Valley: The Management of an Historic Landscape | | 1994 44 |
| Report - Survey | Monument Protection Programme. Archaeological Item Dataset. | (Gerrard, S.) | |
| | 140356 | | 1995 |
| Aerial Photograph | RAF | (RAF) | |
| | 58/1110.0038 | | 1953 |
| Article in Serial | Western Morning News | (Hemery, E.) | |
| | | | 1956 |
| Post-Graduate Thesis | | (Robertson, J. G.) | |
| | The Archaeology of the Upper Plym | | 1991 254-6 |
| Article in Serial | Medieval Archaeology | (Linehan, C. D.) | 10 |
| | Deserted Sites and Rabbit-Warrens on Dartmoor, Devon | | 1966 139-143 |
| Cartographic | Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England Aerial Photograph Primary Recording Project | (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England) | |
| | | | 1985 |
| Report - Survey | National Trust Archaeological Survey Report | (Berry, N.) | |
| | Trowlesworthy Warren Farm: Archaeological Survey and Assessment of the Field Boundaries | | 2003 4-22 |
| Monograph | Crossing's Guide to Dartmoor | (Crossing, W.) | |
| | | | 1912 13 |
| Cartographic | Ordnance Survey | (Ordnance Survey) | |
| | MasterMap | | 2011 |
| National Heritage List for England | | (English Heritage) | |
| | | | 2011 |

Relationships

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Associated with | RABBIT WARREN | 14145 |
| Associated with | ENCLOSURE | 52630 |
| Includes | HOUSE | 14368 |
| Includes | FIELD SYSTEM | 14369 |
| Includes | FIELD | 52589 |
| Includes | GARDEN | 52590 |
| Includes | FACTORY | 52591 |
| Includes | KENNELS | 52592 |
| Includes | FIELD | 52593 |
| Includes | HOUSE | 52594 |
| Includes | BUILDING | 52595 |
| Includes | GARDEN | 52596 |
| Includes | FIELD | 52597 |
| Includes | ENCLOSURE | 52598 |
| Includes | FIELD | 52599 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2463 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2464 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2473 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2474 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2482 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2483 |

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Includes | FIELD | 52600 |
| Includes | FIELD | 52601 |
| Includes | FIELD | 52602 |
| Includes | DITCH | 52603 |
| Includes | LEAT | 52665 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55302 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55307 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55308 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55309 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55310 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 55311 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 55312 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55313 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55314 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2485 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2486 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2487 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2488 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2490 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2491 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2498 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 2499 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14357 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14359 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14360 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14361 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14362 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14363 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14364 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14367 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14650 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14652 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14653 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14654 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14655 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29965 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29966 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29967 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29969 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29971 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29972 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29974 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29975 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29976 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 29977 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 32066 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 32069 |

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 43427 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 43428 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 43429 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 43430 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 43431 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 43432 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14358 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14358 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14365 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14366 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14366 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 14651 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 32073 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 32076 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 32077 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 32078 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 52620 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 52623 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 52627 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 52629 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 52642 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 52672 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 52674 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55255 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55256 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55257 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55258 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55259 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55261 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 55290 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56820 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56821 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56823 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 56824 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56827 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56828 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 56829 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56832 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 56833 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56840 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56841 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56842 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56843 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 56844 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 56848 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 56850 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 57380 |

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 57381 |
| Includes | PILLOW MOUND | 57382 |
| Includes | DITCH | 61232 |
| Includes | DRAIN | 61233 |
| Includes | STONE | 61234 |
| Includes | DITCH | 61235 |
| Includes | WALL | 61237 |
| Includes | WALL | 61238 |
| Includes | TERRACE | 61239 |
| Includes | VERMIN TRAP | 62932 |
| Includes | FIELD | 70971 |
| Includes | FIELD | 70972 |

Printed: 20/10/2011 09:06:49

© Copyright Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Disclaimer

Please note that this information has been compiled from a number of different sources. It is provided for information only and must not be relied on for legal or planning related work without further reference to the Historic Environment Service. The information may be freely used for private or commercial research but the source must be acknowledged.

Most archaeological sites in Devon are on private land. The inclusion of a site in the Historic Environment Record does not imply any right of public access.