

An Archaeological Survey of an area of Walkhampton Common, Dartmoor National Park, Devon

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Southwest Landscape Investigations



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Figure 1 Location map showing the Walkhampton Common survey area within Dartmoor national Park.

Figure 2 1:2500 plan of the survey area showing all archaeological features and limits of the survey. Contours from OS open source ©Crown copyright and database right (2019). For individual monument numbers see Figure 6

Figure 3 1:200 scale survey of the Horseyeat stone row.

Figure 4 1:200 survey of the Sharpitor stone rows.

Figure 5 1:1000 earthwork survey of two large earthwork banks.

Figure 6 1:2500 plan of the survey area showing individual monument (HER) numbers.

Summary

An account is given of survey and recording of multi-period heritage assets on the western portion of Walkhampton Common on western Dartmoor, in advance of natural flood management improvements. Terrestrial measured survey has been used to produce a map scale plan of the project area and larger scale plans of significant prehistoric assets. Descriptive text and limited interpretations are provided, outlining the main features of the surveys, and highlighting some of the more sensitive areas. Versions of the surveys have also been output for upload into the DNPA GIS database and some photographic record of items included in the survey is provided within the report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and geology

The survey area (Figs 1 & 2) has an irregular outline and covers c.40ha of open moorland at the very western extremity of Walkhampton Common, bounded on the southwest side by the outer enclosure walls of Horseyeat and Peekhill Farms. It also includes a small portion of land to the east of the B3212 by Goadstone Pond.

The sloping ground extends down from the twin peaks of Sharpitor (410m above OD) and Peak Hill (395m above OD) and continues southwest towards Walkhampton within the enclosed lands, but this survey covers only the area between 375m and 290m on the open moorland. Within the western half of the survey area a small spring forms the source of the Black Brook, which develops into a significant tributary of the River Walkham as it flows southwest through the enclosed lands of several farms and through Walkhampton village, to meet the Walkham at the foot of Knowle Down,

Although the survey area lies within the Dartmoor Granite Mass, the contact zone between it and the Tavy Formation slates of the Metamorphic Aureole is only metres away to the southwest. Nevertheless, all stone structures recorded for this survey were built from granite moorstone.

This survey was commissioned to inform an Environment Agency funded, natural flood management project within the catchment of the Black Brook.

1.2 Designations

The survey location lies within land designated as Access land, in Dartmoor National Park. It also falls within Walkhampton Common Premier Archaeological Landscape (PAL), one of 14 areas of the upland identified as having high archaeological value, including some assets of national significance, which require specialist forms of conservation within future moorland management schemes. The area also contains five scheduled monument (SM) designations, including single monuments and areas containing several separate scheduled features combined (see Appendix).

2.0 THE SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

The main focus of the surveys has been to produce a 1:2500-scale plan depicting all known archaeological assets within the specified area. This was achieved using survey grade proportional GPS fixed to the OS grid using coordinates generated by GPS. Captured data was processed in a CAD environment then annotated in the field to produce digital plans. A larger scale of 1:200 has been used to survey the three stone rows (MDV12831, MDV3761, MDV3762), and two large earthworks (MDV57042 and MDV126762) were surveyed at 1:1000 scale.

Seven previously unrecorded assets have been added to the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) historic environment record (HER), including the significant finds of a ruined longhouse (MDV126764) with probable medieval origins, and one other ruined building (MDV126765).

The survey was conducted in October 2019, when vestiges of summer bracken growth were still extant but did not affect the results of the survey to any great extent.

2.2 The archaeological Context

The area covered by this survey lies at the very western corner of Walkhampton Common. Walkhampton is among Dartmoor's larger parishes and possesses an extensive common containing a large expanse of moorland, within which some of Dartmoor's most impressive archaeology is contained, including an above average proportion of the total prehistoric ritual, burial, reave and hut settlement sites. Although, some researchers have recently asserted that Walkhampton parish contains enclosures of 9th-century, 'Saxon' date, (Faith and Fleming 2012), documentation suggests that medieval settlement and agriculture were more firmly established in the parish between the 11th and 14th century, from when many of the surviving inhabited settlements and their enclosed lands have their origins. Archaeological evidence for a number of deserted settlements from the medieval period, or possibly earlier, is also known within the parish. Exploitation of natural resources includes tin, which was worked on a massive scale in Walkhampton parish, with a documented history in Devon from the 12th to the 19th centuries, though no evidence survives for this activity within the survey area. Dartmoor's granite has been exploited continuously as a building material since the first stone monuments were constructed, possibly as early as the 3rd millennium BC, until the late 20th century when quarrying ceased at Merrivale, one of several extensive quarry sites within this sector of the moor.

The focus of this survey extends between the granite slopes of Sharpitor, just east of the B3212 at Goadstone Pond, down to the outer enclosure walls of Horseyeat, ranging in height between 370m and 270m. Although the archaeology is not particularly eye-catching, or extensive, it is representative of the fringe zone of Dartmoor, where the enclosed 'improved' land of farms occupied for hundreds of years, gives way to unimproved moorland. Within the former, upstanding stone monuments and earthwork

evidence of past human activity have often become effaced, after centuries of land improvement, whereas on the adjacent moorland such features more frequently survive. These areas often also contain archaeology that characterises their marginal nature, including evidence for the extensive robbing of stone from prehistoric structures assimilated into the walls and buildings of later periods, often radically reducing the fabric of the donor structures. Deserted medieval settlements and isolated dwellings, together with long abandoned field systems are often present in marginal locations, where they were vulnerable to fluctuation in the demand for land, whether influenced by economic or environmental change.

2.3 Previous research

Previous archaeological work in this small corner of the common has been limited, with most effort to date focussing on the three stone rows and associated burial monuments. Of these, the poorly-preserved examples at Goadstone Pond (MDV3761; 3762; 3769) were first recorded by S Baring Gould in 1894 (Worth 1894, 302), while surprisingly, the much better preserved row (MDV12831) to the NW near Horseyeat, first entered the record in 1963 recorded by local historian, L Govier (*DAS Newsletter* 2-Dec-1962). Both sites have been re-recorded and reported on many times in the HER, often with conflicting detail, and both were surveyed by Butler (1994) at small scale.

A significant prehistoric feature that runs through the area is the Great Western Reave (MDV15036), which featured heavily in Fleming's more general discussions of the Dartmoor reaves (Fleming 2008). A small excavation trench was opened across the western extremity of the reave near the modern enclosure wall in 2014, which revealed that a boundary built in stone was preceded by a turf bank, though no datable evidence was retrieved (Simmonds and Champness 2015).

Beyond these findings, investigation has been limited to aerial transcripts (National Mapping Project; Butler 1994) and OS mapping revisions in the 1970s and 80s.

3.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGY: A SUMMARY

See the Appendix (below) for detailed descriptions of individual assets

3.1 Prehistoric

The earliest surviving assets are certainly the stone rows. Although no stone row on Dartmoor has yet been precisely dated, a late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date (late 3rd to early 2nd millennium BC) has long been assumed on the basis of burial monuments associated with stone rows, which often contain dateable material. However, analysis and RC dating of the peat context of a stone row at Cut Hill has recently raised the possibility of a 4th-millennium date for some of Dartmoor's rows (Fyfe and Greeves 2010).

The 126m-long example NE of Horseyeat (Fig. 3) has 42 upright stones surviving *in situ*, and 9 stones that are recumbent or leaning but approximately still in place (MDV12831). The row has an upright terminal

stone at the SW end, while the NW end terminates with a low, disturbed flattish stony cairn. Although a number of stones are missing from the row, the remaining monument is in fair condition with a high number of the surviving components remaining upright.

Two stone rows, one single and one double, are located just east of the B3212 at Goadstone Pond. The legacy condition of these two fragile monuments is extremely poor by comparison. Most of the stones are missing and large erosion hollows resulting from water run-off, animal poaching and footpath wear from the car park, have caused damage to the ground surface, disrupting what are mostly small stones. In-situ stones are difficult to discern in both rows, though many fallen stones lie along their axes, which could represent displaced components. The double row (MDV3762) is 110m long but only 24 earthfast stones can be claimed to be *in situ*. A small cairn serves as the terminal at the SW end and a toppled slab once served as a blocking stone at the NE end.

The single row (MDV3761) is oriented slightly off parallel with the adjacent double stone row, which is as little as 4m to the north, and appears to cut across the north eastern terminal of the latter. Although an alignment of fallen and randomly placed stones may be traced for 81m, only eight small stones covering a distance of 15m, may be claimed with confidence to be *in-situ* components of an alignment. No form of terminal such as a cairn has been identified associated with this row.

Although it forms part of this group of ritual monuments, a ruinous cairn with a cist sited 74m to the NE of the double row does not serve as a terminal for either of the rows, though roughly on the line of the double. Very little of the cairn material survives but three stone sides of the cist remain approximately *in situ* and ten earthfast stones of a retaining circle survive around the periphery of the cairn, of which two retain an approximately upright or slightly leaning position.

Previous investigators exploring this area have mentioned a fragmented field system lying in the vicinity of the Great Western Reave, (see HER entry MDV62013) although the remains had not been authenticated through survey. Disconnected sections of what appear to be low, spread, stony banks, are widespread over these slopes, but it should be stressed that this area possesses many narrow clutter streams running down the hill, which are easily mistaken for ruined walls by the unwary and most can be dismissed as geology. However, survey of some of the more promising sections of bank has revealed what are potentially prehistoric (2nd millennium BC) enclosures. The banks are very spread but completely lacking substantive stones. One of these enclosures is associated with a previously recorded hut circle (MDV28573), which these banks could have once enclosed. Further down the slope an intermittent circuit of an enclosure with banks of similar character, covering an area of 0.37ha, may be conjectured from the recorded remains, (MDV62013). The complete lack of sizeable stone in these banks is of concern, for which robbing is an unsatisfactory explanation. It is possible however, that other materials such as timber fences or planted hedges served as a secondary component.

More certainty can be attributed to some hut circles, enclosure walls and a reave on the western edge of the survey area. An unusually large, though isolated, hut circle (MDV25926) associated with fragmentary

attached enclosure walls, is located approximately 130m NE of Horseyeat. The turf-covered walls remain substantial, where present, and contain much *in-situ* stone. The circle has an internal diameter of 9.3m and the floor is clear, but a 6m section of the SW arc of the wall is missing. This, together with the survival and condition of the walls in an area where prehistoric remains have been heavily robbed, suggests that this hut circle may have been re-purposed after abandonment, probably well into the medieval period or later.

To the NW, a much smaller hut (MDV61950) contained in its own sub-circular enclosure survives only as an earthwork. It was probably already in existence when a reave (MDV61949) was constructed, extending from both its west and east sides. This boundary runs approximately east to west in a roughly straight line towards the terminal of a stone row (MDV12831), which it transects. After a short gap, the reave turns SE before terminating when meeting a medieval field bank. The reave was constructed from stone, much of which remains exposed over its course.

Although hut circles and associated enclosures were frequently re-occupied during various phases of the past, the origin of these forms of evidence usually lies within the 2nd millennium BC. However, none of the examples in the study area have been subject to any form of controlled archaeological investigation so this approximation relies on inference from those that have in other areas of Dartmoor.

3.2 Medieval

Medieval activity on this part of Walkhampton Common is represented by a rectilinear field system, two elements of a small settlement with enclosures, and evidence of land clearance. All these remains are of a type very familiar on Dartmoor in places where the outer limits of modern enclosure meet the open moorland.

The abandoned rectilinear enclosure NE of Horseyeat (MDV25925), encloses a total of 3.25ha, using a combination of ditches and earthen banks, which probably formed the bases for hedges, to form its boundaries. One of these banks has incorporated an existing cairn (MDV61948) into its fabric on the NE end. Evidence of clearance in the fields is present in the form of mounds of small stones, which implies that cultivation may have been one purpose for this field, though no ridge and furrow is detectable. A slight stony bank runs centrally between the two long sides of the enclosed ground, dividing the enclosure into two, approximately equal plots. Two additional very slight, fragmentary banks, follow a similar orientation at the SW end, creating a partition or strip of land 13m wide.

These fields probably represent short-lived intakes of medieval date, associated with one of the abandoned settlements recorded nearby, or perhaps Horseyeat, still occupied, or Croftshead (MDV20668), abandoned in the 19th century. The fields probably became disused when or before the current enclosure layouts of Horseyeat and Peekhill were consolidated. Interestingly, two prehistoric boundaries, which meet the enclosure on the north side, both terminate where they meet the bank to form a junction, suggesting they could have been maintained as an extension to this system. A well-defined leat (MDV61952), which diverted rainwater run-off from further to the east, transects the enclosure, breaching its bank east and

west, then continues west. The construction date of the leat post-dates that of the enclosure, and may have been installed to divert water to Croftshead, augmented by the Black Brook which it crosses.

Southeast of the wide opening in the modern enclosure walls, that forms the driveway down to the Horseyeat moor gate, are the remains of two ruined buildings and some associated field banks. The earthwork foundations of a single longhouse (MDVI26764) and an associated length of enclosure are sited only 12m north of the outer enclosure walls. The rectangular outline of the building is well defined, oriented east to west, levelled into, and at right angles to the slope, causing a slight hollow at the eastern end, with upstanding, turf-covered wall foundations along both sides and the western end. Opposing entrance openings are visible in both long walls. A nearby, 35m-long remnant of an earthen enclosure bank, does not connect to the ruin but was almost certainly associated with it.

This bank may once have connected to an additional similar boundary bank a few metres to the NW, which extends 90m to meet another ruined building (MDVI26765). This building is smaller, and the base of the turf-covered stone walls is still upstanding. Additional earthworks attached to the exterior hint at a yard or small curtilage. The better survival of the walls, implies that this structure may have been abandoned more recently than the longhouse.

Based on excavated ceramic evidence from elsewhere on Dartmoor, a longhouse of this type has the potential to date from the 13th century, and by the same form of evidence, may have been abandoned by the mid-15th (Allan 1994). The other structure is typical of small dwellings and ancillary farm buildings elsewhere on Dartmoor, though with a very broad date range. Neither of the buildings, or their enclosures, was depicted on the Tithe, so they were certainly abandoned pre-1840.

3.3 Earthwork Banks

Two large curving earthworks on the SW slopes of Sharpitor, have so far defied attempts to satisfactorily interpret them or calculate a date for their construction. The first of these is sited 100m NW of the B3212. This bank comprises two adjoining elements. The larger is a crescentic earthwork which runs across the contour of the slope and is 100m long, tip to tip, with a curvature depth of approximately 33m. A second bank extends from the western end of the section already described. The banks are up to 12m wide and 1.2m high at the strongest point, but fades into the moorland slope at its extremities. The main bank is breached in two places, though it is uncertain if either were original features. A stony round cairn of probable prehistoric date, was incorporated into the bank, the upper section of which is now only partly exposed. This feature is interpreted in the SM notification report as being later than the bank, leading to the conclusion that the bank itself is Neolithic, but the earthwork survey (Fig. 5) suggests the opposite whereby the bank was added to an existing cairn.

The other bank lies adjacent to the south side of the B3212. In plan, the bank, which is 170m long, is slightly curved crossing the slope at approximately 45° but with a right angled return of 30m on the SW end. This bank is on average 10.5m wide and at its highest point, in the centre, it is 1.3m high on the

downslope, outer side but less than 0.5m on the inside, possibly as a result of silting, giving a terraced appearance. Towards its extremities to SW and NE the bank fades and blends with the hillslope. In two places the earthwork has been breached by vehicle movements.

No obvious explanation or date for the construction of these earthworks is forthcoming. Although they are as large as many late-prehistoric (Iron Age) ramparts, if they formed part of large defensive enclosures, then this poses the questions why do only these incomplete sections survive and why so unsuitably located on a slope? The scheduled monument description (1019566) claims that the western bank is Neolithic but no basis was offered for this assumption, other than the debatable stratigraphical relationship with the cairn.

The OS has described them as field clearance or part of a field system, but their massive size would make it very unlikely that was their purpose. Their appearance might suggest they were redoubts or breastworks, of a type used in the English Civil War and later, but no skirmishes are recorded here, and neither bank is positioned to offer any defensive advantage. There is also no known record of 19th-20th century military training at this locality.

The western bank (MDV57042) varies slightly in appearance from the other in that its greater curvature and additional height on the interior of the curve could indicate that it was capable of containing water, although there is no obvious reason to suspect that a reservoir was ever needed on this part of the moor, with no tinworks present nearby. A small earthwork spur extends from the western side of the Great Western Reave, 20m to the east of the bank and aligned with it. This feature could have been related to the bank, though there is no visible association between the two surviving on the ground today. Only the western of the two banks has appeared on the OS maps, making a relatively late appearance on the 1980 1:10,000 scale series, its significance as a probable antiquity being noted by Norman Quinnell of OSAD.

4.0 DISCUSSION

This survey has demonstrated how even a small area of Dartmoor's moorland may contain archaeological riches, related to several episodes of human activity, intermittently over a period of over 4000 years in this case. It has also established the existence of a number of previously unrecorded or un-surveyed features which help enhance the narrative for this location.

It is unfortunate that some of the oldest surviving assets at Goadstone Pond, the stone rows, have suffered so badly at the hands of the despoiler, but fortunate that the Horseyeat row and its cairn have survived somewhat better. The existence of these rows, together with several small cairns also recorded, demonstrates that this corner of the upland held significance in the Early Bronze Age and possibly earlier. The evidence for Bronze Age (2nd millennium) settlement is less extensive, but exists nevertheless in the form of at least three hut circles and several detached enclosure walls. There is also the evidence of the very spread, stony banks, which could be the remains of enclosures, though much degraded by the forces of attrition. One of the hut circles is unusually large and survives well. It seems likely that some form of re-

use in a later period occurred. During excavation of large hut circles at Fernworthy on the east side of Dartmoor in the 1930s, medieval pottery and a coin of Henry VII provided evidence of at least two periods of re-use of the huts (Worth 1935, 124-5), so there is potential for this within many other hut circles.

The evidence for a single abandoned longhouse and second smaller building, lying just beyond the modern boundary of enclosed land at 310m OD, together with vestiges of associated enclosures, is a familiar scenario for upland Dartmoor, and indicative of the marginal character of these zones. Several previously noted examples have been recorded in similar situations usually lying between the 300m and 360m contour (Newleycombe valley (MDV39429), Blackslade (MDV7468), Venford (MDV115705), Rushslade (MDV8021), Pudsham (MDV112769), Pinchaford (MDV34281).

The abandoned field system to the north of the longhouse is an additional component in this development. This and similar areas around the fringes of the upland, represent the interface where the gradual creep of medieval farming enclosures faltered before halting, as the marginality of the higher ground made it too demanding for permanent cultivation or occupation. These places are significant for the information they provide and their physical survival illustrates an important phase in the advancement of agriculture and settlement.

There is clearly much more to be understood in the case of the large earthworks (Fig. 5) recorded near the B3212. That they represent a significant human intervention at some, as yet, undefined period of the past there is no doubt, though their purpose has to remain an enigma for the time being.

5.0 MITIGATION

With the exception of the rectangular field system (MDV25925), a leat (MDV61952) and the Great Western Reave (MDV15036), all of which are linear features, the archaeological assets within the defined area are mostly discrete, individual items, distributed over a large area. However, care needs to be exercised when agreeing a location for any intrusive works or use of heavy machinery, especially along the water course of the Black Brook, which has close contact with several assets including a stone row (MDV12831) and two sections of prehistoric enclosure/reave (MDV61949). The brook is actively eroding a wider course through the south end of the stone row and part of the reave. It would be desirable, if possible, to divert this flow of water away from these assets to prevent further degradation. The brook has its origins, just to the east of the stone row, and although diminutive under normal conditions, the wet area often spreads across the slope during heavy rainfall, also coming close the large hut circle (MDV25926). The close proximity of these heritage assets should be taken into consideration before any alterations to the flow of the Black Brook are put into effect.

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MonUId	Monument Type	Description	Easting	Northing	SM No.
MDV12831	STONE ALIGNMENT	A single stone row located on the gentle western slope of Walkhampton Common, 600m NE of Horseyeat. The row is oriented approximately SW to NE and measures 126m long. The NE terminal is formed by a low, stony round cairn of 8.8m diameter (see MDV5011). The SW terminal is formed by an upright stone of 1.3m high, which is notably higher than any other surviving stones within the row. The row comprises 42 upright stones surviving <i>in situ</i> , the tallest of which is 0.8m high, and 9 stones which are recumbent or leaning but approximately still in place. An additional 6 fallen or displaced stones lie approximately within the alignment and may have originally been components of it. Several of the <i>in-situ</i> upright stones are disguised by vegetation. The average spacing between surviving stones is 1.2m, though some are less at 0.9m. Near the SW terminal, flowing water from the Black Brook has scoured a shallow, 13.5m-wide channel across the row, displacing some of the stones though others survive. Adjacent to the southern edge of the channel, a stony linear boundary, or reave (MDV61949), of probable prehistoric date, transects the row, not far from the terminal stone. Although a number of stones are missing, the remaining monument is in fair condition with a high number of the surviving stones remaining upright.	255006	70707	1019566
MDV5011	CAIRN	A turf-covered round cairn which forms the terminal of a stone row (MDV12831) on the gentle western slope of Walkhampton Common, 720m NE of Horseyeat. The cairn is low and spread, with a diameter of 8.8-9m. Several earthfast stones near the periphery may be considered part of a kerb or retaining circle. The centre of the mound has evidence of an unrecorded intervention, where two small mounds of earth offset slightly from the centre to north and west, lie adjacent to a hollow containing two displaced slabs of granite.	255051	70746	1019566
MDV5012	CAIRN	A turf-covered round cairn sited 60m NE of an alignment (MDV12831) on Walkhampton Common. The cairn is not coaxial with the alignment, but slightly offset to the NW. The diameter varies between 4.7 and 5.2m and the domed mound stands to only 0.4m. Several larger stones near the centre of the mound are exposed, suggesting past disturbance.	255092	70786	1019566
MDV61950	ENCLOSURE AND HUT CIRCLE	A small enclosure containing a single small hut circle on Walkhampton Common, 470m NE of Horseyeat (heavily disguised by bracken at the time of survey). The enclosure is approximately elliptical, with internal measurements of 12m by 9.7m. It has turf-covered banks and very little visible stone. The hut circle is in similar condition with an approximate diameter of 3.5m.	254768	70646	1019566
MDV61949	REAVE	A section of reave extends approximately 250m west to east, obliquely across the slope of Walkhampton Common. The reave is of stony construction and approximately 1m wide and no higher than 0.4m. Its remains can be observed running from a point just beyond and to the NE of the enclosed land of Horseyeat, in a roughly straight line towards the terminal of a stone row (MDV12831). A 13m section, is missing but it continued SE for a further 11m before terminating at right angles to a later boundary (MDV25925). Near the western end, the continuity of the reave is interrupted by a small sub-elliptical enclosure containing a single hut circle (MDV61950). A second fragmentary bank of comparable character may be traced 65m down the slope to south. It follows a similar though shorter west to east course and terminates when reaching the later boundary (MDV25925).	254872	70659	1019566
MDV25926	HUT CIRCLE	An unusually large, though isolated, hut circle associated with fragmentary enclosure walls, on Walkhampton Common approximately 130m NE of Horseyeat. Although partly robbed, the turf-covered walls, remain substantial, where present, with much <i>in-situ</i> stone and the floor is clear. The walls are up to 3.8m thick at base, by 0.5m high and the circle has an internal diameter of 9.3m. A 6m section of the SW arc of the wall is missing. Low vestiges of stony walls extend for a short distance south of the hut circle before fading out.	254864	70538	1019566
MDV25925	FIELD SYSTEM	An abandoned rectilinear field system enclosing approximately 3.25ha on the slopes of open moorland beyond the NE outer enclosures of Horseyeat. The layout hints at a rectangle but with a slightly extended, rounded northern corner. It measures 250m long on the south side and 270m on the north and between 100m and 125m wide. The boundary of the enclosure on the north and east sides comprises an earthen bank of up to 2.7m wide by 0.5m high with corresponding shallow ditch on the exterior. On its eastern end, this bank incorporated a pre-existing cairn of probable prehistoric date (MDV61948). On the south side, the boundary is made up only of a substantial ditch of 5.5m wide and up to 1.5m deep. There is no associated bank, so the ditch appears to have been scoured by water erosion rather than human effort. A slight, stony bank runs centrally between the two long sides of the enclosed ground, dividing it into two, approximately equal plots. Two additional very slight, fragmentary banks, follow a similar orientation at the SW end, creating a partition or strip of land 13m wide. Evidence of clearance in the fields is present in the form of mounds of small stones (MDV126759).	255016	70586	
MDV61952	LEAT	A disused silted earthwork leat channel runs approximately east to west across the slopes of Walkhampton Common on open moorland to the NE of Horseyeat. The highest traceable section of the leat is just to the east of a probable medieval enclosure (MDV25925), where the only available water source was likely to be hillside run-off. From there the leat heads east, cutting through both sides of the enclosure in its path. Forty-five metres west of the enclosure, a stretch of the channel has been effaced by the scouring action of spring water from the Black Brook, but can be traced again further west, as it passes close by a small prehistoric enclosure. From there it continues for at least another 80m NW.	254921	70590	
MDV61947	CAIRN	A small, turf-covered round cairn located within an abandoned enclosure 712m NE of Horseyeat. The base diameter is 5.9m and the maximum height is 0.4m high.	255108	70668	1019566

MDV61948	CAIRN	A round cairn built into the inside of a disused field bank on Walkhampton Common, 712m NE of Horseyeat. The cairn has a diameter of 8.8m though the eastern arc has been truncated by the ditch of the boundary which incorporated the cairn. The cairn remains to height of 0.7m but has suffered serious erosion on the western side, creating a scar of exposed soil.	255119	70771	1019566
MDV19964	BARROW	A group of three barrows reported by the OS and repeated on the SM designation. Only two cairns exist at this location (MDV61947; MDV61948).			1019566
MDV62013	FIELD SYSTEM	A number of low, spread, turf-covered stony banks are dispersed over the lower eastern slopes of Sharpitor, to the west of the B3212, which may represent the remains of robbed out, prehistoric enclosure walls. In an area of Dartmoor where several clitter streams are exposed, some of these features may be dismissed as geology, but others are certainly a result of human intervention, whether as a means of clearance or in the building of enclosures. The most convincing enclosure is centred at SX55209 70414 and covers an area of 3,7ha. Although the continuity of the bank is broken in several places, a circuit may be conjectured from what does remain, the clearest section of which survives on the eastern end as a curving bank of 3.5m wide, 0.4m high and 35m long. No convincing hut circle evidence was recorded associated with these remains,	255209	70414	1019589
MDV28573	ENCLOSURE AND HUT CIRCLE	A hut circle and fragmentary enclosure walls located only 34m west of the B3212. The hut circle comprises only an earthwork ring, having been robbed of stone, of approximately 9.5m diameter (heavily disguised by bracken at the time of survey). It appears to have been sited within an enclosure, or perhaps a field system, fragmentary elements of which survive as very low, spread banks, robbed of any substantial stone they may have contained.	255292	70315	1019590
MDV15036	REAVE	Great Western Reave (SW section between Goadstone Pond and the Peekhill outer enclosures, c.645m). The condition of the reave varies in character over the section investigated. As it progresses SW from Goadstone the reave has some stone from the original wall protruding through the earthwork bank but as it descends the slope towards Peak Hill, it develops into a low spread earthwork of up to 4m wide by 0.3m high, becoming particularly faint near where it meets the modern enclosures. Two anomalies were observed during investigation. One is a deviation of 2m in the reave's alignment at SX55318 70400, giving a distinct kink. At SX55514 70553 a 17m-long earthwork spur extends west from the reave to align with a large earthwork bank (MDV57042) to the west, although the two are not connected.	255477	70518	1019589
MDV29959	FIELD SYSTEM	This entry appears to be describing the same field system outlined in MDV62013 and MDV61949.			
MDV62016	CAIRN	A turf covered mound of stones, 30m west of a large earthwork. The cairn is elliptical rather than circular measuring 9.6m by 5m by 0.6m high. The upper surface has signs of having been dug. A possible prehistoric burial cairn but more likely a later clearance mound.	255336	70573	1019589
MDV57042	BANK	One of two substantial, curved earthwork banks located on Walkhampton Common on the western slope of Sharpitor, 100m NW of the B3212. The bank comprises two adjoining elements. The larger is a crescentic earthwork which runs across the contour of the slope and is 100m long, tip to tip, with a curvature depth of approximately 33m. A second bank extends from the western end of the section already described. The bank is up to 12m wide and its strongest point is 1.2m high, but fades into the moorland slope at its extremities. A stony round cairn of probable prehistoric date, was incorporated into the bank, the upper section of which is the only part now exposed. The main bank is breached in two places, the western of which has evidence of vehicle erosion, though it is uncertain if either were original features. The purpose and date of this and a similar earthwork 100m to the NE (MDV126762) are not known. However, this bank varies slightly from the other in that its greater curvature and additional height on the interior of the curve could indicate that it was capable of containing water, although there is no obvious reason to suspect that a reservoir was ever needed on this part of the moor. A small earthwork spur extends from the western side of the Great Western Reave, 20m to the east of the bank. This feature could have been related to the bank, though there is no visible association between the two surviving on the ground today.	255400	70561	1019566
MDV62015	CAIRN	A very likely prehistoric round cairn which has been incorporated into later earthwork bank (MDV57042). Only the top section and the north side of the stony cairn are exposed, but it may have had a base diameter of 11m and it stands to 1.3m high. The summit is flat but has been subject to an intervention, evident by the 2.5m-diameter circular pit dug into it.	255400	70561	1019589
MDV62014	CAIRN	A round cairn recorded at this NGR as part of the MPP is likely to be evidence of clearance rather than a prehistoric burial.	255221	70399	1019589
MDV3769	CAIRN	A very ruinous round cairn with central cist and some stones of a retaining circle on the NW slope of Sharpitor, close by the B3212. Although part of a group of ritual monuments at this location, including two stone rows, this monument does not serve as a terminal for either. Three sides of the cist remain approximately <i>in situ</i> , including a single slab of 1.38m long on the east side. The west side comprises two separate stones, or a larger stone now fractured, and a single short slab forms the south side. The northern end is missing, as is the cover slab. The internal measurement is 0.99m by 0.59m. Ten earthfast stones of a retaining circle survive around the periphery of the cairn, of which two retain an approximately upright or slightly leaning position. Very little of the cairn material survives but the circumference of the spread is just about visible giving a diameter of approximately 4m.	255836	70686	1007423
MDV14795	CAIRN	An unembellished round cairn, which serves as the SW terminal of a double stone row (MDV3762) on the NW slope of Sharpitor, close by the B3212. The base diameter of the cairn is 4.6m with a maximum height of 0.4m. There is evidence of an unrecorded excavation in the centre of the mound.	255662	70612	1007422

MDV3761	STONE ALIGNMENT	A disturbed and fragmented single stone row on the NW slope of Sharpitor, close by Goadstone Pond. The row is oriented slightly off parallel with an adjacent double stone row (MDV3762), which is as little as 4m to the north, and appears to cut across the north eastern terminal of the latter. Although an alignment of fallen and randomly placed stones may be traced for 81m, only eight stones covering a distance of 15m may be claimed with confidence to be <i>in-situ</i> components of an alignment. All are small and protrude above the ground for less than 20cm. A 1m-long fallen and slightly displaced stone, lies just off the alignment to the NE and could have served as a terminal. No other form of terminal such as a cairn has been identified associated with this row. Although suffering less visible erosion than its near neighbour, this row has either been extensively robbed of stone or many more <i>in-situ</i> stones lie buried beneath the turf. It is, however, difficult to reconcile what remains on the ground in 2019 with the description of this monument in the HE scheduled monument description (c.1992) where '30 stones of 0.1 to 0.4m high remain standing'.	255761	70653	1007422
MDV3762	STONE ALIGNMENT	A disturbed and fragmented double stone row on the NW slope of Sharpitor, close by Goadstone Pond. The twin alignments would have measured 110m between the south-western terminal cairn (MDV14795) and the blocking stone, which forms the NE terminal, although no stones are currently visible for 12m NE of the cairn. Twenty-four stones remain earthfast <i>in situ</i> , either upright or at ground level; the tallest stone is 0.4m high. Five additional stones are approximately in place but leaning. This is considerably less than the '41 visible stones of which 11 have fallen' mentioned in the HE scheduled monument (SM) description (c.1992). A number of displaced stones, which may or may not have originally been part of the rows lie recumbent and earthfast adjacent to the axis of the rows. There are also several small patches of exposed granite, all less than 10cm ² , within the confines of the monument's space, though only three of these conform to either alignment. The stones of the two rows were arranged in pairs and the space between the rows based on the few pairs that survive is 1.5m. The distance between individual stones within each row is 1.2m. A large recumbent blocking stone at the NE terminal is the largest stone in the monument. It is an approximate trapezium which measures 1.5m across the base and would have stood to 0.95m high.	255709	70636	1007422
MDV126759	CLEARANCE CAIRNS	Two loose clusters of clearance cairns are dispersed over open moorland to the NE of Horseyeat, and within an abandoned enclosure (MDV25925). The small amorphous stone heaps are between 1m and 2m across, and partly obscured by turf.	255037	70483c	
MDV126760	QUARRY PIT	A quarry pit located within an abandoned field system (MDV25925) on Walkhampton Common, 490m NE of Horseyeat. The horseshoe shaped pit cuts into the slope of the field and measures 10m by 10m. A small mound of probable overburden sits 12m to the SW. No quarry faces survive so the pit may have been used as a source of aggregate or gravel. All surfaces of the feature are now smoothed and turf covered, suggesting it has been disused for a long but imprecise period of time.	254931	70491	
MDV126761	LEAT	A very faint and silted length of a leat channel runs NNE to SSW across Walkhampton Common. The surviving section is 200m long and is most visible where its course cuts through an abandoned enclosure wall (MDV62013). The water source was certainly rainwater runoff, though the destination and purpose of the leat is unclear.	255224	70439	
MDV126762	BANK	One of two substantial, curved earthwork banks located on Walkhampton Common on the western slope of Sharpitor, adjacent to the south side of the B3212. In plan, the bank, which is 170m long, is slightly curved crossing the slope at approximately 45 ° but with a right angled return of 30m on the SW end. The bank is on average 10.5m wide and at its highest point, in the centre, it is 1.3m high on the downslope outer side but less than 0.5m on the inside, giving a terraced appearance. Towards its extremities to SW and NE the bank fades and blends in with the hillslope. In two places the earthwork has been breached by trackways and a roadstone quarry has cut into the central section. The purpose and date of this and a similar earthwork 100m to the NW (MDV57042) are not known.	255555	70513	
MDV126763	TROUGH	An abandoned, incomplete granite trough, 40m south of the B3212 on the NW slope of Sharpitor. The moorstone block is approximately rectangular, measuring 1.2m by 0.6m by 0.6 high. Into its roughly flat upper surface a straight sided recess has been cut of up to 20mm deep. However, the trough was abandoned where it lay, before ever being completed.	255634	70551	
MDV126764	LONGHOUSE	The earthwork outline of a probable longhouse with a remnant enclosure bank, sits on open moorland, 13m north of the Peekhill outer enclosures, just below the 310m contour. The rectangular outline of the building is well defined, east to west at right angles levelled into the slope, causing a slight hollow at the eastern end, with upstanding, turf-covered wall foundations of the western end and both sides. The internal dimensions are approximately 14.7 by 4.1m. Opposing entrance openings of approximately 1.5m wide are visible in both long walls, slightly offset towards the western end of the structure.	255097	70305	
MDV126765	RUINED BUILDING	A ruined rectangular building with associated enclosure banks located 50m north of the Peekhill outer enclosures on Walkhampton Common. The building is constructed into the base of a slope with spread stone walls of 1.5m thick still standing to 0.6m high and internal measurements of 4.5m by 3m. An entrance opening of 0.8m wide survives on the south side. A small enclosure attached to the west and north sides, is defined by earthwork banks of up to 0.3m high. A longer section of disused field boundary, comprising a similar earthen bank, is attached to the smaller enclosure and extends for 88m ESE.	254959	70356	

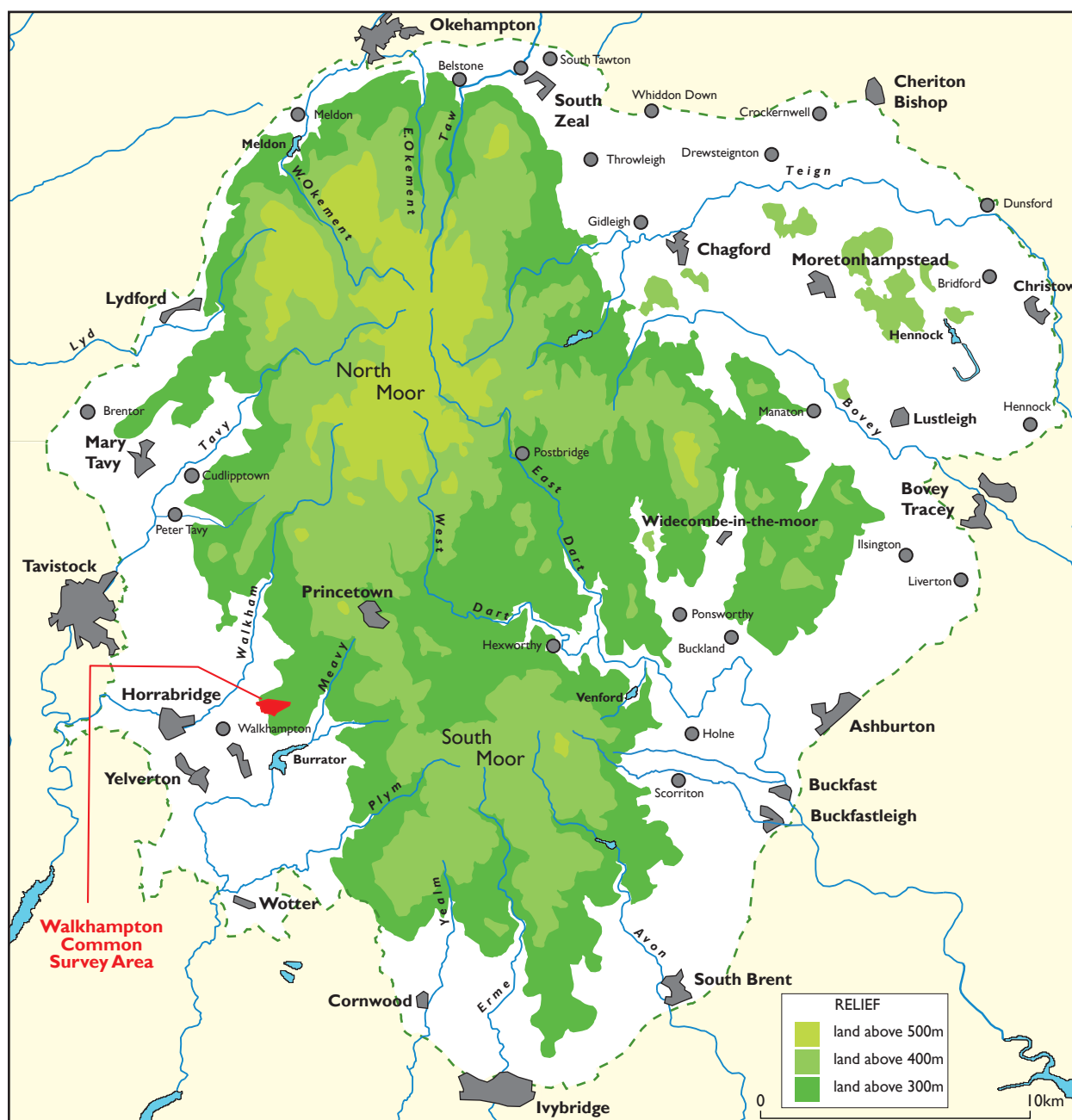


Figure 1 Location of the Walkhampton Common survey, southwest Dartmoor.

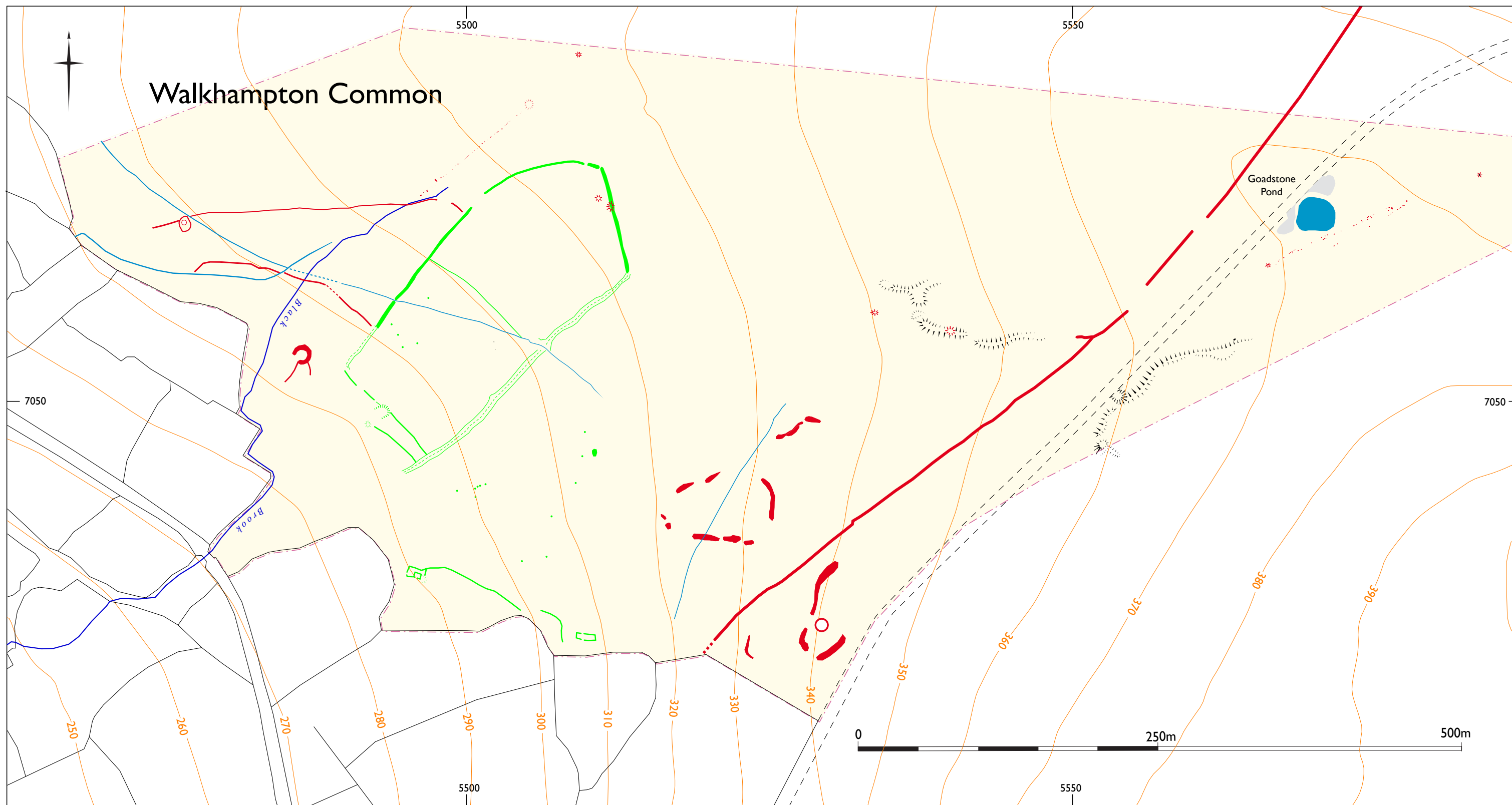


Figure 2 1:2500 plan of the survey area showing all archaeological features and limits of the survey. Contours derived from OS open source © Crown copyright and database right (2019). For individual monument numbers and key to conventions see Figure 6

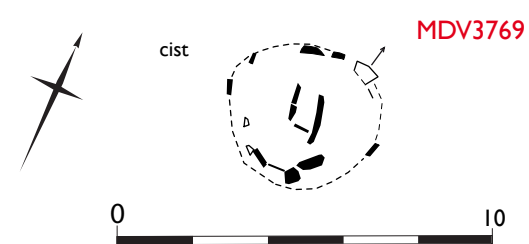
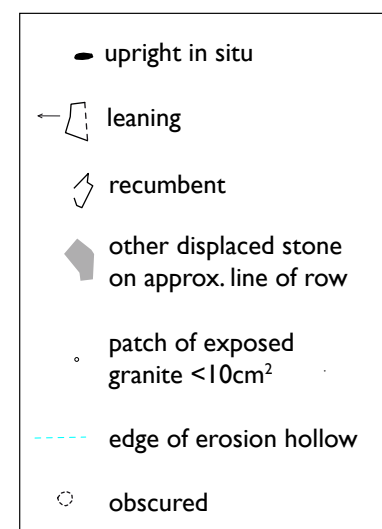
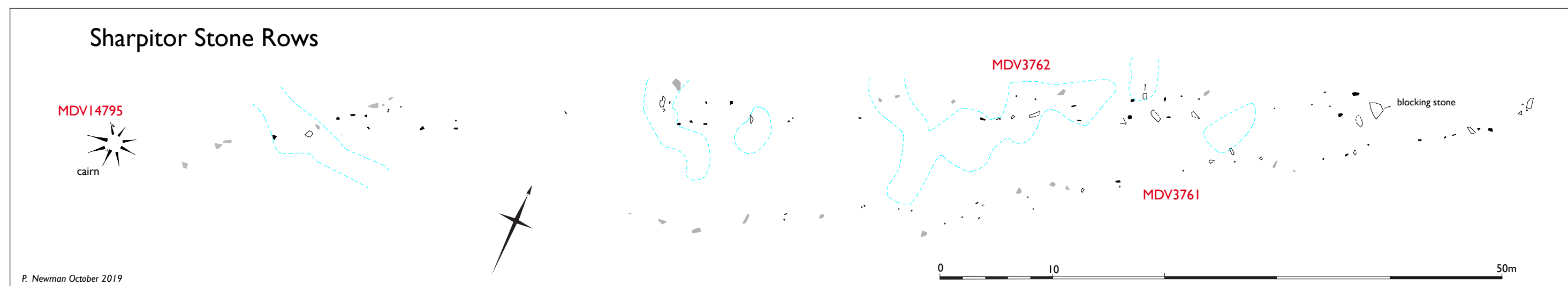
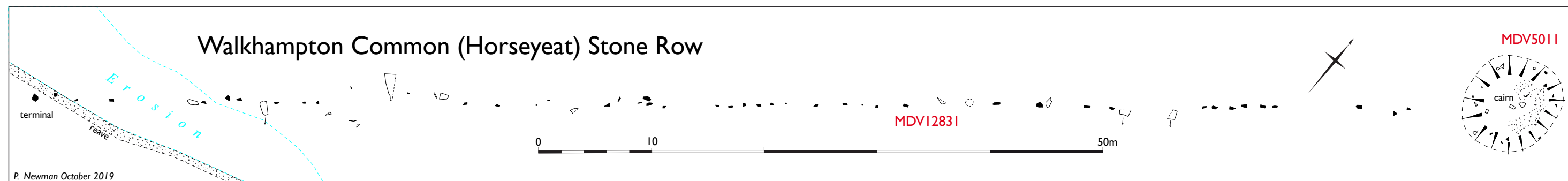


Figure 3 (top) 1:200 scale survey of the Horseyeat stone row.

Figure 4 (middle) 1:200 survey of the Sharpitor stone rows.

Figure 4a (bottom) 1:200 survey of disturbed cairn to the east of the double row.

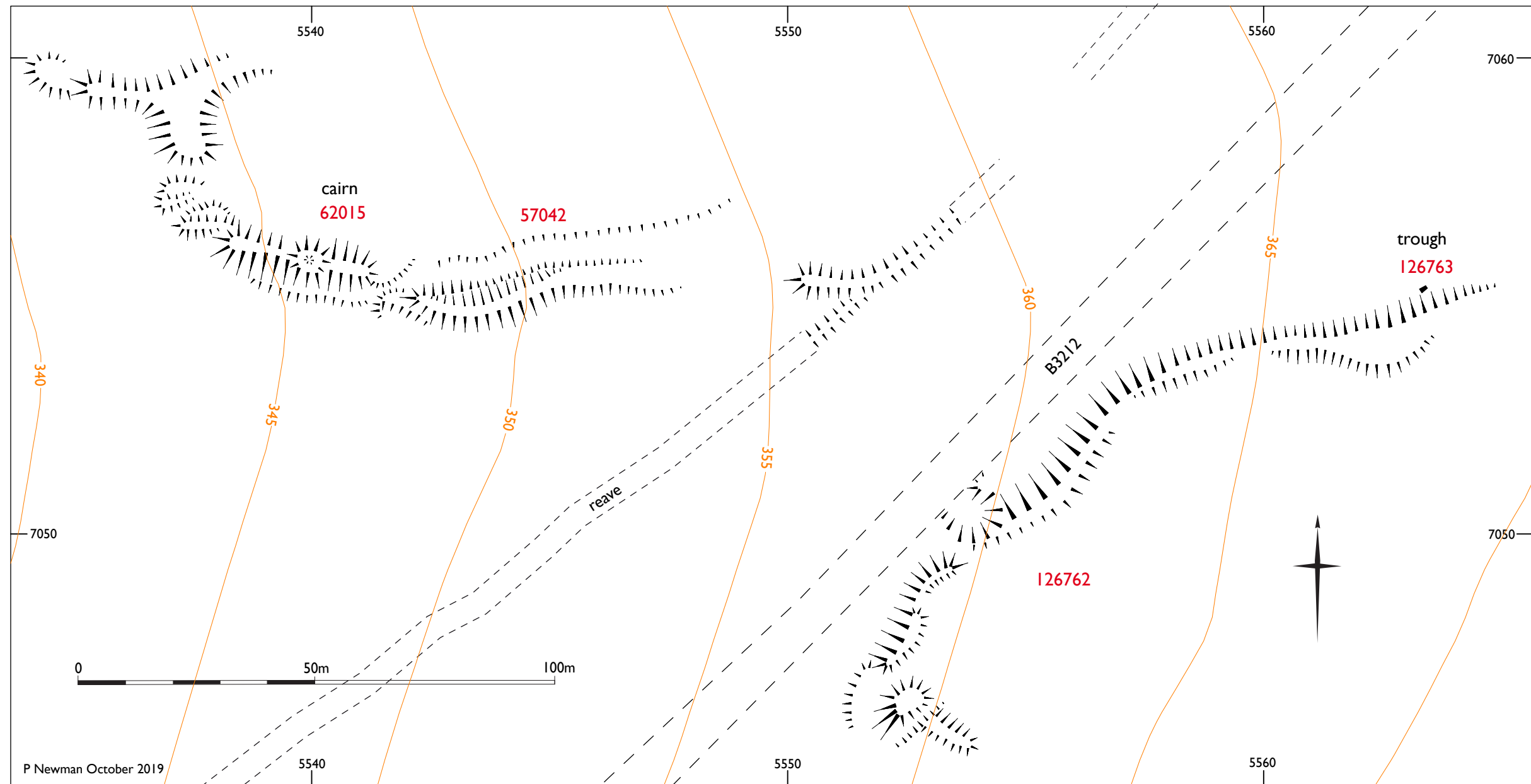


Figure 5 1:1000 earthwork survey of the two large earthwork banks.

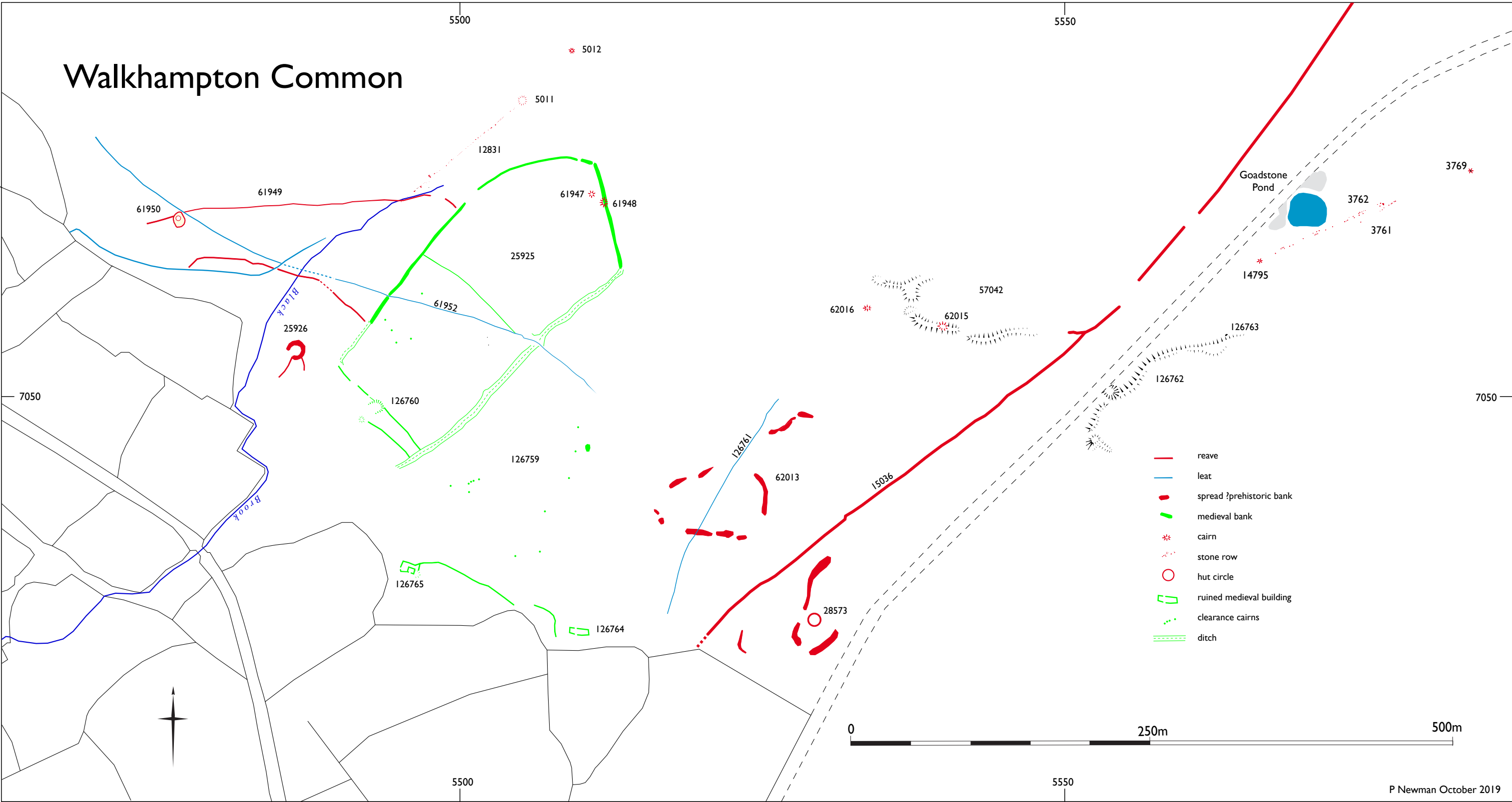


Figure 6 1:2500 plan of the survey area showing individual monument (HER) numbers.



Figure 7 MDV3762 The double stone row at Goadstone Pond showing patches of erosion.

Figure 8 MDV3762 The blockingstone at the NE terminal of the double stone row at Goadstone Pond.



Figure 9 MDV3769 A ruined round cairn and cist to the east of Goadstone Pond.



Figure 10 MDV3769 The disturbed central cist to the east of Goadstone Pond.

Figure 11 MDV25925 The bank and silted ditch that makes up the boundary of a deserted medieval field.



Figure 12 MDVI2831 The single stone row NE of Horseyeat



Figure 13 MDVI2831 The southern upright terminal of the stone row.

Figure 14 MDV25926 The large hut circle NE of Horseyeat.



Figure 15 MDVI26765 Foundations of a ruined rectangular building east of Horseyeat.



Figure 16 MDV126763 An abandoned, incomplete granite trough near the B3212.

Figure 17 MDV57042 Part of the large earthwork bank west of the B3212.



Figure 18 MDV57042 Part of the large earthwork bank west of the B3212.