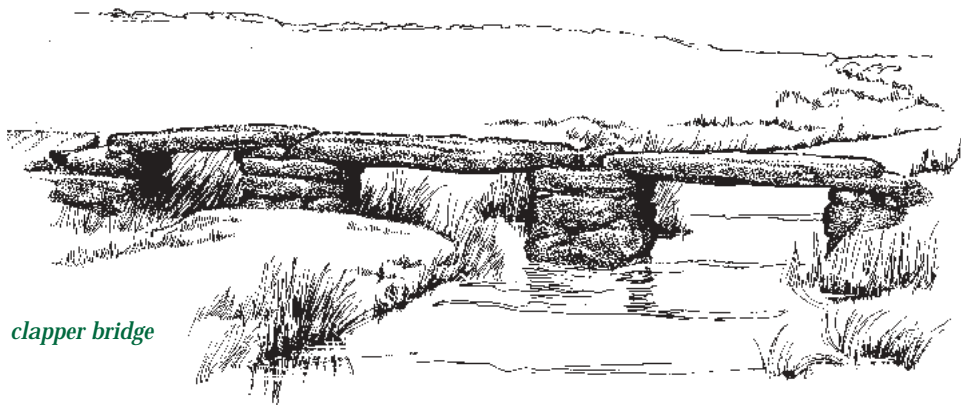




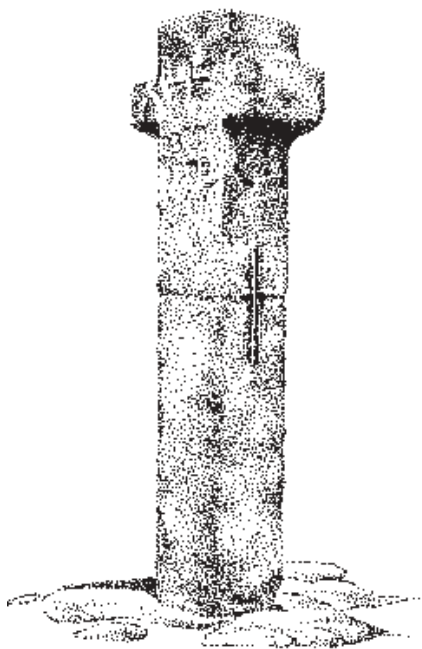
BOUNDARIES AND BYWAYS



clapper bridge

Clapper Bridges: The clapper bridge is one of Dartmoor's best-known features. Large granite slabs (or 'clappers') were laid across streams or rivers; either from bank to bank or resting upon piers in mid-stream. The word clapper is said to derive from the Anglo-Saxon word *cleaca* meaning 'bridging the stepping stones'.

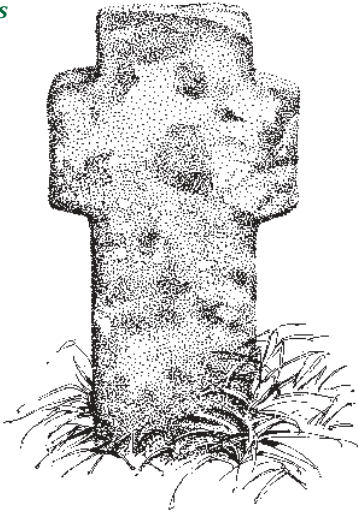
Crosses: Granite crosses are characteristic of the Dartmoor landscape. A few were set up in villages or churchyards (perhaps as preaching crosses) but the majority were erected to waymark routes across the moor. Some have been lost, but originally the intention must have been that (the lie of the land and weather permitting) a traveller could see



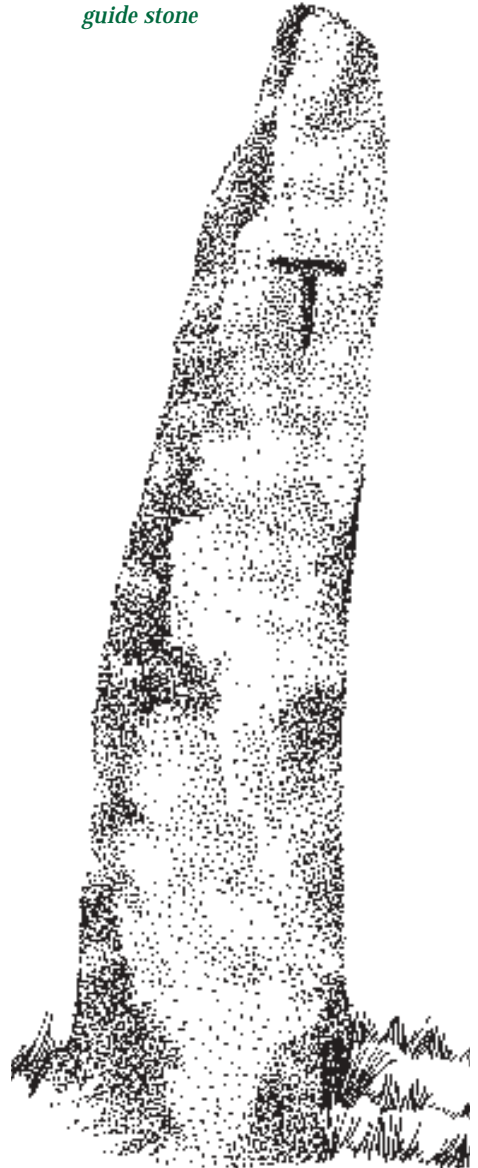
cross



CROSS



guide stone



from one cross to the next. Most have a cross-head with short arms; some also have crosses incised upon them. The majority of the Dartmoor crosses belong to the period between the 12th or 13th centuries and the middle of the 16th century, and are thought to have been set up by the monasteries (Buckland, Tavistock or Buckfast) located on the edge of the moorland.

Guide Stones: These marked routes between settlements, and were set up following an Act of Parliament in the late 17th century. The interesting feature about them is that, to modern eyes, they face the wrong way. Walking or riding from Ashburton to Tavistock, the traveller would encounter the inscribed letter 'A' rather than 'T', indicating the route behind, rather than that ahead.

Milestones: These either mark the distance between two or more places, or else the distance from one particular place or the progressive length of a routeway. Many roadside milestones are associated with the creation, in the late 18th century, of turnpikes – roads whose repair was the responsibility of a private trust who could levy tolls for their use.

Other types of milestone are associated with other features, for example the Haytor tramway.

milestone



boundary stone



Boundary Stones: Many inscribed boundary stones are undated, but a good number belong to the last two or three centuries. Their inscriptions may record – often by initials – the name of the area or the owner (illustrated: the Duke of Somerset on Haytor Down) or in the case of bridges (illustrated), the area for which the county was responsible for maintenance.

County boundary stone

