

# South Penquite, Blisland, Cornwall

## Archaeological Assessment



**Historic Environment Service (Projects)**

Cornwall County Council



A Report for Dominic and Cathy Fairman

**South Penquite, Blisland,  
Cornwall  
Archaeological Assessment**

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the Historic Environment Service projects team and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## **Cover illustration**

1988 Cornwall County Council vertical aerial photograph of South Penquite (Run 24, Number 49).

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## Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit (now known as HES)
CCC	Cornwall County Council
CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage
EN	English Nature
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council
ICS	Institute of Cornish Studies
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMP	National Mapping Programme
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
TA	Tithe Apportionment (number given to each land unit in c1840 Tithe survey, see appendix)
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
RCHME	Royal Commission for the Historical Monuments of England (now part of EH)
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

# 1 Summary

The defining characteristics of South Penquite's historic landscape are its well preserved medieval field system with its boundaries and associated settlements; its extensive nationally important Bronze Age landscape of hut circles, field systems and cairns; its history of stone extraction including the De Lank quarry complex; an area of tin streaming; and its historic mix of improved ground and rough pasture.

The farm is located on the north west margin of Bodmin Moor. The Moor covers approximately 400sq km and is the largest of the Cornish granite uplands. It has a wealth of archaeological remains that few parts of Britain can equal. The level of preservation means that you can still pass through the doorways of prehistoric huts and deserted medieval longhouses, walk across abandoned field systems and visit the derelict remains of the quarrying and mining industries.



Plate 1; Hut circle 42  
looking north west.  
Note internal ring of  
granite stones on edge.  
*Photograph by author*

This assessment identified and clarified the main archaeological features of South Penquite to aid their presentation and interpretation and to improve the potential of the holding as an education resource for the historic environment. The report also highlights any further archaeological work that could benefit the understanding of the property and provides a management tool for its archaeological features.

The assessment consisted of four main stages: the initial desk-top study, walk-over survey, the final report and a farm visit with other specialists assessing the property for the natural environment.

The management recommendations highlight the importance of the field system and its boundaries, the ways in which surviving earthworks can be best be preserved, and encourages targeted scrub clearance to maintain the visibility of archaeological features.

A series of more specific recommendations seek to better record the archaeology to provide a framework for any potential future research and include, a measured survey of the Bronze Age landscape and the remains of the deserted settlement, an aerial survey to more accurately plot the cultivation strips and further research on the documentation relating to the quarrying activity on the property.





## **2 Introduction**

### **2.1 Project background**

In January 2005 the Projects side of the Historic Environment Section of Cornwall County Council was commissioned by John MacAdam of 'Earthwords', on behalf of Dominic and Cathy Fairman, to carry out an archaeological assessment of their farm at South Penquite, Blisland (centred SX 108 754, see Fig 1), on the north western margin of Bodmin Moor. This assessment of the farm forms part of a geo-diversity action plan undertaken by 'Earthwords' which was funded through English Nature's 'Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund'.

The holding covers 84.92 ha (204.84 acres) and is an organic farm certified by the Soil Association. In the summer the fields close to the farmhouse are used as a camping site.

The farm is also used for school visits and the Fairmans are keen to improve the potential of the holding as an education resource both for the historic and natural environment. To enable a greater understanding of the resource ecological, butterfly and soil surveys have also been commissioned.

### **2.2 Aims**

This assessment aims to broadly identify and clarify the main archaeological features of South Penquite and to aid the presentation and interpretation of this interesting and important landscape. The report also highlights any further archaeological work that could benefit the understanding of the property and to provide Mr Fairman with a management tool for its archaeological features.

### **2.3 Methodology**

The assessment consisted of four main stages; the initial desk-top study, walk-over survey, the final report and a farm visit by the different groups assessing the property:

#### **2.3.1 Desk-based assessment**

During the desk-based assessment historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and the structures and features that were likely to survive. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall HER
- Early maps and photographs

#### **2.3.2 Fieldwork**

The fieldwork comprised a walk-over survey of the entire property equipped with a 1:2500 base map. This was generated by the addition of mappable material from historic maps and aerial photograph plots (from the NMP) on to the modern 1:2500 OS map. Possible and known sites identified from the desk-study were visited briefly, described and where appropriate, a photographic record taken. Notes included a short, broad description of the sites and features, interpretation, and management requirements, and any need for future archaeological work. Any previously unrecorded features observed in the field were noted and described in the same manner.

Due to the complexity of the relict Bronze Age landscape the area to the north and east of Best's Penquite was mapped at 1:1000. A sketch survey at 1:200 was undertaken of the remains of the deserted medieval settlement (see Fig 11).

### **2.3.3 Report**

Each site or feature has been allocated a Report Gazetteer number that exists only within the confines of this report and not within the Historic Environment Record (the County Council's database of archaeological sites). Where referred to the gazetteer numbers are highlighted in bold type. Where appropriate a single gazetteer number may include more than one individual feature eg a streamworking area may be given one number but will probably also incorporate leats, heaps and pits which will simply be noted in the description. In the future some of these sites and features may be selected and given PRN numbers. Where PRN numbers already exist these have been given. Each area, site or feature has a grid reference, a date or range of dates, and a brief description which includes 'Condition and Recommendations' and a broad assessment of 'Archaeological Importance'. The importance of the areas, sites or features was assessed on the type of feature, group value, and survival, with three levels of criteria: Local (C), County (B) and National Importance (A).

### **2.3.4 Farm visit**

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February the consultants undertaking work on the South Penquite property met up to share their ideas and knowledge. This included John Macadam, Simon Camm and Paul Wheeler of Earthwords (geo-diversity); Sally Foster and Colin Spedding (Butterfly and Ecological Survey); Richard Smith (Soil Survey), the tour around the farm led by Dominic Fairman.

The visit enabled a greater perception of the Penquite landscape, its whole value and resource.

## **3 Background**

### **3.1 Location and setting**

South Penquite Farm covers 84.92 hectares on the north western flank of Bodmin Moor and the upper reaches of the De Lank valley; whose sinuous channel forms the northern and western bounds of the property.

Separated from the rough ground of Kerrow and Pendrift (Pendrey) Downs by only the slightest of valleys (200m OD) the settlement of South Penquite and its surrounding field system lie on a sheltered south east facing slope. This rises gradually to the north and east to the ridge (220m OD) which forms the backbone of the property. To the east, the high ground slopes across an open landscape to a lower rounded spur which in turn falls to the valley floor of the De Lank, close to Delford Bridge.

From here the valley slopes slide gradually to the river but as it flows westward these increase in severity, with a steep river cliff developing in places. Further west the river falls with a greater velocity as the river valley deepens to ‘The Coombe’.

Geologically, the property is underlain by the granite of the Bodmin Moor intrusion with alluvium along the De Lank river valley and the low valley of Kerrow Downs and Pendrift Common (British Geological Survey data at 1:50,000). The property is recorded under the Moretonhampstead series of soils which are well drained gritty loamy soils with a humose surface horizon in places (Soil Survey data at 1:25,000), however soil sampling by Richard Smith (pers comm) has recorded a thick peaty soil overlying a thick, hard iron pan more like the Hexworthy series.

### **3.2 Vegetation**

Low scrub, bracken and granite moorstone cover most of the precipitous De Lank valley sides on the western side of the property. This gives way to rough pasture and bracken around the relict prehistoric landscape on the north western corner of the farm. Further rough ground follows the steep valley sides and the area fenced off by the ‘Wildlife Enhancement Scheme’ (see below). The main enclosed ground is a mixture of rough pasture and improved grassland. Certain fields have been improved and cleared of moorstone whilst others are still incredibly rocky. To the south of South Penquite settlement are a number of fields that are covered with reeds and are quite waterlogged. The rough ground to the south of Best’s Penquite is also damp with a mixture of rough grassland, moorstone, high furze bushes and occasional thorn tree.

### **3.3 Land Use**

The farm was bought by the Fairman family in 1977 with the ‘Rye Downs’ end of the property purchased in 1986. Since conversion in May 1999 it has been run as an organic farm and is managed under permanent pasture. It is stocked with approximately 350 Cheviot sheep, 40 Galloway cows, 10 Blue Grey (Galloway and White Shorthorn cross) heifers and 10 horses and ponies. The cattle and sheep are then sold on to lowland farms for finishing.

The farm is under Countryside Stewardship agreement with management items targeting light stocking rates in an area of rough pasture and an area of rough moorland, 20ha being managed to benefit the Golden Plover, provision of public access to the Bronze Age settlement and educational access to the whole farm.

The river corridor following the river slope has been fenced off under English Nature's 'Wildlife Enhancement Scheme' to keep stock away from the river course and to create a greater range of scrub age structure.

Under the Westcountry Rivers Trust's 'Angling 2000' scheme the section of the De Lank running along the property is open to brown trout fishing from April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> each year. A car parking area and a token box at SX 11354 75711 allow access for those fishing.

Run alongside the farming business is a 50 pitch campsite. Situated in the fields immediately to the south west of the farmhouse with a small shower block, the site is open between mid-May and late September, during which three Mongolian Yurts are also available for hire.

### **3.4 Designations**

Parts of the property are covered by several designations:

Much of the river, its valley and slopes are Sites of Special Scientific Interest and fall under a number of sites; 'Bodmin Moor North', 'De Lank Quarry', and 'The River Camel and its Tributaries'. The river is also part of 'The River Camel Valley and Tributaries' Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The whole property lies within the Cornwall County Council's Bodmin Moor designated Area of Great Historic Value (AGHV); the Camel and Allen Valleys Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV).

There are no scheduled monuments on the property.

## 4 Summary of Management Recommendations

The defining characteristics of South Penquite's historic landscape are its well preserved medieval field system with its boundaries and associated settlements; its extensive nationally important Bronze Age landscape of hut circles, field systems and cairns; its history of stone extraction including the De Lank quarry complex; an area of tin streaming; and its historic mix of improved ground and rough pasture.

The management recommendations summarised below seek to ensure that these characteristics are highlighted, if possible maintained, and in some cases in the future, better understood:

**Boundaries (see 6, 8 and 63):** many of the field boundaries survive in good condition, especially where they are maintained as active field boundaries with a sheep fence. Unfortunately the boundaries that lie within groups of fields grazed as one, are gradually being weathered by the movement of livestock, and in places are breeched or survive as low boundaries. If these boundaries are totally lost the character, layout and importance of the field system will be diminished.

The surviving field boundaries should be maintained and in general any breaches be repaired. These repairs should be limited to short lengths, using local materials and maintaining the historic character of the boundary. If stone is required then this could be locally sourced from the modern stone clearance cairns (see 17 and 61)

**Earthworks:** If any fields with earthworks (banks, scarps or ditches, see 6, 7 and figs 8 to 10 inclusive) are to be ploughed and harrowed in advance of re-seeding care could be taken to ensure that the implements do not cut too deep in to the features so that minimal damage occurs (given that such ploughing will be occasional rather than regular – regular employment of such methods will also eventually destroy features). Deeper ploughing and subsoiling, however, can be disastrous for buried archaeological deposits and should not be undertaken where any such prehistoric and medieval deposits can confidently be expected to exist. It is recommended that ploughing depth should not exceed 5 inches (or 13cm) in fields with lynchets. This could also apply to the possible cairn 49.

**Kerbed Cairn 23:** if Rye Downs is to be ploughed a 2m buffer 'buffer zone' could be placed around the site to ensure the survival of any potential buried archaeology.

**Scrub clearance:** the low bracken cover of winter during fieldwork meant that many of the archaeological features were clearly visible. This enabled an easy appreciation and interpretation of the sites. From an education perspective, many of the sites could in the summer become smothered with bracken making interpretation and understanding for the layman more difficult, if not impossible. If clearance by mechanised means or by hand tools is required care should be taken to minimise any potential damage or disturbance to the site or any surrounding features. Normally the best way to control bracken is through targeted spraying; however the organic status of South Penquite means that this cannot be applied.

**Education visits:** the farm contains a huge number of sites and features but those of greatest importance are those that define the historic character of the property:

- The field system layout, its boundaries and associated settlements are a well preserved fossilised medieval landscape. The arrangement of strip field system 6 neatly shows how the social arrangements of medieval farming are reflected in the layout of the landscape. The re-use of Bronze Age boundaries (see Archaeological and Historic Summary) within the medieval field system also shows how in many

areas of Cornwall there is a great time depth to the historic character of the landscape.

- The nationally important relict Bronze Age landscape contains the well preserved remains of hut circles, field systems and cairns. The high accessibility and visibility of the sites enable easy interpretation and presentation for education visits.
- The interesting and well preserved area of streamworks **22** shows how Bodmin Moor or 'Foweymoore' was intensively worked for tin in the medieval and post-medieval period.
- The quarries **33**, **34** and **35**, areas of moorstone splitting **28** and **59**, and the incline and dressing area complex of features (**29**, **30**, **31** and **32**) represent the different ways and scale to which granite has been exploited in the past and present.
- The historic mix of rough and improved ground, together with the clearance cairns of moorstone (**60** and **61**) and areas of intake (see **9** and **10**) document the history of enclosure and improvement across the property which has continued in to the recent past.

**Tree planting;** evidence suggests that the historic character of South Penquite has traditionally been a mix of rough pasture and improved ground. Any natural woodland has been located on the steep valley slopes of 'the Coombe' above the De Lank. Plantation **18** was planted as part of a designed landscape associated with West Rose. The extent of the Bronze Age field systems suggests that the landscape has been quite open since the Middle Bronze Age (c1500BC to 1000BC). Any future planting could replenish plantation 18 and should avoid riverside features such as streamworks **22**. Tree cover on the field boundaries close to South Penquite and throughout strip system **6** should where possible be maintained.

**Further Archaeological Work;** this assessment is a comprehensive but brief overview of the historic environment:

- The nationally important Bronze Age landscape of hut circles, field system and cairns should be recorded by a measured survey to provide a more detailed record of the surviving landscape. This would further enhance the understanding of the relationship between the hut circles, field system and cairns and enable a framework upon which any future archaeological work could be based. It would also be interesting to compare the soil and ecological surveys alongside more detailed archaeological work to see if certain soils and niches are found within different features.
- A measured survey of the deserted settlement **57** would also better the record of the site, and enable a greater understanding of any earlier features.
- The extent of the cultivation strips **55** has been roughly recorded by this assessment. Further more detailed recording of the individual strips could be carried out using oblique aerial photographs to enable a better record of their extent and relationship with the main medieval field system.
- More detailed documentary and local research could enhance the understanding and exact date of the re-working of Silver Hill quarry **33** and the use of the incline and dressing area (**29**) and its associated features **28**, **30**, **31** and **32**.

## 5 Summary Table

Note: all grid references are centred. For further details of period classification see Archaeological and Historic Summary (Section 7) and timeline (Appendix).

GAZ	PRN	NGR (SX)	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	FORM
1	-	10788 75047	SETTLEMENT (South Penquite)	Medieval/post-medieval	Extant
2	3114	10844 75082	SETTLEMENT (Black Penquite)	Medieval/post-medieval	Extant
3	3113	10477 75252	SETTLEMENT (Best's Penquite)	Historic	Extant
4	-	10415 75293	STILE	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
5	-	10383 75277	SPRING HEAD	Unknown	Extant
6	-	10940 75720	STRIP FIELD SYSTEM	Medieval	Extant
7	-	10657 75263	STRIP LYNCHETS	Medieval	Extant
8	-	Various	FIELD BOUNDARIES	Medieval	Extant
9	-	11057 75074	FIELD DRAINS	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant/Documentary
10	-	11189 75218	EARTHWORKS	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Documentary
11	-	10885 74954	POND	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
12	-	10847 74933	POND	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
13	-	10827 74956	POND	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
14	-	10783 74953	EARTH MOUND	21 <sup>st</sup> century	Extant
15	-	10579 75047	MOUNDS	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
16	-	11189 75610	EARTHWORKS	Late medieval/post-medieval	Extant
17	-	11127 75731	CLEARANCE CAIRN	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
18	-	11095 75716	PLANTATION	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
19	-	11128 75810	TRACKWAY	Post-medieval	Extant
20	-	11168 75930	FORD	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
21	-	11287 76055	FORD	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
22	12691	11327 75961	STREAMWORKS	Historic	Extant
23	3061	11261 75848	KERBED CAIRN	Bronze Age	Extant
24	12428	10820 74850	STREAMWORKS	Medieval	Extant
25		10522 74990	INTAKE	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Extant
26	-	10475 74973	STILE	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
27	-	10431 74902	RAILS	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
28	-	10414 74899	STONE SPLITTING	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
29	-	10421 75134	INCLINE AND DRESSING SREA	19 <sup>th</sup> century/20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
30	-	10439 75101	BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
31	-	10410 75192	BUILDING	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
32	-	10412 75200	WATER TANK	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
33	-	10341 75218	QUARRY (Silver Hill)	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
34	-	10247 75370	QUARRY	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
35	-	10217 75450	QUARRY	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
36		10165 75349	FINGER DUMPS	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	Extant
37	1995.05	10395 75394	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
38	-	10425 75377	HUT PLATFORM	Bronze Age	Extant
39	-	10455 75352	HUT PLATFORM	Bronze Age	Extant

GAZ	PRN	NGR (SX)	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	FORM
40	1995.01	10318 75456	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
41	1995.06	10387 75466	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
42	1995.04	10429 75473	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
43	1995.03	10480 75449	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
44	1995.02	10483 75429	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
45	1995.07	10538 75536	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
46	-	10591 75528	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
47	1995	10445 75438	FIELD SYSTEM	Bronze Age	Extant
48	-	10491 75541	ENCLOSURE	Bronze Age	Extant
49	-	10578 75421	CAIRN	Bronze Age	Extant
50	3045.03	10675 75378	HUT CIRCLE	Bronze Age	Extant
51	3045	10719 75367	FIELD SYSTEM	Bronze Age	Extant
52	3045.04	10787 75408	CAIRN	Bronze Age	Extant
53	3045.02	10845 75412	PLATFORM CAIRN	Bronze Age	Extant
54	3045.01	10850 75424	CAIRN	Bronze Age	Extant
55	3069	Various	CULTIVATION STRIPS	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Extant
56	-	10384 75557	BOUNDARY	Post-medieval	Extant
57	3070	10772 75602	SETTLEMENT	Historic	Extant
58	-	10801 75651	HEARTH STONE FINDSPOT	Medieval	Extant
59	-	10983 75674	STONE SPLITTING	Post-medieval	Extant
60	-	Various	CLEARANCE CAIRNS	Historic	Extant
61	-	Various	CLEARANCE CAIRN	20th century	Extant
62	-	Various	STONES	Unknown	Extant
63	-	10779 75633	STRIP FIELD SYSTEM	Medieval	Extant



## 6 Vegetation History

(based on cartographic sources)

Like many areas of Cornwall, the earliest accurate, detailed description and cartographic representation of the property is the c1840 Tithe Map and Apportionment (Tithe Survey). The date of *circa* (c) 1840 is given as there is often a discrepancy of a number years between the survey of the map (Fig 3) and the accompanying apportionment details (see Appendix) which describe each land unit. In this case the map was published in 1840 while the apportionment details were compiled in 1839. In most instances the apportionment details of the Tithe Survey have a brief description of land-use under 'State of Cultivation' but unfortunately the Blisland Survey omitted these, meaning that the c1881 OS map was the first accurate description of the property's vegetation. Like the Tithe Survey the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (Fig 4) was surveyed in different years as the South Penquite property straddles two map sheets; one to the west published in 1881 and one on its eastern side published in 1882 and therefore c1881 has been used by this report.

This c1881 OS map records rough grassland and furze covering the margins of the property and most of 'Rye Downs' (see c1841 Tithe Survey); the south western corner of 'The Coombe' as deciduous woodland; plantation **18** as a mix of deciduous and coniferous woodland; the main improved ground around South and Best's Penquite and a more limited area close to the site of the deserted Watts Penquite. Little had changed by the OS map of 1907 (Fig 5); the main improved ground around South and Best's Penquite; the northern margins of the farm recorded as rough pasture; close to South Penquite the more marginal fields (see **9**) had been further improved.

The vegetation recorded by the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) is very similar to that recorded on the c1881 OS map except for a few extra areas of improved ground within the existing field system. The 1988 colour aerial photograph (Fig 7) recorded little further change except for the improvement of 'Rye Downs' from rough pasture and furze to improved grassland.

## 7 Archaeological and Historic summary

### 7.1 Prehistory and Romano-British period (to AD 410)

See Figure 8 for sites and features

Although no flint scatters have been found on the farm, there is quite a dense distribution of Mesolithic (8500BC – 4500BC) flint on the Moor (see Herring and Lewis 1992) when it is thought that hunter gatherers moved around the landscape seasonally. These flints are often only exposed with modern disturbance by vehicles and livestock.

Close to the property, the nearby De Lank Tor enclosure (PRN 12709) dates to the Neolithic period (4500BC– 2200BC) which has traditionally been linked with a more organised landscape of semi-permanent/permanent settlement. This sub-rectangular enclosure bounded by stony scarps and banks linking natural rock outcrops and moorstones is situated on the precipitous sided promontory above the De Lank quarry complex. Similar enclosures have been identified in Cornwall and Devon, the best-known, the excavated site of Carn Brea (Mercer 1981) which was interpreted as a Neolithic defended settlement with hut platforms enclosed within a massive defensive bank. Tor enclosures may have served as a central place within territories and have acted as a regular meeting place for members of the community living within that territory. Exchange of products, problem or dispute-solving, socialising, and rites of passage may all have taken place at such meetings whose timings may have been signalled by observance of solar events (solstices, equinoxes etc) and celebrated by various rituals and ceremonies (Herring

*et al* 2000, 132).

The De Lank place-name was first recorded in c1590 (ICS, see ICS place name index) as 'Dymylonke'. This is Cornish and is possibly derived from the elements 'din' and 'lonk' which Padel (1988) believed could mean 'fort of a ravine'. The Tor enclosure was first recorded by Peter Herring in 1988 (see PRN 12709) and it is here that the De Lank valley is most precipitous and ravine like.

The earliest activity on the property is represented by the Early Bronze Age (c2500BC to 1500BC) cairns **16**, **49**, **53** and **54**. The hut circles (**37**, **40** - **46** inclusive and **50**), hut platforms (**37** and **38**) and field systems (**47** and **51**) are thought to date to the Middle Bronze Age (c1500BC to 1000BC):

Cairns **23**, **49**, **53** and **54** are all c10m in diameter and lie in prominent landscape positions beyond the margins of the field systems **47** and **51**. The majority of large (those over 10m in diameter) cairns on Bodmin Moor lie on watersheds, (plateaus, hillslopes or hill crests) away from settlement although some lie in areas only visible locally (Johnson and Rose 1994, 41). Broadly, Johnson and Rose (1994, 46) suggest that larger cairns are earlier features of land division of the Moor, no matter how informal, possibly as territorial boundaries.

Many cairns on the moor have single revetment kerbs or kerbs just within the cairn margin, the majority of which are orthostatic or slab kerbs (*ibid* 40). The excavation of several cairns on the Moor has shown that quite complex structures can exist beneath quite unimpressive exteriors, their surface appearance merely representing their last structural phase (*ibid* 34).

Cairn **53** is a platform cairn and an excavated example at Davidstow Moor (Christie 1988) revealed a turf construction, with areas of burning and associated pits, which appears to have acted as a focus for aggregation rather than a funerary function (Andy Jones pers comm). Cairns **23**, **49** and **54** may have had a funerary function whereby the remains of individuals or body parts of many individuals were interred. In many cairns stone lined cists have been found (Johnson and Rose 1994, 40). Excavated evidence from cairns across the Moor has shown during the Early Bronze Age both inhumation and cremation were practised (Andy Jones pers comm.)

Nine excavated cairns have been radiocarbon dated; eight of which have mean date ranges from 2162 to 1746 cal BC and suggest that the Early Bronze Age was the main building range for cairns on the Moor (*ibid* 40).

In the Roughtor area (Johnson and Rose 1994, 43) small cairns lie within contemporary field systems as do a number of large cairns of all types. It is conceivable that many of these larger Early Bronze Age cairns were absorbed within an expanding Middle Bronze Age landscape of hut circles and field systems. Within the margin of the Bronze Age field system **51** is cairn **52** which is likely to be the remains of a clearance cairn.

Hut circles across Bodmin Moor are thought largely to date to the Middle Bronze Age. Those at South Penquite stand within an agglomerate field system defined by enclosures of irregular layout and shape enclosed by stony banks and scarps with granite orthostats protruding from the fabric. The system developed in a piecemeal fashion without an overriding or pre-determined structure. Numerous small clearance cairns located throughout the system suggest clearance for cultivation; although many may date to re-use in the later, medieval period (see also **55** and **60**). It is likely that the Bronze Age field system once extended across the western and northern side of the farm; the prehistoric layout reflected in the irregular layout of the medieval field system on this side of the property (see **8**, **47** and **50** for discussion).

Analysis of a series of peat cores along the De Lank valley (between Bradford and Bedrawle), together with those studied elsewhere on the Moor, suggests that Bronze Age Bodmin Moor was dominated by open grassland and limited tree coverage (Jones and Tinsley, 2000-2001). Evidence from Stannon Down and Roughtor suggest intensification in pastoral land use in the Middle Bronze Age (*ibid* 158). A peat core dated to 1880 – 1630 cal BC from the De Lank valley revealed evidence for limited cereal cultivation probably associated with the nearby Bronze Age settlement (*ibid*).

While no direct evidence for Iron Age (900BC-AD43) or Romano-British (AD43-AD410) activity has been identified on the property, the nearby Kerrow place name might suggest settlement nearby. This medieval Cornish place-name contains the element *ker* meaning ‘fort’ or ‘round’ (Johnson and Rose 1994, 76; Padel 1985) and it appears that these often referred to the defended circular enclosures that were the characteristic permanent settlement of Iron Age and Romano-British Cornwall.

## **7.2 Medieval period (AD 410 to AD 1540)**

**See Figure 9 for sites and features**

Generally, the landscape of the early medieval period was similar to that of the preceding Romano-British period; the position of settlements in the 11<sup>th</sup> century similar to the distribution of the preceding rounds (Johnson and Rose 1994, 76).

The settlement of South Penquite (and Black Penquite; **1** and **2**) and its well defined ring fence enclosing a strip field system (**6**) are likely to date to the 11<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD; a period associated with the widespread colonisation of the moor (*ibid* 77). Although the site is not documented before the 16<sup>th</sup> century it is likely that many sites simply lack early documentation. The hearthstone (**58**) and strip derived field system **63** surrounding Watts Penquite (**57**) suggest a similar 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date. These two settlements and associated field systems were once probably separated by rough ground grazed in common by tenants.

The two easily identifiable areas of medieval field system (**6** and **63**) about a field system whose morphology and layout is based on earlier prehistoric boundaries but is also probably medieval in date. It is likely that these fields like the strip fields would have been held as intermixed holdings by the tenants of the farming hamlets. Best’s Penquite (**3**) may also have its origins in the medieval period and could have once been a farming hamlet.

The cultivation strips **55**, earthworks **16** and clearance cairns **60** suggest the temporary cultivation of the rough ground surrounding the enclosed field systems and it is possible that limited areas of strip fields like **7** had their origins as such. These areas of temporary cultivation could also date to the early post-medieval period.

During the medieval period Bodmin Moor was an important source of alluvial tin and both streamworks **22** and **24** are likely to have been worked (and reworked in to the post-medieval).

## **7.3 Post-medieval period: 1540 to 1800**

**See Figure 10 for sites and features**

Extensions to the existing field system at Penquite are likely to date to this period. Intake **25** would have been extended in to the rough ground of what was once probably part of a large area of common. This could be associated with the ‘privatisation’ of areas of rough ground whereby former commons were sub-divided and attached to certain tenements or individual farmsteads. Boundary **60** may be an example of this, as is the eastern boundary

of 'Rye Downs' which became attached to Watts Penquite, but was once probably part of Kerrow Downs (see **16**).

#### **7.4 Post-medieval period: 1800 to present**

**See Figure 10 for sites and features**

The period is characterised by the further intake of moorland (see **9** and **10**), the abandonment of Watts (**57**) and Best's Penquite (**3**), and the development of large scale quarrying activity (see **29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34** and **35**):

The settlement of Watts Penquite (**57**) had been abandoned by the c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3 and Appendix) and the focus of late 19<sup>th</sup> century improvement and intake appears to have taken place close to South and Black Penquite (**1** and **2**). For example, attached to the south eastern corner of strip system **6** three enclosures of moorland intake (see **9** and **10**) were created in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; the field drains (**9**) perhaps contemporary or a later attempt to further improve the ground. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the house and farmyard at South Penquite (**1**) was remodelled.

Plantation **18** also dates to the late-19<sup>th</sup> century and appears to have been planted as a designed feature, positioned in relation to West Rose to which this side of the South Penquite property was presumably then owned.

Ponds **11** and **12** were first recorded on the c1881 OS map (Fig 4) and these may have been dug to ensure a water supply for livestock.

Some of the stone splitting pits and areas of moorstone splitting (see **28** and **29**) with 'plug' marks presumably date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century perhaps for the remodelling of South Penquite farmhouse and its outbuildings (see **1**).

Large scale, industrial quarrying and the development of the De Lank quarry complex dates to the mid to late-19<sup>th</sup> century and by c1881 'Silver Hill' quarry (**33**) had been excavated and the De Lank culverted to power turbines for use in the quarry complex (see **33**).

Sometime between OS map of 1907 (Fig 5) and the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) the Silver Hill quarry (**33**) was reworked. As part of this it appears the incline (**29**), dressing area (see **29**), blacksmith's workshop (**30**), and building (**31**) with an associated water tank (**32**) were developed. The position of the features on the upper slopes of 'The Coomb' (see c1840 Tithe Survey) and situated above the main De Lank quarry complex suggest an entrepreneurial small scale operation, perhaps to provide building stone and gate posts for the local market. The extensive stone splitting marks and pits (**28**) within the nearby rough ground suggests that moorstone also provided a source of granite which may have been re-worked in the dressing area.

Quarries **34** and **35** were developed as part of the De Lank quarry complex. These were in operation in the 1946 and were perhaps started during the WW2 to provide roadstone, aggregate or ballast. Analysis of aerial photographs taken in the late-1970s show quarries **33** and **34** being reworked; by the 1988 aerial photograph all three quarry sites had been abandoned and were covered with vegetation.

Best's Penquite (**3**) appears to have been abandoned between the 1907 OS map and the 1946 RAF aerial photograph.

Across the South Penquite property little appears to have changed between 1946 and the 1988 (Fig 7) aerial photographs except for the improvement and enclosure of 'Rye Downs' (see **16** for discussion) and the numerous piles of moorstone (see **47** and **61** for discussion).

At South Penquite the farmyard was expanded, and in the most recent past mounds **14** and **15** and pond **13** were dug.

## 8 Site Inventory

All grid references are centred:

<b>GAZ</b>	1	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	South Penquite settlement	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10788 75047
<b>Period</b>	Medieval/post-medieval		

**Notes** The Penquite place-name was first recorded in 1550 as ‘Penquyt’ (Gover, see ICS place-name index) which combines the Cornish elements *pen* and *cos*. *Pen* means ‘head, top or end’ (Padel 1985, 181) and *cos*, ‘wood’ (*ibid* 66); the two together interpreted as ‘woods end’ (*ibid* 177): the settlement situated at the uppermost reaches of the wooded De Lank valley.

Both Joel Gascoyne’s 1695 Survey of Cornwall and Thomas Martyn’s 1748 map record ‘Penquite’ in the position of South and Black Penquite. The 1809 OS surveyors’ drawing (Fig 2) records three settlements on the property but only annotated two: South and Black Penquite were ‘Higher Penquite’ and Best’s Penquite was ‘Penquite’.

The Tithe Apportionment details of 1840 (see Appendix) appear to best record the place-names with the tenement details clearly labelled under four separate entries: South Penquite, Black Penquite, Best’s Penquite and Watts Penquite, all of which, bar Watts Penquite, conform to the present property titles. Confusingly, the accompanying Tithe map (Fig 3) labelled only ‘Black Penquite’ and ‘Penquite’ with ‘Black Penquite’ in the position of South Penquite and Best’s Penquite as ‘Penquite’. The misplacement of the Black Penquite names continued on to the 1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5 respectively) and perhaps should be viewed as an error on the illustrators’ part, in what was otherwise a series of well surveyed maps.

The Tithe Map records South Penquite as TA 1363, ‘Courtlage, Buildings and Road’ with the barn and house. The house has an attached building which was still extant on the 1881 OS map, by which time an additional small building had been added to the south east corner of the yard. By the 1907 OS map the house seems to have been remodelled, probably in the doubled fronted style (Nigel Thomas pers comm) that it is found today. Two small buildings were added to the yard and a third in the field to the south east. These are likely to have been used for storing livestock.

In summary the settlement now consists of the original farmhouse, the converted chall barn, four small outbuildings and two large modern farm buildings.

The lane running up to South Penquite was first recorded on the 1840 Tithe Survey; the 1809 OS drawing did not record the feature but showed the lane to Black Penquite.

The position of the settlement on the sunny, sheltered south eastern slopes and its attached well-preserved strip field system (6) suggest a medieval origin.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
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<b>Condition</b>	The buildings survive in good condition and are still used. The barn has recently been converted to a dwelling.		
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**Recommendations** *No comments required.*

**GAZ** 2 **PRN** 3114  
**Site Type** Black Penquite settlement **NGR(SX)** 10844 75082  
**Period** Medieval/post-medieval

**Notes** The Black Penquite place-name was first recorded in 1550 as ‘Blak Penquyt’ (Gover, see ICS place-name index) but it was not until the c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3) that the name appears on any historic maps and survey apportionments (see 1 for discussion of Penquite place-names). The survey records TA 1382, ‘Barn, Townplace and Lane’ with two ‘Cattle Houses’ (TA 1368 and 1369) in the corners of TA 1367, ‘Town Meadow’ (see Appendix). No house was recorded. The lane from the town place down to TA 1379, ‘Common’ was recorded as on the 1809 OS surveyors’ drawing (Fig 2).

The c1840 Tithe map records Kerrow Downs as Black Downs (TA 1780) and it may be reasonable to suggest that the Black Penquite place name may be of the same derivation (black due to the peaty soil). It may also suggest that the settlement once had attached grazing rights to the greater part of the Downs.

By the c1881 OS map (Fig 4) the downs were recorded as Kerrow Downs and the present house had been built; the barn was still extant as was the easternmost cattle house recorded on the c1840 Tithe Survey; the farm, yard and buildings were unchanged by the 1907 OS map (Fig 5).

**Status** Extant **Importance** B

**Condition** No comment required as not part of the South Penquite property.

**Recommendations** *As above*

**GAZ** 3 **PRN** 3113  
**Site Type** Best’s Penquite settlement **NGR(SX)** 10477 75252  
**Period** Medieval/post-medieval

**Notes** A settlement was recorded here on the 1809 OS surveyors’ drawings (Fig 2) but the Best’s Penquite place-name was first recorded on the c1840 Tithe apportionments (see Appendix). The accompanying Tithe map (Fig 3), like the earlier OS surveyors’ drawings, recorded the settlement as ‘Penquite’ which appears to have been a mistake (see 1 for fuller discussion).

Best’s Penquite was recorded as ‘Lane, Courtlage and Buildings’ by the c1840 Tithe Survey (TA 1353) and owned by John Harris, leased by Zechariah Rogers and sub-let to a William Rogers (see Appendix); who also sub-let South Penquite. The layout of the buildings and yard appeared to change little by the c1881 and 1907 OS maps.

The 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) recorded the house at Best’s

Penquite as roofless and derelict, the two barns clearly roofed and still used; a similar situation was recorded on the 1988 CCC aerial photograph (Fig 7) although by this time a modern shed had been built in the adjoining mowhay (TA 1351).

The trackway to the east of Best's Penquite settlement survives as a sunken lane approximately 0.35m deep bounded either side by Cornish hedges (stone faced earth banks) whose facing incorporates large moorstones set on edge. Close to the end of the lane (SX 10563 75308) the split edges of a large grounder are found; the remaining drill marks characteristic of the 'plug and feather' splitting technique, which post-dates 1800 (Herring, forthcoming). This would have been the original access route for livestock to the settlement; a footpath running up from the south of the settlement recorded on the 1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5; see 4).

Another sunken (0.5m deep) enclosed lane extends to the north from the settlement and is now blocked by a later wall and stile (4). This would have led up to the building TA 1335 (see below) and perhaps on to Best's Penquite. By the 1881 OS map it was blocked by a boundary, the lane used as a footpath down to the spring (5) and the De Lank quarries (see 33 for broad discussion).

The 1840 Tithe survey records a solitary building to the north of Best's Penquite's 'Lane, Courtlage and Buildings'. This was recorded as TA 1335, 'House in Lower Above Town' but part of the 'Watts Penquite' tenement owned by John Wallis, leased by Zechariah Rogers and sub-let to John Harris. The building was not recorded on the 1881 OS map.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	Recently sold by the Fairman family, the barn has been incorporated into a modern house. The other stone outbuildings have been renovated and others built. Two adjoining fields are grazed by two horses and a goat. The house TA 1335 is not extant.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>No comment required as not part of the South Penquite property. If possible the trackway running to the east of the settlement could be maintained as an access route and any encroaching thorn cleared as this would ensure its survival.</i>		
<b>GAZ</b>	4	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Stile	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10415 75293
<b>Period</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> century		
<b>Notes</b>	Granite stile built in later dry stone wall with horizontal stone lintels with steps up one side and down the other. Presumably built with the closure of the sunken lane (see 3) between 1840 (Fig 3) and 1881 (Fig 4) from Best's Penquite to allow access for the footpath down to the spring head (5) and the De Lank quarries (see 33 for broad discussion).		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	Good although not part of an active access route.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>Part of a shared boundary with Best's Penquite the stile is an interesting feature in the</i>		



**ndations** *fabric of the boundary.*

**GAZ** 5 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Spring Head **NGR(SX)** 10383 75277  
**Period** Unknown

**Notes** An earth cut with a backface approximately 0.8m deep surrounds a wet muddy hollow. A spring was recorded here on the c1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5). The small enclosure in which the spring head lies was recorded on the c1840 Tithe Survey as TA 1337, 'Well Garden' (see Fig 3 and Appendix). This may have been the water supply for Best's Penquite and perhaps originally for the Bronze Age settlement.

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Clear of vegetation and clearly visible from the footpath that runs along this part of the property.

**Recommendations** *Maintain visibility through grazing and scrub clearance if required as an interesting part of the historic environment which may have been associated both with the prehistoric and medieval settlement of this side of the South Penquite property.*

**GAZ** 6 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Strip field system **NGR(SX)** 10940 75720  
**Period** Medieval

**Notes** A fossilised strip field system enclosed within a ring fence and bounded by a substantial Cornish hedge lies to the north and east of South and Black Penquite (see 1 and 2 respectively). The settlement was once a medieval farming hamlet, perhaps with several households and tenants. The ring fence (see 8) would have enclosed open fields and bundles of strips

The medieval open field was a communal field system whereby a group of tenants of a single estate held intermixed, scattered strips or stiches (Cornish term for strip) to ensure the sharing of land of equal quality. The tenants held the produce of the strips to themselves as individuals although they might have co-operated together in ploughing and harvesting and have had shared equipment (Dudley 2003). The bundles were essentially cropping units that were part of a rotation system based on ley husbandry whereby there would be two to three years of crop, the last undersown with grass seed, followed by 5 to 10 years of ley grass. Before ploughing was resumed the stictches were prepared by beat-burning to clear the sod and to kill any pests or weeds. Each bundle could be pulled out of the system and made stock-proof (there are references to deal fences and hurdles in medieval documents; Pete Herring pers comm) and cultivated. The rest were then grazed in common with two or three bundles under crop at any time.

The tenants had the rights to graze the open field and any rough ground beyond (in this case perhaps Kerrow Downs and what later became Rye Downs [see c1840 Tithe Survey; Fig 3 and Appendix]) to ensure an even

spread of dung and therefore each strip would have originally not have been stock-proof. The nature of the open field agricultural regime necessitated customs and rules to ensure the organisation ran smoothly. These customs are best documented in England where the occurrence of larger villages meant that the strict rules were recorded as people were often taken to the manorial courts for breaches (Pete Herring pers comm). There is very little documentary evidence within Cornwall probably because the open fields were associated with hamlets of usually fewer than a dozen households which required less stringent rules. The enclosure of many of the open fields in Cornwall appears to have been an earlier development than in England and this in turn contributes to the scanty documentary evidence (Pete Herring pers comm).

Although many of the strip field boundaries have been fossilised in the post-medieval field layout, the evidence for many others survives as low grassed over ditches and scarps between 0.1m 0.7m deep/high. Others are visible as features on aerial photographs.

The ring fence in which the strip system is enclosed survives as a substantial Cornish hedge 1.6m (max) high and 1.6m (max) wide, with a ditch visible on its exterior side (especially on its northern and eastern sides).

The western edge of the strip system has a sinuous boundary and is not as neat as the one on the eastern side. This may be because this side of the medieval field system incorporated elements of earlier prehistoric boundaries similar those found on the north western corner of the property (see 47 and 51).

Surviving scarps here suggest that the medieval field system may have had more sub-rectangular fields (see 8).

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b> B
<b>Condition</b>	<p>Many of the relict strip boundaries survive as clear earthworks. The fossilised strip boundaries survive in varying condition: where maintained as an active boundary the hedges survive in good condition but where not, many are breached by the action of livestock. Some of these breaches are quite substantial. Part of the character of the strip field system at Penquite is the number of mature thorn and low oak trees along the boundaries. These would not have been recorded on any historic maps and presumably would have been encouraged as wind breaks and as a convenient fuel source.</p>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>The strip system is one of the most impressive aspects of South Penquite's historic environment and if possible should be included as part of any education visits to the farm. Its survival is of great importance and every effort should be made to maintain the surviving field boundaries.</i></p>	

<b>GAZ</b>	7	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Strip Lynchets	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10657 75263
<b>Period</b>	Medieval		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>The remains of a strip lynchets system survive as three grassed over scarps between 0.3m and 0.6m high. These define three long narrow strips approximately 25m to 30m wide.</p> <p>The field was recorded as part of Watt's Penquite on the c1840 Tithe survey within TA 1340, 'Great-a-Park' (Fig 3 and Appendix). The field was recorded as improved on the c1881 OS map (Fig 4) but as rough pasture and furze on the 1907 edition (Fig 5).</p> <p>The strip lynchets are similar in form to the strip system enclosed within the ring fence close to South and Black Penquite (see 6).</p> <p>These would normally be expected to be of medieval date; however strips are clearly shown on the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) within active agricultural use. This could suggest that the scarps were created by modern ploughing or that the farmer re-used the pre-existing boundaries to define his more recent cultivation.</p> <p>The semi-circular earthwork noted against the southern boundary of this field as a low scarp was recorded as a small parcel of furze and rough pasture on the c1881 OS map (Fig 4).</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	The banks survive as visible features in the landscape.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>The features must be assumed to be medieval until proven otherwise. The features will be best preserved under permanent pasture although if ploughed care could be taken not to plough too deep and to spread the banks.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	8	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Field Boundaries	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	Various
<b>Period</b>	Historic		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>South Penquite is a fossilised medieval and prehistoric field system, altered and extended in the subsequent post-medieval period. Its character differs: close to South and Black Penquite (1 and 2 respectively) the layout is regular, the system derived from medieval strips (6) enclosed within a ring fence; whereas close to Best's Penquite the irregular layout and shape of the fields suggest an agglomerate or accretive system, by which fields were enclosed with no determined layout or plan. A similar arrangement is found within the relict Bronze Age field system (47) and it seems reasonable to suggest that many of the medieval field boundaries from the edge of the strip system (6) up to Best's Penquite and across to Watts Penquite (57) re-use earlier prehistoric boundaries.</p> <p>The character of the boundaries seems to be dictated mainly by their function rather than by date, as it is likely that the boundaries were refurbished throughout the post-medieval period.</p> <p>All the boundaries were intended to be stockproof, with many today</p>		

having modern sheep fences and wooden posts stretching across their tops.

- **Stone-Faced Earth Walls (Cornish Hedges)**

These form the majority of the boundaries at South Penquite and are characterised by a core of turf (peat) or rab (orange degraded granite soil) with vertical faces. The boundaries vary from 0.2m - 1.6m high and 1 - 2 wide and for the most of their length are in good condition. There is a shared, common facing technique at South Penquite which is typically horizontally coursed medium to large sized granite blocks above which smaller granite fragments were vertically set. The boundaries generally have ditches between 1m and 2m wide and 0.2m to 0.6m deep.

- **Stone-Faced Earth Banks**

In profile these are asymmetrical: on one side (external) they are vertically faced in the South Penquite style (see above), their other (internal) side a ramped earthbank. The clearest example of this boundary type is the eastern edge of 'Rye Downs' (see 16). The boundary was first recorded on the 1809 OS surveyors' drawings (Fig 2) and is likely to be a late-medieval/early post-medieval boundary enclosing what became an enclosed 'private' rough ground, perhaps attached to Watts Penquite (57; for further discussion see 3 and Appendix). The eastern (external) edge faces Kerrow Downs (or Black Downs; see Fig 3), the vertical ditched face prevented livestock from the common gaining access to Rye Downs. The internal (west side) ramped earth bank while providing a barrier for stock grazing Rye Downs, also enabled stock that had broken in from the common to be easily driven back over.

This boundary type is also found facing on to Pendrift Downs and is associated with the edge of commons.

- **Drystone Walls**

This boundary type is generally found in infrequent short lengths within the property, usually as later repairs and blockages, except to the north east of settlement 57. Here a drystone wall follows the top of the De Lank river cliff/slope. In many places it incorporates natural outcrops but stands as a low narrow boundary between 1 – 1.2m high and 0.8 to 1.1m wide.

- **Modern Fence Line**

Modern fence lines are found in three main areas:

**Rye Downs;** a series of modern fences divide this large area of in to three enclosures.

**De Lank river corridor;** a modern fence line following the river slope has been fenced off under English Nature's 'Wildlife Enhancement Scheme'.

**Coombe hillslope;** a modern fence line which roughly follows the line of the incline (29) has been fenced off so that the slopes of rough

ground can be grazed in the future.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	The field boundaries survive in varying condition: where maintained as an active boundary they are in good condition but where not, many are in a dilapidated state with many breaches, some of which are quite substantial.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>The boundaries define the historic (and modern) character of South Penquite and are integral to the interpretation and presentation of this important landscape.</i>  <i>In many places modern repairs have been made to the boundaries and these have replicated the existing boundary style. Our generic advice is that any possible boundary works should be limited to as short lengths as possible, with repairs maintaining the existing boundary style and constructive materials in order to retain the historic character of the boundary. Stone facing should be of local moorland granite, and may have to come from a source from elsewhere on the Moor, or from the modern clearance cairns (see <b>18</b> and <b>61</b>). By using the traditional methods the historic character and ecological interest of the boundaries should be retained and make any repairs subtle and less visually obtrusive.</i>		
<b>GAZ</b>	9	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Field drains	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	11057 75074
<b>Period</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Two areas of field drains clearly visible on the 1946 RAF photograph (Fig 6) of Penquite lie within a group of three rectilinear enclosures that were taken in between the c1840 Tithe map (Fig 3) and the OS map of c1881 (Fig 4). The Tithe map recorded the area as 'Common', TA 1379 attached to the tenement of Black Penquite (see Appendix). The fields have straight boundaries attached to the ring fence of strip field system <b>6</b>; the two westernmost enclosures recorded on the c1881 OS map as rough grassland, the other as improved. By the 1907 OS map (Fig 5) all the fields had been fully improved.</p> <p>The western group of field drains survive as a series of parallel waterlogged ditches and banks approximately 0.2m high/deep and between 0.5m and 1.2m wide. The eastern group were not visible and possibly no longer survive although the dense reed cover made fieldwork difficult.</p> <p>The ditches would may act as drainage channels themselves or conceal ceramic pipes or channels filled with loose stones to help drain this area of damp ground.</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant/ Documentary	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	The western group survive and are clearly visible in the field. The eastern group were not recorded in the field and were not visible on the 1988 CCC aerial photograph.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>An interesting series of features which show how rough ground and more marginal areas would have been taken in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and improved.</i>		

**GAZ** 10 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Earthworks **NGR(SX)** 11189 75218  
**Period** 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> centuries  
**Notes** Two parallel earthworks (possibly ditched features) were recorded on the 1988 CCC aerial photograph (Fig 7) of Penquite. These were not visible during fieldwork, the features possibly drainage channels associated with the improvement and intake of this area in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.  
**Status** Documentary **Importance** C  
**Condition** Not recorded during fieldwork  
**Recommendations** *Should be included in education visits to the farm as part of the interesting story of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century intake and improvement of the rough ground.*

**GAZ** 11 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Pond **NGR(SX)** 10885 74954  
**Period** 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**Notes** Measuring approximately 18m long by 6m wide this recently re-dug pond appears to have been visible on the 1946 aerial photograph of Penquite (Fig 6). The c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3) recorded the field in which the pond lies as 'Moor Meadow' (TA 1365) but no pond was recorded. Both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5) don't record the feature but record other ponds to the north east (outside of the study area) and to the south west (12).  
The field in which the pond lies is quite damp and has a substantial internal ditch. The pond may have been dug to provide drinking water for livestock as the stream lay on the other side of the field boundary, outside the property of South Penquite.  
**Status** Extant **Importance** C  
**Condition** Good  
**Recommendations** *Could be re-dug in the future to ensure its continued survival*

**GAZ** 12 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Pond **NGR(SX)** 10847 74933  
**Period** 19<sup>th</sup> century (recently re-dug)  
**Notes** At the southern end of the enclosed land running up to South Penquite is a small pond surrounded by reeds. Low spoil heaps surrounding the pond suggest it has been recently re-dug.  
The pond was recorded on both the OS maps of c1881 (Fig 4) and 1907 (Fig 5) but not on the c1840 Tithe map (Fig 3) when the pond area was recorded as part of TA 1363, 'Courtlage, Building and Road' (see Appendix), although it is possible that the feature may have been extant at

the time but omitted by the surveyor as unimportant.

The pond's position at the bottom of the enclosed lane running up to the town place suggests that the pond may have been used by livestock in the nearby fields.

A similar pond (**11**) lies to the north east and is one of three ponds (one was recorded outside the assessment area) recorded on historic OS maps along this side of the enclosed fields against the unenclosed rough ground.

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Good

**Recommendations** *Could be re-dug in the future to ensure its continued survival*

**GAZ** 13 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Pond **NGR(SX)** 10827 74956

**Period** 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Notes** This small pond was dug by the Fairman family in 2004 through Countryside Stewardship this example Fits in to the pattern of small ponds dug on to this side of the enclosed ground of Penquite.

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** No comment

**Recommendations** *None*

**GAZ** 14 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Mound **NGR(SX)** 10783 74953

**Period** 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Notes** Large earth mound approximately 30m long and 1.9m high probably associated with landscaping works in and around the campsite.

**Status** Extant **Importance** No comment

**Condition** Very visible

**Recommendations** *This feature may be temporary but has been noted to prevent future misidentification by archaeologists looking for undiscovered long barrows. Ideally, from an historic environment perspective, the feature confuses the character of the landscape and could be removed as it breaks up the look of the field when it's not in use as a campsite.*

**GAZ** 15 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Mounds **NGR(SX)** 10579 75047

**Period** 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Notes** Heaps of building waste and 'rab' (dialect term for the orange/yellow

degraded granitic soil) have been dumped here in the recent past and may be associated with the updating of farm buildings at South and Best's Penquite (see 1 and 3).

**Status** Extant **Importance** No comment  
**Condition** Slowly being vegetated over.  
**Recommendations** *This feature may be temporary but has been noted to prevent future misidentification by archaeologists.*

**GAZ** 16 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Earthworks **NGR(SX)** 1189 75610  
**Period** Late medieval/post-medieval

**Notes** Two linear low (0.25m high max) breaks in slope were recorded by fieldwork in an area of improved rough pasture known on the c1840 Tithe Survey as 'Rye Downs' (TA 1314; part of the tenement of Watts Penquite-see Fig 3 and Appendix). The c1881 OS map (Fig 4) recorded rough pasture and furze with a large irregularly shaped area of improved ground, which by the 1907 OS map (Fig 5) had reverted back to rough pasture and grassland. The 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) shows rough pasture dotted with furze but with an improved area at its north eastern end.

The 'Rye Downs' field name suggests that it was commonplace for the temporary improvement and cultivation of this area: which was probably fuelled by high market demand and price for cereals.

The low scarps may date to any one of the periods of improvement or temporary cultivation; the area's gentle gradient and low degree of stoniness may have made it less marginal than the other areas of rough ground.

The eastern boundary of the Downs was clearly recorded on both the 1809 OS surveyors' drawings (Fig 2) and the c1840 Tithe map (Fig 3); the boundary perhaps originally a late medieval or early post-medieval ring fence associated with the temporary cultivation of what may have once been common. The boundary, like many of the others at Penquite which once faced on to common, has an asymmetrical profile (see 8)

Today the Downs is all improved grassland, the area split by a series of rectilinear fences.

The area was covered by fieldwork in poor light and it seems reasonable that under better circumstances further banks or ditches may be recorded.

**Status** Extant **Importance** B  
**Condition** Survive as very low earthworks visible with low angle sunlight.  
**Recommendations** *An interesting area of former rough ground which could be used to show how the margins of the rough ground have been encroached upon at a more permanent level in the recent past.*



<b>GAZ</b>	17	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Clearance cairn	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	11127 75731
<b>Period</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> centuries		
<b>Notes</b>	This clearance cairn measures approximately 10m long, 5m wide and between 0.8m and 0.2m high and is composed of loose small to medium sized angular granite stones. Although covered in moss and lichen the stones look like the result of recent clearance and may date to the 19th and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries and a period of temporary cultivation.		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	Highly visible next to the gateway which leads in to plantation <b>18</b> .		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>If any stone is required for boundary repair elsewhere on the farm then the stone could be reused. In the past it was common for stone cleared from fields would to have been used in facing hedges and walls.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	18	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Plantation	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	11095 75716
<b>Period</b>	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>A number of large beech trees with the occasional weather beaten Scot's Pine are the survivors of a mixed plantation recorded on both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5). The enclosure in which they stand was recorded as 'Long Downs' (TA 1316) on the c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3 and Appendix) and was probably, together with 'Rye Downs', in the medieval period once part of a larger piece of rough ground.</p> <p>Although the c1840 Tithe Survey records it as part of the Watts Penquite tenement the area was more recently part of West Rose: from whom the Fairman family purchased this side of the farm (Dominic Fairman pers comm).</p> <p>A series of plantations and tree brakes dotted in and around West Rose on both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps suggest that this plantation may have been planted as a viewpoint from the farmhouse or to frame Carbilly Tor in the further distance.</p> <p>The landscape aspect of the plantation is unusual in such a marginal area where plantations normally had a more functional use sheltering the farmstead from the elements.</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	The trees are mature but there are very few young trees.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>If any tree planting is to be considered at South Penquite then this plantation would be an ideal place for renovation of existing woodland. Any trees planted could seek to replicate the character of the plantation.</i>		

**GAZ** 19 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Trackway **NGR(SX)** 11128 75810  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Notes** This 4m wide level area follows the hillslope alongside the boundary of plantation **18**: the eastern edge of the feature cut approximately 0.6m in to the natural slope; its western edge formed by the deep ditch of the plantation boundary. This curious feature runs down towards the edge of the De Lank.  
The feature may mark the remains of an unrecorded trackway that may have once lead down to a fording point.  
**Status** Extant **Importance** C  
**Condition** Grassed over and clearly visible.  
**Recommendations** *The interpretation of this feature is tentative.*

**GAZ** 20 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Ford and stepping stones **NGR(SX)** 11168 75930  
**Period** 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**Notes** A ford was recorded here on the c1881 OS map (Fig 4); the feature not recorded on the 1907 edition (Fig 5). The earlier map also records a trackway crossing the rough ground of 'Rye Downs', heading north and then turning downslope to the ford, after which it continued on the northern side of the De Lank up to West Rose.  
As it approaches the ford the trackway survives as 2m wide, 1m deep damp hollow (although the number of moorstones here would have made access difficult). Where it entered the river on the southern side is not clear; perhaps eroded by river action. The northern side of the bank has a well preserved approach which from a distance is marked by a well dressed granite orthostat. On the western side of the ford seven stepping stones lie on the gravel of the river bed, their tops proud above the waterline of the river.  
Another possible approach to the ford from the south west was recorded by fieldwork. Here a 2m wide level platform with the occasional rough granite step inclines across the slope of the hill down towards the ford, a small length of 0.3m high stony scarp defining its south western side.  
The ford and its approaches are likely to date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the inclusion of this part of the farm within the farming estate of West Rose; the ford presumably once allowed access for stock from the farm to Rye Downs.  
**Status** Extant **Importance** C  
**Condition** The stepping stones survive in good condition but the trackways and paths down to the ford on the Penquite side are in poor condition. The area has recently been cleared of scrub.

**Recommendations** *Now that it is associated with Penquite the ford is defunct. From an education point of view the feature, together with plantation 18, nicely shows how changes in tenure are reflected in features within the landscape.*

**GAZ** 21 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Ford **NGR(SX)** 11287 76055  
**Period** 20

**Notes** A modern gate hung on the South Penquite property boundary close to the De Lank marks the approach to a modern fording point. A similar eroded approach is visible on the northern bank and this was clearly visible on the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6); the feature visible on the 1988 CCC aerial photograph (Fig 7). The eroded approaches suggest the movement of livestock or the tracking of vehicles.

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Clearly visible and starting to re-vegetate

**Recommendations** *A modern feature of little importance.*

**GAZ** 22 **PRN** 12691  
**Site Type** Streamworks **NGR(SX)** 11327 75961  
**Period** Historic

**Notes** In the gentler part of the De Lank valley down river from Delford Bridge a number of deep channels and heaps mark the remains of an alluvial streamworks. The area is extensive and continues beyond Delford Bridge towards Bradford.

Over the length of the streamworks both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5) record the bifurcated course of the De Lank, its many changes in direction and cross cutting channels a result of the streamworking; the c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3) record one such bifurcation to the west of Delford Bridge.

Fieldwork identified a series of cross cutting channels ranging between 2.2m and 1.45m wide and 0.3m and 0.8m deep. Nearer Delford Bridge the channels became smaller in length and more waterlogged, often enclosed by heaps approximately 0.7m (max) in height. A large leat cut in to the hillslope forms the western boundary of the streamworks and would have probably re-routed the De Lank away from the areas being worked. Off this diversionary channel, other smaller leats may have been used to remove the overburden.

Streamworks exploited tin that had been detached from the parent lode by weathering and erosion. To extract the tin from the deposits water was used to wash away the lighter clays and sands to leave the denser cassiterite or tin ore behind. This involved the close control of the velocity of the water, which would have been controlled by varying the volume of

the water and/or the gradient of the working area or tye (Gerrard 2000, 60). A constant tye width was maintained using the banks of waste material and means that surviving banks give an important indication of the character and development of the streamwork.

In places the edge of the De Lank edge has been faced by a Cornish Hedge faced with large granite blocks which may have been built to help stabilise and control the course of the river.

The streamwork to the east of Delford Bridge was recorded by Herring during the Bodmin Moor survey. He recorded hatches (pits), cuesta (high heaps with an asymmetrical profile) dumps, parallel dumps, drainage channels and two tanners' shelters (see PRN 12691.01 and 12691.02).

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	The South Penquite side of the streamworks are enclosed within an area of rough ground which has been fenced off through English Nature's 'Wildlife Enhancement Scheme'. In many areas recent scrub clearance has increased the visibility of the streamworks and its features.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>The historic character of this part of the property has been greatly shaped by streamworking. Bodmin Moor or 'Foneymoore' as it was once known is an important area for streamworking and the remains are a good education resource as they are easily accessible. It also shows how the areas of rough ground were exploited in the past by extractive industry. It would be interesting to see if the streamworking activity had created a number of specialised ecological niches that otherwise would not have existed.</i></p> <p><i>In order to maintain the visibility of the site any encroaching scrub could be continued to be cut regularly and tree planting discouraged.</i></p>		

<b>GAZ</b>	23	<b>PRN</b>	3061
<b>Site Type</b>	Kerbed Cairn	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	11261 75848
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		

**Notes** This possible cairn lies on the northern edge of the spur of what was once the rough ground of 'Rye Downs' (see **16** and Tithe Survey of 1840, Fig 3). The site had previously been interpreted by the HER as a doubtful menhir; the most prominent aspect of the site a large granite stone measuring 1.6m high, 2m wide (max) and between 0.2m to 0.6m thick. This stands at the south eastern end of low stony mound between 0.15m and 0.25m in height. The mound is sub-circular and measures approximately 7.8m long (NE-SW) and 7m wide (NW-SE). Close to the large upright is a 1.3m long, 0.9m to 1.3m wide granite stone. This lies flat on the ground and has an unweathered upward face. The western side of the mound appears to be indented. Beyond this to the west is a 1.3m long, 0.4m to 1.2m wide granite stone, again flat on the ground. This sits on the eastern edge of an 8m (diameter) hollow approximately 0.2m (max) deep.

The feature was not recorded on any historic maps and was not easily visible on the 1946 aerial photograph (Fig 6) of the area. By the 1988 CCC aerial photograph (Fig 7) the site was easily visible as the area had been cleared of furze and improved.

The site is unusual as Rye Downs, like Kerrow Downs, is comparatively stoneless in character. This could be due to very comprehensive modern improvement but this seems unlikely as little stone was noted on the field margins.

It has been suggested that the main upright shows signs of being split although surprisingly the same field visit failed to note the stony mound immediately adjacent (see PRN 3161) although the hollow on the western side of the site could suggest that the site was used for stone extraction.

This enigmatic feature is sited on the spur of Rye Downs, set above the low valley of the De Lank and Delford Bridge. The views to the north and east open to a tor-topped horizon while the high ground of West Rose and Lady Downs limit views westward, the gradual slope of Rye Downs the view to the south. From the bald rounded crest of Kerrow Downs the views open to Carbilly Tor to the east, the remaining upright stone perhaps aligned with the 'cheesewring' (on the southern slopes of the hill); northwards your eye is drawn across the ridge above Bradford and up the low valley of East Rose and to the humped, cairn topped summit of Brown Willy; further to the north west the summit of Roughtor peeks above East Rose.

The fragmentary nature of the site makes its interpretation difficult. It may have once measured greater than 7m in length. The majority of large (those over 10m in diameter) cairns on Bodmin Moor lie on watersheds, (plateaus, hillslopes or hill crests) away from settlement although some lie in areas only visible locally (Johnson and Rose 1994, 41). Many cairns on the moor have single revetment kerbs or kerbs just within the cairn margin, the majority of which are orthostatic or slab kerbs (*ibid* 40). On the Moor boulder kerbs of massive stones have been noted on cairns of various sizes at Catshole Tor (PRN 3160), Carneglos (PRN 3174) and Little Care Hill (PRN 1644.3) and in some instances standing stones have been incorporated in to the fabric of cairns (*ibid*).

<b>Status</b>	Extant (partially)	<b>Importance</b>	A, if prehistoric
<b>Condition</b>	If a prehistoric cairn then much of its fabric has been robbed away.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>A measured survey would improve the identification and understanding of the site. Normally a geophysical survey might be recommended but experience elsewhere on the Moor has shown that these are often inconclusive due to the underlying geology (Andy Jones pers comm). If the area is to be ploughed a 2m buffer zone could be established around the site to ensure the survival of any potential buried archaeology.</i></p> <p><i>The site is highly visible and could be maintained as such. This, together with the streamworks <b>22</b> could be the foci of any education visits to this side of the farm.</i></p>		
<b>GAZ</b>	24	<b>PRN</b>	12428
<b>Site Type</b>	Streamworks	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10820 74850
<b>Period</b>	Medieval		
<b>Notes</b>	Following the stream which drains this area of rough ground to the south of the South Penquite property is an extensive area of streamworking.		

Peter Herring sketch-surveyed the site in 1988 as part of the Bodmin Moor project. At the watershed streams run both north and south from the centre of the working.

On the south side there is a drain approximately 0.4m to 0.9m deep, 1m to 1.2m wide, with banks on both sides. It cuts through a dam (PRN 12428.01) with streamwork dumps to the north. An irregular group of six dumps lie parallel with the stream, others perpendicular to it. These range from 0.6m to 1.1m high. A drain, 1.3m to 1.8m wide, 0.4m to 0.6m deep runs along the east side of the workings and into the dam noted. Three runs of parallel dumps alongside the stream reach 0.9m high with a web of drains running between and cutting through them. There are also two large pits, probably hatches (pits) now waterfilled.

To the north of the watershed patterns of long dumps parallel to the stream continue and reach 1.4m high. To the west of these are two small hatches. Three leats run north east away from the northern part of the works, part draining and part collecting water for use elsewhere. These leats range from 0.7m to 1m wide and 0.4m to 7m deep. The central one appears to feed into a dam; a low bank 0.5m wide, 0.2m high retains a shallow boggy pond which may have stored water for use further down river to the north west. A Cornish hedge runs along the west side of the streamworks and through the south of it. This hedge is sinuous and in poor repair, and suggests a medieval / early post - medieval date for the streamworks.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	Outside property area so not covered by fieldwork. The site was considered as it abuts the southern side of the enclosed ground.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>No comments required.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	25	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Intake	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10522 74990

**Period** Late medieval/early post-medieval

**Notes** A series of scarps and stony scarps between 0.2m and 0.6m high mark former field boundaries within an area of post-medieval intake.

A stone and earth heap at 10502 75056 perhaps suggests clearance and improvement in this area.

A 0.4m high earth and stone bank incorporating large granite stones on edge with a possible ditch on its western side runs between 10512 75013 and 10512 74977. To the west of this boundary there is a lot of moorstone suggesting that this area was not improved unlike the area to the north (see above).

The earthworks survive in a field recorded as 'Well Park' (TA 1346) on the 1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3 and Appendix); which today is rough pasture. To the south the survey recorded 'New Coombe Park' (TA 1347) and 'Coombe Park' (TA 1349); the field name 'New Coombe Park' suggests a

recently taken in field, probably part of a larger area of later intake, perhaps associated with the development and extension of the field system around Best's Penquite (see 3).

**Status** Extant **Importance** B

**Condition** Some of the former field boundaries in this area of intake survive as scarps and stony scarps while others are maintained as modern field boundaries. These survive as Cornish hedges or stone faced earth banks, some of which are quite dilapidated and obscured by vegetation.

**Recommendations** *The earthworks are easily visible due to the low vegetation. If they are to be incorporated into education visits to the farm it is important to maintain their visibility in the landscape through grazing.*

**GAZ** 26 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Stile **NGR(SX)** 10475 74973

**Period** 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Notes** V-shaped granite stile with horizontal granite lintels built into Cornish hedge of post-medieval intake (25) on the edge of 'Well Park' (see 1840 Tithe Survey, Fig 3 and Appendix).

The stile is located on the route of the footpath from Pendrift Downs to Best's Penquite recorded on both the 1881 (Fig 4) and 1907 (Fig 5) OS maps.

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Good but unused

**Recommendations** *If possible could be kept clear of encroaching furze and be used by visitors during education visits to the farm.*

**GAZ** 27 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Rails **NGR(SX)** 10431 74902

**Period** 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Notes** A length of iron rail placed upright in to the ground was noted in the rough ground in the south western corner of the South Penquite property. A smaller stub of rail, also upright, lay closeby; the two approximately 1.1m apart.

The rail is a narrow gauge flat bottomed cast iron rail typical of those used in late 19<sup>th</sup> century quarrying to tram rock and waste away from the quarry faces to the finger dumps for disposal (Ainsley Cocks pers comm). It seems likely then that these may have been re-used perhaps for fence posts and temporary enclosure of the rough ground; the rails taken from the De Lank quarries (see 33 and 36) or incline nearby (29).

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Once found through the furze the rails are clearly visible.

**Recommendations** *An interesting feature but of little importance, the rails will gradually rust away.*

**GAZ** 28 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Stone splitting **NGR(SX)** Various  
**Period** 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century

**Notes** A large partly split block with neatly cut plug and feather marks survives at SX 10414 74898. The remains of split granite moorstones and accompanying splitting pits (from where buried stone was dug out) lie scattered in the area of rough ground surrounding the site.

Many of these show the signs of the ‘plug and feather’ splitting technique invented about 1800 (Herring, forthcoming: Stanier 1999, 55). A line of holes about 3 inches deep and up to 1 foot apart were made using a ‘jumper’ or a ‘hand borer’, held by a man who turned it in to the hole between blows from a sledge hammer wielded by a second man (Stanier *ibid*). The holes were made along the intended cleavage plain and iron ‘plugs’, short chisels, were placed between pairs of thin iron ‘feathers’, which reached the bottoms of the holes. The plugs were cleanly struck in turn by a sledgehammer and the percussive pressure applied to the sides of the holes eventually splitting the stone. The technique is still used for the secondary breaking of large blocks in modern granite quarrying (*ibid*).

Up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century most granite was obtained entirely from surface exposures and moorstone or ‘grass rock’ at a relatively small scale, mainly by farmers and masons although in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century it appeared that moorstone still constituted a huge supply of granite (*ibid* 56).

This area of rough ground has a high concentration of moorstone outcrops and is located in the corner of what was recorded as ‘The Coombe’ on the c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3 and Appendix).

It is possible that the moorstone provided material for the nearby dressing area (see 29)

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Many of the split stones and stone-splitting pits are clearly visible while others are obscured by furze.

**Recommendations** *The scattered pits and split stones are an interesting area of moorstone extraction and their possible relationship with the nearby dressing floor and incline make their story all the more interesting and should if possible be incorporated with any education visits to the smithy, dressing floor and incline.*

**GAZ** 29 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Incline and Dressing Area **NGR(SX)** 10421 75134  
**Period** 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Notes** A 4m to 5m wide incline cut across the hillslope on the easternmost edge of the ‘Coombe’ survives as a leafy footpath used as part of the circuit of



the farm. The eastern edge of the incline has been cut between 0.2m to 3m into the hillside with a stony bank between 0.5m and 3m high forming its western edge. From the south the incline gradates northwards past the site of a smithy (30) down to a level area approximately 40m long 15m wide; the eastern edge of which is a stone faced revetted bank between 2.5 to 3m high and coursed with horizontally laid granite blocks.

This level area has two stone heaps of split granite blocks with neat unweathered faces and plug and feather split marks: the easternmost heap measures approximately 10m long and is composed of large split granite blocks, intermixed with gate post rough outs and smaller granitic fragments; the western heap a stacked series of granite blocks abutting the the revetment wall.

At the northern end of the levelled area are the remains of a rectangular building (31) and water tank (32). The building is aligned north west/southeast and faces towards a 3m wide incline that runs down to Silverhill quarry (33). Here, the incline is revetted on its downslope side by a face of neatly coursed granite blocks.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	Clearly visible and accessible via the path which re-uses the incline.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>An interesting and intriguing series of sites when considered with the quarry 33, the buildings 30 and 31, water tank 32 and the moorstone splitting area 28. Further research locally could be carried out to see if any one recalls the use of the incline, dressing area and smithy. Documentary material may survive within the records and accounts of the De Lank quarry complex.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	30	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Smithy	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10439 75101
<b>Period</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> century		

**Notes** The dilapidated remains of a building were recorded on the eastern side of incline 28, towards its southern end. A 4.2m long (approximate) length of walling between 0.7m to 1.1m high and 0.6m to 1.3m wide stands at the southern eastern end of a 10m long, 5m wide platform cut 1.3m deep in to the hillslope. The wall is constructed with unmortared granite rubble. The northern side of the wall a large granite lintel (2m long, 0.4m high and 0.25m wide) appears to mark the bottom of a forge 0.5m high, 2m long and approximately 1.3m wide the interior of which is obscured by granite stone tumble.

The remains of a possible forge suggest the site of a smithy. Most quarries had their own smithy for sharpening jumpers and drills and for manufacturing other equipment. Typically across Bodmin Moor they measure 5m by 3m internally and are usually recognisable by the remains of chimneys and rectangular forges c1.8m square and 1.3m high (Herring forthcoming).

This smithy is presumably contemporary with the incline and dressing area (29).

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** In very poor condition, little of the building remains except for the southern wall and forge. The remaining wall has a beautiful twisted oak growing out of its fabric.

**Recommendations** *The site should be maintained as free of brambles as possible so that the forge and walls can be easily seen by education trips. The dilapidated nature of the wall and the oak tree make the site visually interesting if perhaps a little unstable. The fragmentary nature of the site and its local group value suggest that the site should be allowed to slowly fall down. Further research locally could be carried out to see if any one recollects the use of the incline, dressing area and smithy. Documentary material may survive within the records and accounts of the De Lank quarry complex.*

**GAZ** 31 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Building **NGR(SX)** 10410 75192

**Period** 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century

**Notes** An 8m length of wall 0.2m to 0.8m high and composed of granite stone rubble set in concrete with cement rendering suggests the site of a building. The wall is approximately 1.2m wide and is aligned north west-south east with two returns at either end. The northwestern return appears to form part of a narrow 0.8m wide entrance or access gap, the other side of which is another short length of walling.

The walls are much overgrown with ivy and brambles and in places large granite blocks appear to have been dumped on the site. The building lies at the northern end of the possible dressing area at the top of the incline running down to the quarry **33**. During fieldwork cinders were found to have been dumped over the western side of the inline and dressing area. This together with the nearby water tank **32** suggests that the building may have once housed a small compressor which may have powered drills used in the dressing area.

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Poor

**Recommendations** *An interesting and intriguing series of sites when considered with the quarry **33**, the smithy **30**, water tank **32** and the moorstone splitting area **28**. Further research locally could be carried out to see if any one recollects the use of the incline, dressing area and smithy. Documentary material may survive within the records and accounts of the De Lank quarry complex.*

**GAZ** 32 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Water Tank **NGR(SX)** 10412 75200

**Period** 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century

**Notes** This 3.3m long, 1.75m wide structure has granite rubble walls set in concrete surviving between 0.2m to 1.1m high externally. Its 0.3m thick walls are cement rendered and enclose an internal rectangular space 2.7m

long, 1.15m wide and 0.7m deep. On its south eastern edge the outline of a 0.07m diameter pipe survives in the render. The south western corner of the structure appears to have been broken.

The structure may be a water tank associated with the use of building **31** as it is positioned on a level platform approximately 2.6m above it.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	Survives in good condition		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>An interesting and intriguing series of sites when considered with the quarry <b>33</b>, the smithy <b>30</b>, building <b>31</b> and the moorstone splitting area <b>28</b>. Further research locally could be carried out to see if any one recalls the use of the incline, dressing area and smithy. Documentary material may survive within the records and accounts of the De Lank quarry complex.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	33	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Quarry (Silver Hill)	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10341 75218
<b>Period</b>	19/20 <sup>th</sup> century		

**Notes** A quarry was recorded on this site on the c1881 OS map (Fig 4) and again on the 1907 OS map (Fig 5). The 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) shows that an additional quarry had been cut on the northeastern edge of the earlier quarry. This lies within the South Penquite property. The incline **29** is clearly visible running down to the new working. Both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps record a finger dump extending from the mouth of the earlier quarry aligned against the edge of the De Lank.

Close to the earlier quarry the 1907 OS map recorded a 'footbridge' across the De Lank; the structure also recorded on the c1881 OS map. The earlier map also recorded a small square building approximately 5m square (externally) which may have been the site of a magazine or store shed.

Both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps also record a footpath from Pendrift Downs running down through 'The Coombe' (see c1840 Tithe Survey, Fig 3 and Appendix).

The quarry is known as 'Silver Hill' and is a dimension stone and granite monument quarry (see Herring forthcoming). An oblique aerial photograph of the site in 1976 (APR 1075/1/39) shows the quarry being reworked from its base with a trackway running up to the mouth of quarry **34**.

The incline and dressing area **29**, smithy **30**, building **31** and water tank **32** are likely to be contemporary and may be associated with the reworking of the Silver Hill quarry between 1907 and 1946. The incline seems to head for the base of this working which may be associated with limited small scale entrepreneurship. The position of the dressing area above the quarry is curious and perhaps suggests that this was worked separately from the De Lank quarries complex. The exploitation of the moorstone (**28**) to the south of the incline may have provided another source of rock for the dressing area. The site may have provided building stone and granite gate posts for local farms, the small size of the product meaning that the

difficult access to the site was not an issue.

The De Lank complex is one of forty separate dimension stone excavations on Bodmin Moor at 29 sites (Herring forthcoming). The De Lank quarry supplied granite for docks, breakwaters and forts in Britain and beyond and developed a reputation for supplying stone to lighthouses such as Bishop's Rock, The Needles, Beechy Head and most famously Douglass' Eddystone, after which the quarry was named for a time (*ibid*: see Stanier 1999 for comprehensive history and discussion of granite quarrying throughout the SW).

Dimension stone and monument quarries extracted large blocks of flawless granite and reduced them by splitting, sawing, scappling, axing and dunting to very precisely defined shapes and sizes. Processes were therefore fairly simple but the methods and machinery used to dislodge, hoist, shift and dress the stone developed rapidly through the later nineteenth and the twentieth centuries (*ibid*).

Delicately controlled blasting with gunpowder lit by safety fuse was used from the outset in Bodmin Moor's quarries. Charge holes sunk very carefully to horizontal joints or 'headings', but not beyond them, were drilled by three men working a hand-borer, one holding it and giving it a half-turn between sledgehammer blows administered by the other two. This was slow work; at De Lank in 1898 a typical 2½ inch diameter hole would be sunk just 6 to 8 feet in a nine hour day (Stanier 1995; see Herring forthcoming). Larger quarries, like De Lank, used pneumatic drills from the 1890s (but many continued to drill by hand well into the twentieth century – Herring forthcoming).

Seeking good working faces with widely spaced joints, the quarrymen drove into hillsides, creating scoops up to 180m across (De Lank, the face from Gully to Middle Crane quarries) with cliffs up to 35m high. Most sites across the Moor, however, were shorter-lived and their remains are more modest in scale, typically 30m or 40m across, with cliffs 8m to 15m high in which charge-holes are clearly visible (*ibid*).

Most of the larger quarries had pits sunk into their floors to reach cleaner, more flawless granite, for example De Lank's Eddystone quarry (SX 10157521). Originally drained by syphoning and later by portable pumps this will flood on abandonment. The De Lank complex has the most complex site on the Moor with six dimension and monument stone quarries (those in the gorge named Silver Hill, Eddystone, Oak Tree, River, Middle Crane and, the one still working, No. 1 or Gully) and five narrow roadstone/ballast quarries.

Heaps of soil and the spoiled top metre or so of rock were arranged around the tops of cliffs, often overlapping as quarries pushed on upslope. More spectacular are the dumps of large angular wasters generated by the reduction through plug-and-feather splitting of the often enormous blocks of granite dislodged by blasting. Mast and derrick cranes hoisted both the pieces selected for further dressing and the wasters out of working areas or pits and placed them onto tramway trucks for crowbarring along to, respectively, dressing floors and dumps.

At De Lank, with nine quarries opening into a narrow gorge, there were

serious problems of waste disposal and greater efforts were made from the turn of the twentieth century to process and sell it as street setts and, when crushed, as roadstone (Stanier 1985, see Herring forthcoming). Even so the floor of the gorge was infilled with wasters to the level of the mouths of the quarries, itself determined by the contour of the complex's principal track and, from the late nineteenth century, the tramway to the railway sidings at Wenfordbridge (SX 0859 7509).

The drilling of plug-and-feather holes for block reduction was still done by hand, with jumpers and hand-drills, in most Bodmin Moor quarries into the 1920s and 1930s; only the larger concerns like the De Lank and Cheesewring quarries had the capital to install compressors for the pneumatic drills available to quarries by c1895 (Stanier 1985, see Herring forthcoming). When breaking up a large block, the quarrymen followed three naturally occurring lines of weakness in the granite. Horizontal 'floors' or 'quartering-ways' followed the pseudo-bedding planes and were the easiest both to recognise and split along; next easiest were the 'cleaving-ways', vertical lines usually running NNW and recognised by the flow of the feldspars; and most difficult were the 'tough-ways', at right-angles to 'cleaving-ways' (Herring forthcoming; Stanier 1999). The latter often required holes to be drilled both deeper and closer together to ensure the granite split along the desired line.

Cranes and derricks were vital pieces of equipment in granite quarries, shifting blocks around and hoisting them onto trucks and wagons. Once reduced to a hoistable and workable block, the granite was passed for dressing to the stonemasons whose open-sided sheds were either close by, on site, or, if the risk of damage to finished work while in transit was considered too great, in distant granite yards in railway sidings. De Lank's were at Wadebridge until, in the late nineteenth century, a tramway linked the quarry with the Bodmin and Wadebridge Railways terminus at Wenfordbridge and new sheds were built in 1887 close to the quarry (Stanier 1999, see Herring forthcoming), their machinery worked by an 1889 Gilkes turbine powered by the 130-foot head of water in the De Lank canyon (Stanier 1985, see Herring forthcoming; Stanier 1999).

Blocks were roughly shaped by scappling, reduced to within an inch of the final shape with a blocking hammer, before chisels, chop axes or patent axes were used to produce a 'fine axe finish'. Pneumatic drills, hand tools and dunters took their place from around the turn of the twentieth century (Stanier 1985, see Herring forthcoming). Thin slabs were sawn, at first extremely slowly (3 inches [76mm] per week) by sand-fed frame-saws, then from c1882 at c10 inches (254mm) per day with shot-fed frame-saws. Carborundum circular saws of the 1940s and great wire-loop saws of the 1960s were replaced by computer-controlled diamond-tipped circular saws in the late 1970s (Stanier 1986, see Herring forthcoming). De Lank also had a large steam-powered lathe for working columns of granite to approximately 24 feet (7.6m) long, 4 feet (1.2m) diameter. Machinery for polishing surfaces was also improved through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Stanier 1985, 1986; see Herring forthcoming).

Most abandoned masons' sheds have lost their superstructures, usually timber and corrugated-iron, and survive as either concrete floors with

machinery beds and plinths. Standing granite or concrete buildings, some roofed, survive at De Lank. Smaller quarries lacked formal structures and scattered heaps of scappling chips and other dressing waste indicate the sites of dressing floors either within or very close to quarry mouths.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	Not covered by fieldwork as only the later working lies within the ownership of South Penquite.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>Inaccessible and not easily visible little can be done with the site. Further research locally could be carried out to see if any one recollects the use of the incline, dressing area and smithy. Documentary material may survive within the records and accounts of the De Lank quarry complex.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	34	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Quarry (Roadstone)	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10247 75370
<b>Period</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> century		
<b>Notes</b>	The beginning of this quarry was first recorded on the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) which shows the initial removal of the overburden. No quarry face was visible. The modern OS map data records a narrow linear cut at the base of the steep hillslope of the De Lank and a series of overburden heaps have been recorded on its south eastern side. See <b>33</b> and <b>35</b> for broader discussion.		

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	Not verified by fieldwork due to its inaccessible position.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>Inaccessible and not easily visible little can be done with the site.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	35	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Quarry (Roadstone)	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10217 75450
<b>Period</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> century		
<b>Notes</b>	The narrow 100m long, 10m wide quarry survives as a flat-based sheer-faced cut, with a back face approximately 20m high. Large overburden heaps survive either side of the quarry and are composed of mixed material including the occasional large granite block.  The quarry was first recorded on the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) of the area. The overburden heaps were un-vegetated and fresh looking; the quarry approximately half the length of what survives today.  The quarry is one of five narrow ‘roadstone’ quarries at De Lank, one of which is used as the main access route to the quarry complex. These exploited quartz porphyry dykes or elvan for use as building stone, ballast, and for hardcore used in roads and railways (Herring, forthcoming). In 1906 the De Lank quarry was advertising “good ‘elvan’ stone for road making and mending” (Kelly’s Directory 1906, see <i>ibid</i> ). Evidence gleaned from the		

1946 aerial photograph suggests that both quarries **34** and **35** were perhaps developed during the war.

To limit financial overburden roadstone quarries were driven in to the hillside at a level at which pumping was not required; meaning that they are associated with few features beyond vegetated overburden dumps and small simple buildings.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	Still survives as an open cut easily visible and accessible from the footpath running down to the De Lank quarry.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>The daunting sheer faces of this quarry make it an impressive feature of the property. The overgrown nature of the quarry makes it very different in appearance from the active quarries of the De Lank quarry complex. The site should be kept open and free of dumped material.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	36	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Finger dumps	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10165 75349
<b>Period</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century		

**Notes** Below the future site of quarry **35** the 1881 OS map (Fig 4) recorded the start of a finger dump with a tramway on its top. By the 1907 OS map (Fig 5) this dump had been extended to the south east. The 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) shows that the finger dumps had been further extended, the trackways to gain access to quarries **34** and **35** cutting the dump.

The dumps were created by wasters trammed from the mouths of the working quarries and dressing areas; the De Lank gorge presumably infilled to accommodate a greater working area meaning the course of the De Lank had to be diverted presumably through a culvert and pipe work. A description of the quarry in 1898 (see Stanier 1999, 97) read:

*‘The motive power for driving all the machinery is obtained from a 200 N.H.P Vortex Turbine by Gilkes and Co.,[sic] Kendal, which we understand has been running for over 9 years, without any repairs. A higher testimonial of efficiency could not be desired. The water to work the turbine is conveyed in 24 in.[sic] steel riveted pipes, from a pipe-head, or small pond, which has been formed a quarter of a mile higher up the De Lank river. Very little storage is required at the pipe-head, owing to the large volume of water in the river during the driest periods. The difference in level between the pipe head and the turbine gives a head of 130 feet.’*

By the 1907 OS map approximately 210m of the river had been re-routed with a sluice and weir recorded above the quarry site.

<b>Status</b>	Extant (see below)	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	Not verified by fieldwork but an important part of the De Lank quarries complex. Included within the assessment to add further interpretation to the complex.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>No comment as much of the site lies within the present quarry site.</i>		

**GAZ** 37 **PRN** 1995.05  
**Site Type** Hut circle (with porch) **NGR(SX)** 10395 75394  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Notes** This hut was recorded by the OS in 1973 and during the 1980s by the RCHME (sees PRN entry).

This beautiful hut circle and porch are sited on the western edge of the relict prehistoric field system (47). The hut is levelled into the slight hillslope, as is the porch which is attached on the south eastern side. Entry to the porch is through a c0.85m wide gap marked by two granite blocks, one of which is an orthostat. Internally the porch measures 4.3m long (NE-SW) by 3.4m wide (NW-SE; although this was hard to determine due to a large fragment of granite which obscures the south eastern side of the interior). The walling is faced both internally and externally by granite slabs and survives as a stone and earth bank 0.2m to 0.6m high and approximately 0.8m wide. The doorway to the adjoining hut circle is located in the north western corner of the porch. This is 0.85m wide and is flanked by two c0.8m high granite orthostats and leads through to a beautiful level interior 4.3m in diameter. Again, the wall is approximately 0.8m wide and faced both externally and internally by large granite stones on edge; the two largest directly opposite the entrance.

The walls of the porch seem to abut those of the hut circle and suggest that this was of later construction.

**Status** Extant **Importance** A

**Condition** The feature survives in good condition and was easily visible with the low bracken cover of winter.

**Recommendations** *This nationally important hut circle should be kept as visible within the landscape as possible. It is of great educational value in that it is clearly a prehistoric hut circle and easily interpretable as such. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. It is probable that buried archaeology still survives within the hut circle and porch and therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.*

*A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.*

**GAZ** 38 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Hut platform **NGR(SX)** 10425 75377  
**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** This previously unrecorded Bronze Age hut platform (upon which a hut may have once been positioned) survives as a c5m diameter level platform



positioned at the junction of two stony scarps. Its eastern side is a scarp cut down 0.15m in to the gentle hillslope; the western edge of the platform a 0.5m high stony scarp. A few low 0.4m high orthostats survive on the south western and north eastern sides of the platform and may suggest the remnants of walling.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	Survives as a grassed over platform and easily visible with the low bracken cover of winter.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>Although not as visually impressive as the surviving but circles, this site should be considered as nationally important due to its context within an extensive surviving prehistoric landscape. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. The site has the potential for buried archaeology and therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		

<b>GAZ</b>	39	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Hut platform	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10455 75352
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		

**Notes** A 12m (approximately) wide level platform at the junction of two boundaries may mark the remains of a Bronze Age hut platform upon which a hut may have once been positioned. The eastern edge of the platform is a 0.6m high grassed over scarp cut in to the gentle hillslope; the western side a 0.4m high prehistoric stony scarp with orthostats (a probable field boundary). The platform has no internal features and may have been cleared as its eastern side appears to have been reused as a later, medieval field boundary.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	Survives as a grassed over platform and easily visible with the low bracken cover of winter.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>Although not as visually impressive as the surviving but circles, this site should be considered as nationally important due to its context within an extensive surviving prehistoric landscape. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. The site has the potential for buried archaeology and therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		

<b>GAZ</b>	40	<b>PRN</b>	1995.01
<b>Site Type</b>	Hut circle (with annexe)	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10318 75456
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>This hut was first recorded in 1973 by the OS and was recorded during the 1980s by the RCHME although they failed to complete their field report (see PRN entry).</p> <p>This good example of a hut circle and adjoining annexe are located on the north western margin of the prehistoric field system (47). Both the hut circle and annexe are located on a platform levelled in to the hillslope, the annexe, like 37, attached on the southern side. There is no obvious entrance in to the annexe. Internal and external granite orthostats face the 1m wide, 0.2m high stone and earth wall and enclose a space 4.4m long (E-W) and 2m wide (although the width was difficult to establish due to the poor preservation of the northern side).</p> <p>There is no obvious entrance between the annexe and the hut circle but the walling between the two survives in fairly poor condition. The hut circle has an internal diameter of approximately 5m which is marked by a magnificent internal face of granite slabs on edge. The stone and earth walling survives as turf covered bank between 0.3m and 0.7m high and approximately 0.9m to 1.5m wide. No apparent entrance survives.</p> <p>On the northern side a 0.3m high and 0.8m wide stony bank runs up to the hut circle, the feature part of the prehistoric field system (47). Immediately to the north west of the hut circle a number of cultivation strips (55) run up to and respect the feature, although in places they appear to have nibbled in to the platform and walling of the hut circle.</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	Grassed over and survives in good condition and is highly visible as a hut circle with the low bracken cover of winter.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>This nationally important hut circle should be kept as visible within the landscape as possible. It is of great educational value in that it is clearly a prehistoric hut circle and easily interpretable as such. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. It is possible that buried archaeology still survives within the hut circle and annexe and therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		
<b>GAZ</b>	41	<b>PRN</b>	1995.06
<b>Site Type</b>	Hut Circle	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10387 75466
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		
<b>Notes</b>	This hut was first recorded by the OS in 1973 and during the 1980s was recorded by the RCHME (see PRN entry).		

The damaged remains of this hut circle survive on the northern margins of the prehistoric field system (47); attached to a prehistoric field boundary on its eastern side. The site is located on a circular platform levelled in to the hillslope. with internal and external facing of granite slabs enclosing a stone and earth wall, 0.4m high and 1m wide. It is only on the north eastern side where the facing is not traceable, presumably damaged by modern moorland clearance which has taken place nearby.

Internally the hut circle measure 4.6m long (NE-SW) by 4m wide (SE-NW). No apparent entrance survives.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	Although slightly damaged the feature survives in good condition. It is covered by grass and is easily visible with the low bracken cover of winter.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>Although not as visually impressive as the other surviving hut circles, this site should be considered nationally important due to its context within an extensive surviving prehistoric landscape. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. The site has the potential for buried archaeology and therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.</i>		
	<i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	42	<b>PRN</b>	1995.04
<b>Site Type</b>	Hut Circle	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10429 75473
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		

**Notes** Like the rest of the hut circle settlement, this hut was first recorded by the OS in 1973. During the 1980s it was recorded by the RCHME (see PRN entry).

The hut circle is sited on a platform levelled 0.4m in to the hillslope. The remains of an inner ring of granite facing survive and are very clear on the north western side. The wall is clearest on the western side where it survives as 1.8m wide and 0.5m high stony bank incorporating a large moorstone block and encloses an interior 4.7m in diameter. No door jambs were noted during fieldwork. The hut circle appears to be free standing and not attached to any prehistoric field boundaries.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	The hut generally survives in good condition although its north eastern side appears to be damaged by recent clearance where stones have either been dumped or pushed in to the interior.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>Although not as visually impressive as the other surviving hut circles, this site should be considered nationally important due to its context within an extensive surviving prehistoric landscape. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. The site has the potential for buried archaeology and</i>		

*therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.*

*A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.*

<b>GAZ</b>	43	<b>PRN</b>	1995.03
<b>Site Type</b>	Hut Circle	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10480 75449
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>This hut circle is part of a prehistoric settlement and associated field system (47). It was first recorded by the OS in 1973 and was visited by the RCHME in the 1980s (see PRN entry).</p> <p>The feature survives as a 5m wide (internal measurement) level platform levelled in to the slight slope. Its western side and perhaps its eastern side too, incorporate and join a stony scarp, which is part of the prehistoric field system 47. This example is not as well preserved as the others: the eastern side of the hut circle defined by a large stony bank approximately 2m wide, standing 0.5m high internally and 0.1m high externally; its western edge a 1.5m wide stony bank standing between 0.1m to 0.2m high, incorporating moorstones in its fabric.</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	The hut circle survives as a grassed over platform encircled by stony banks. The low bracken cover of winter meant that the site was highly visible.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>Although not as visually impressive as the other surviving hut circles, this site should be considered nationally important due to its context within an extensive surviving prehistoric landscape. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. The site has the potential for buried archaeology and therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		

<b>GAZ</b>	44	<b>PRN</b>	1995.02
<b>Site Type</b>	Hut Circle	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10483 75429
<b>Period</b>	Extant		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>This hut circle lies approximately 15m to the south east of hut circle 43, and is associated with field system (47).</p> <p>As with the rest of the settlement this hut was first recorded by the OS in 1973, and in the 1980s was recorded by the RCHME (see PRN entry).</p>		

This hut circle stands on a platform levelled in to the gentle hillslope. A nice inner ring of granite stones on edge enclose a circular hut circle with a 5m internal diameter. The surrounding 1.4m wide stony bank survives to a height of approximately 0.2m high; it is best preserved on the eastern side where an external face encloses a stony bank 1.4m wide. A possible entrance might survive on the north eastern side although a large orthostat on the south eastern edge of the hut might suggest otherwise.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	One of the better preserved hut circles within the settlement. The feature is covered by turf and is highly visible during the low bracken cover of winter.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>This nationally important hut circle should be kept as visible within the landscape as possible. It is of great educational value in that it is clearly a prehistoric hut circle and easily interpretable as such. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. It is probable that buried archaeology still survives within the hut circle and annexe and therefore the lighting of fires and the digging of holes within the feature should be discouraged.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		

<b>GAZ</b>	45	<b>PRN</b>	1995.07
<b>Site Type</b>	Hut Circle	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10538 75536
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		

**Notes** This hut circle lies on the north eastern edge of the relict prehistoric field system (47). The site was noted by the OS in 1973 and was recorded by the RCHME in the 1980s (see PRN entry).

Moorstones dumped on the hut during late-20<sup>th</sup> century clearance and improvement obscure much of the interior and walling: an oblique aerial photograph taken in April 1976 (APR 1075/1/39) shows the feature open and the interior visible, the moorstones dumped on the feature by the 1988 CCC aerial photograph.

The northern side of the walling survives clearest with both internal and external facing enclosing a stony bank 0.7m high and 1.6m wide. The southern, eastern and western sides of the hut survive as a 0.2m high, 1.8m wide stony bank. No entrance was visible during fieldwork although this may lie under the large moorstone blocks.

A 0.2m high scarp running up to the hut circle from the south was noted during fieldwork and may mark the remains of a prehistoric field boundary (part of 47).

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	Despite the massive moorstones dumped on the site the feature appears to survive in fairly good condition.		

**Recommendations** *The moorstone clearance heap means that the visibility of this otherwise well preserved hut circle is greatly diminished. While the removal of the stones under archaeological supervision would no doubt improve the visibility of the hut circle, the site neatly may serve an education purpose, in that until the recent past such sites were either not known or recognised or seen as an asset or resource.*

*No further stone should be dumped on the site and it could be kept as visible within the landscape as possible. It is still possible that buried archaeology survives within the hut circle and therefore the moorstone will protect the site.*

*A measured survey of the hut circle with the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.*

**GAZ** 46 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Hut Circle **NGR(SX)** 10591 75528

**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** The possible site of a hut circle was noted during fieldwork. The site lies approximately 60m to the east of hut circle **45** and is surrounded by mature furze and moorstones dumped during modern improvement (see also **45** and **41**). The site seems to lie on the edge of a possible stony scarp which might mark the remains of a prehistoric field boundary. What survives is an arc of stony bank 0.3m to 0.6m high and approximately 1m wide. On its north eastern side the bank appears to be faced both externally and internally suggesting the possible remnants of a wall. The southern side of this possible feature appears to have been levelled and this may date to the modern moorstone clearance.

**Status** Extant (possible site of) **Importance** A (if a hut circle)

**Condition** If a hut circle then the feature survives in a very poor state. Much of the feature would have been destroyed and the site is presently obscured by furze and stone.

**Recommendations** *A measured survey of the site with the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding and interpretation of this possible hut circle.*

**GAZ** 47 **PRN** 1995

**Site Type** Field system **NGR(SX)** 10445 75438

**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** An extensive area of relict prehistoric field system survives in the north western corner of the South Penquite property. The field system is assumed to be contemporary with the 10 hut circles (7 of which are definite) that lie within it. Many of the hut circles adjoin the field boundaries and incorporate them within their fabric (for example see **43**).

The field system is defined by a series of sinuous boundaries many of which survive in the unimproved areas as substantial stony scarps not fossilised within the medieval and later field system. Within the improved

enclosures the boundaries often survive as grassed over scarps.

The stony banks survive between 0.2m and 0.7m high and in many places are associated with large orthostats (granite stones placed upright) protruding up and above the fabric. For example, at 10473 75479 a stony scarp 0.8m high on its north western side and 0.1m high to the south east has a series of regularly placed granite orthostats, each aligned at 90° to the boundary. Elsewhere, at SX 10440 75354 the stony bank appears to be faced on both sides by granite blocks placed on edge, in this case aligned with the boundary.

The field system survives in good condition although in places pitting and small heaps suggest that attempts have been made to improve the area. This is clearest to the north of hut circles **41** and **42** where mounds and heaps of earth and stone appear to be associated with moorland clearance undertaken in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The north western edge of the prehistoric field system close to hut circle **40** has been re-used by late medieval/post-medieval spade dug cultivation strips.

The irregular layout and shape of the fields suggest an agglomerate or accretive system, by which fields were enclosed with no determined layout or plan. A similar arrangement is found within the medieval field boundaries (see **8**) from the edge of the strip system (**6**) up to Best's Penquite and across to Watts Penquite (**57**). These later boundaries are likely to re-use earlier prehistoric boundaries and it seems reasonable to suggest that the relict Bronze Age field system may have once extended across the north and western edge of the South Penquite property. Field system **51** may be an isolated block of this.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	The field system survives in good condition. Its banks and scarps were clearly visible with the low bracken cover of winter.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>This nationally important Bronze Age field system and associated hut circle settlement is of great educational value. The boundaries defining the system are clearly visible in the winter.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the field system with the hut circles would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		
<b>GAZ</b>	48	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Enclosure	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10491 75541
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age (?)		
<b>Notes</b>	This sub-circular enclosure with an approximate 10m diameter survives in the corner of a field with cultivation strips <b>55</b> . The strips respect the feature and are not found within its interior. Its western and southern sides are field boundaries; its northern edge defined by a 1.8m wide, 0.2m to 0.6m high stony bank with orthostats. A possible entrance is marked by two granite orthostats in the south eastern corner of the enclosure.		

The enclosure may be part of the prehistoric field system perhaps re-used as a later enclosure associated with the cultivation strips.

**Status** Extant **Importance** A, if prehistoric  
**Condition** The low bracken cover of winter means that the site is clearly visible.  
**Recommendations** *A measured survey of the site with the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding and interpretation of this possible hut circle.*

**GAZ** 49 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Cairn **NGR(SX)** 10578 75421

**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** A circular grassed over mound approximately 10m in diameter suggests the site of a cairn. The site is situated at 229m OD and is on the ridge of high ground above the prehistoric settlement hut settlement and associated field system 47.

**Status** Extant **Importance** A, if prehistoric  
**Condition** Grass covered and centrally placed within a large field used for pasture.  
**Recommendations** *The interpretation of this possible cairn would benefit from a measured survey of the site together with the surrounding prehistoric field system. This would also enable a more accurate understanding and interpretation of the prehistoric landscape and the placement of the cairn within it.*

**GAZ** 50 **PRN** 3045.03  
**Site Type** Hut Circle **NGR(SX)** 10675 75378

**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** This hut circle lies to the east of the main block of relict prehistoric landscape but within another possible area of field system (51). It is sited on the ridge of high ground that runs across the property; the field recorded as rough ground on the 1907 OS map (Fig 5) and 1946 aerial photograph (Fig 6).

The site was recorded by the RCHME in 1984 (see PRN entry). This sub-circular hut lies on level ground and has an internal length of 6.6m (E-W) and width of 5.8m (N-S). A nice inner face of granite orthostats survives, behind which is stone and earth bank between 1m and 1.5m wide and 0.1m to 0.6m high. Some external facing survives on the northern side of the hut. The wall is low on its south eastern side, with a gap of 1.35m on its western side, the site of a possible entrance.

The hut is associated with a polygonal enclosure whose bank runs up and adjoins the site. In places the bank incorporates large granite orthostats, some of which stand 1m high.

**Status** Extant **Importance** A  
**Condition** The hut circle and adjoining enclosure survive in good condition.



**Recommendations** *A measured survey of the site with the surrounding prehistoric field system would enable a more accurate understanding and interpretation of this site and better place it in its context.*

**GAZ** 51 **PRN** 3045  
**Site Type** Field System **NGR(SX)** 10719 75367

**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** This field system is associated with the prehistoric hut circle **50**. It is situated to the south east of the more extensive prehistoric field system **47** and its associated hut circles.

The sinuous boundaries of the field system survive as a series of low scarps and stony banks between 0.2m to 0.5m high. Like **47** many of the boundaries are characterised by large granite orthostats or blocks set on edge incorporate and protruding from the fabric. In places these blocks are quite substantial and measure up to 1m high, 0.7m wide and 0.35m thick.

The area in which the field system was recorded as rough ground on the 1907 OS map and 1946 RAF aerial photograph; the area of the field system recorded as part of 'Harpers Down' on the c1840 Tithe Survey.

It is likely that this field system and field system **47** were once part of a more extensive prehistoric landscape, the majority of which was probably incorporated (and fossilised) in to the northern and western side of the South and Best's Penquite field system (see **8**).

**Status** Extant **Importance** A

**Condition** Good. In places obscured by furze.

**Recommendations** *This nationally important Bronze Age field system and associated hut circle settlement is of great educational value. The boundaries defining the system are clearly visible in the winter.*

*A measured survey of the field system with the hut circles would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.*

**GAZ** 52 **PRN** 3045.04  
**Site Type** Cairn **NGR(SX)** 10787 75408

**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** This feature was recorded by the RCHME in 1984 (see PRN entry). The feature is located on the high ridge that forms the backbone of the Penquite property. The sub rectangular cairn measure 6m long (NW-SE), 5m wide and 0.5m high with a central level top 2.5m long and 2m wide. The cairn may have been built on a natural earth fast slab. It is likely that the feature is made of stone and earth. As the feature seems to stand within field system **51** it is likely that this may be a large clearance cairn.

**Status** Extant **Importance** A

**Condition** Survives in good preservation as a turf covered mound.

**Recommendations** *Although not as visually impressive as the nearby cairns 53 and 54, this site should be considered nationally important due to its context within an extensive surviving prehistoric landscape. We would encourage regular monitoring for weathering by livestock and in the event of such the site could be temporarily fenced off by an electric fence to allow for stabilisation. The site has the potential for buried archaeology.*

*A measured survey of the site and the surrounding features would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.*

**GAZ** 53 **PRN** 3045.02

**Site Type** Platform Cairn **NGR(SX)** 10787 75408

**Period** Bronze Age

**Notes** This 10m diameter circular platform stands on the highest point of the South Penquite ridge at 232m OD and commands a fantastic vantage point with views to Kerrow Downs, Carbilly Tor, Leskernick Hill, Brown Willy, Roughtor, Lady Down, St Breock Downs and Hensbarrow (clay district). The feature has a level interior with a 0.8m to 1m wide bank marking its circumference. This stands 0.25m high externally and 0.15m high internally and is clearest on the western side. The bank appears to be composed of stone and earth and is turf covered.

The feature was recorded by the RCHME in 1984 (see PRN entry) who interpreted the site as a hut circle; however both its morphology and position suggest that the site is a platform cairn. A smaller cairn (54) stands 2m to the north east of this cairn and may be contemporary.

Three hundred and fifty-four cairns have been provisionally identified on Bodmin Moor. Most have orthostatic slab kerbs and excavation of several cairns on the Moor has shown that quite complex structures can exist beneath quite unimpressive exteriors, their surface appearance merely representing their last structural phase (Johnson and Rose 1994, 34). Nine excavated cairns have also been radiocarbon dated, eight of which have mean date ranges from 2162 to 1746 cal BC. This would appear to be the main building range for cairns on the Moor (*ibid* 40).

The majority of platform cairns are over 10m in diameter and overall cairns over 10m high tend to lie on watersheds (plateaux, hillcrests and ridges), often in areas away from contemporary settlement (not in this case). While most of the large cairns lie in visually prominent areas such as tor summits (there are large kerbed cairns on Catshole and Tolborough tors; see 23), platform cairns tend to be more subtly placed in the landscape, often where there are significant views to distant landscape features (Andy Jones pers comm).

An excavated platform cairn on Davidstow Moor (Site I in Christie 1988) revealed a turf construction, with areas of burning and associated pits, which appears to have acted as a focus for aggregation rather than a funerary function (Andy Jones pers comm). Broadly, Johnson and Rose

(1994, 46) suggest that larger cairns are earlier features of land division of the Moor, no matter how informal, possibly as territorial boundaries.

Nationally, there are under 250 known examples of platform cairns and therefore this well-preserved example set within an extensive prehistoric landscape makes it all the more important.

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	The feature is a turf covered and lies within a field of improved pasture. A wire fence prevents cattle gaining access to the site.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>This nationally important site survives in good condition and is situated in an extensive and well preserved prehistoric landscape. We welcome the fencing to prevent cattle access to the site as the cairn has the potential for buried archaeology.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding features would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		

<b>GAZ</b>	54	<b>PRN</b>	3045.01
<b>Site Type</b>	Cairn	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10850 75424
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		

**Notes** This 6m diameter circular cairn stands 2m to the north east of cairn **53**. The feature has a level platform encircled by a bank 1.5m wide, 0.5m high externally and 0.2m high internally, which is clearest on northern and western sides. An occasional kerb stone appears to survive, poking out through the turf. A breach in the bank is visible on its south western side.

The feature was visited by the RCHME in the 1980s. They interpreted the site as a hut circle although its morphology, site and position with **53** suggest otherwise. This cairn is likely to have had a funerary function and may not be directly contemporary with the platform cairn. The two different cairns may reflect changes in the social and landscape of the area within the Bronze Age. For example, on Pridacombe Downs a smaller off centre funerary cairn built on top of a large platform cairn perhaps reflects a change in the perception of the site (Dudley 2003, 16).

<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	A
<b>Condition</b>	The feature is a turf covered and lies within a field of improved pasture. A wire fence prevents cattle gaining access to the site.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><i>This nationally important site survives in good condition and is situated in an extensive and well preserved prehistoric landscape. We welcome the fencing to prevent cattle access to the site as the cairn has the potential for buried archaeology.</i></p> <p><i>A measured survey of the site and the surrounding features would enable a more accurate understanding of this remarkable prehistoric landscape and help to target and inform any future archaeological research.</i></p>		

**GAZ** 55 **PRN** 3069  
**Site Type** Cultivation strips **NGR(SX)** Various

**Period** Late Medieval/early post-medieval

**Notes** An extensive area of linear ridges marks the remains of spade cultivation strips. These are typically 1m wide and 0.1m to 0.15m high flanked by ditches 1.5m wide and 0.05m deep. They are located on the marginal slopes in the north western corner of the South Penquite property within two areas recorded on the c1840 Tithe Survey; TA 1331, 'Watts Coomb' and TA 1327, 'Stepfield' (Fig 3 and Appendix). Both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5) record these areas as rough pasture and furze; the 1946 RAF photograph (Fig 6) recorded similar vegetation and today the area is characterised by rough grassland.

The strips were recorded by the RCHME during the 1980s but analysis of the HES' 1991 oblique aerial photograph shows the system to be more extensive and better preserved than at first thought.

The strips found within Watts Coomb (see Fig 3) are mainly orientated with the slope except for close to hut circle 40 where the strips are orientated NE-SW and re-use and respect an enclosure of the Bronze Age field system 47. The strips are not found within the majority of the prehistoric field system and respect the curving eastern boundary (ditched Cornish hedge) of Watts Comb. The strips break for large natural moorstones and occasional small clearance cairns of small stones placed on grounders lie throughout the system. The strips 'nibble' in to the western side of hut circle 40 but do not cut or overlie the feature; presumably due to the stoniness of the structure. These strips seem to be unenclosed within any defining enclosures and are cut by a later pasture/tenement boundary (41).

Those within the bounds of Stepfield (see Fig 3 and Appendix) run with the hillslope and are enclosed within small rectilinear enclosures. These are defined by low stone and earth banks approximately 0.4m high with the occasional large moorstone within their fabric. The northern edge of the enclosures are grassed over scarps 0.4m to 0.6m high which could be the turfed over remains of faced revetment walls, similar to those found to the east. These enclosures appear to abut each other.

The cultivation ridges are located on the marginal slopes within areas which traditionally have been rough pasture. They appear to be uniformly laid out and should be considered as the temporary cultivation of rough ground in the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

**Status** Extant **Importance** B

**Condition** Good

**Recommendations** *In many places the strips are not easily visible on the ground whereas in other areas they remain as clear undulations, especially where the grass vegetation is very low. The low sunlight of winter enhances the visibility of the features.*

*The extent of the strips has only been casually recorded by this assessment. Further analysis of aerial photographs could be carried out and the features fully plotted.*

<b>GAZ</b>	56	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Boundary	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10384 75557
<b>Period</b>	Late Medieval/ early post-medieval		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>This zig-zaging 1.1m wide and 0.7m deep (max) ditch cuts across the hillslope of 'Watts Coomb' (see Fig 3 and appendix). In places it appears to have a low stone and earth bank on its eastern side. On its southern end it adjoins the curving Cornish hedge of the southern edge of Watts Coomb.</p> <p>The feature was first recorded on the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6) and appears to cut (and post-date) the cultivation strips found either side of it. The RCHME recorded the feature in the 1980s (see PRN 3069). The feature is likely to be a late medieval or early post-medieval pasture boundary intended to further sub-divide Watt Coomb. The deep ditch on its western side may suggest that this once defined the limit of an area of common or perhaps the edge of a different tenement (see 57); its sinuous route perhaps a result of the difficult rocky slope.</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	The ditch survives as a clear cut in the hillside. The bank survives in poor condition.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>An interesting feature, the boundary could be kept as a visible feature free of encroaching furze and scrub.</i>		

<b>GAZ</b>	57	<b>PRN</b>	3070
<b>Site Type</b>	Settlement (Watts Penquite)	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10772 75602
<b>Period</b>	Medieval/post-medieval		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>The settlement was first recorded on the 1809 OS surveyors' (Fig 2) drawing as an unnamed group of buildings at the end of an enclosed lane. By the c1840 Tithe Survey the settlement was deserted and recorded as TA 1323, 'Land and Townplace' but included under the tenement heading of 'Watts Penquite' (Fig 3 and Appendix). The surrounding fields 'Bovetown' (TA 1324) and 'Undertown' (TA 1322) also suggest the site of a settlement. The remains of two buildings and a possible third survive within an enclosed yard accessed via a holloway.</p> <p><b>Building A</b> (centred SX 10775 75603); small rectangular building measuring approximately 4m by 3m internally with walls between 0.5m to 0.6m wide and 0.2m high. The building is built on a level platform above the surrounding ground level. The southern wall is thicker in its south eastern corner and this may mark the remains of a blocked entrance 1m wide. Abutting the south eastern corner of the building is a c2m long single stone wall; perhaps marking a blocked gateway.</p> <p><b>Building B</b> (centred SX 10769 75594); small rectangular building measuring approximately 4m by 3m internally with granite rubble walling on its northern edge surviving to 0.5m to 0.9m high and 0.5m wide. The western wall survives as a substantial stony bank 1.5m wide and 1m high; the southern edge a wall 0.15m high and 0.5m wide. The eastern face</p>		

survives in poor condition as a 0.3m high stony bank. The building has a level interior cut down in to the hillslope. Off its south western corner a 1.5m wide, 0.3m high bank runs to the east and broadens to 2m wide. This encloses the hollow in which building B stands and forms a possible small yard to its east.

**Earthworks** (centred 10774 75595); A series of low stony banks to the south of the Building A and to the east of Building B suggest that another building may have once stood here. The easternmost bank of this is on a slightly different orientation to Building A and could suggest the footprint of an earlier building.

**Building C** (SX 10752 75603); The site of a possible building can only be inferred by the layout of a series of drystone walls approximately 0.6m wide and 0.5m high. The northern wall of the building is built on a 0.4m high bank and suggests that the building has been levelled in to the hillslope. The southern side of the building is a stone faced platform 1.5m long and 1m wide and approximately 0.6m high. Upon this is the hearthstone **58** which marks the position of Austin Fairman's burial place. Behind this possible building is a sub-rectangular enclosure which may have once been a mowhay.

**Holloway** (SX 10852 75529 to SX 10797 75600); the remains of a former trackway clearly survive as holloway approximately 5m wide and between 0.2m to 0.3m deep. The 1841 Tithe Survey records the enclosed trackway as part of TA 1323, 'Land and Town Place' running from the north west corner of Rye Downs down to the site of 'Watts Penquite'. The feature was recorded as a stretch of rough grassland on the 1881 OS map but was not recorded by the 1907 edition.

Access to the settlement was gained from 'Rye Downs' and then along this trackway.

The strip derived field system (**63**) surrounding the site and the hearthstone (**58**) suggest a medieval date for the settlement. The site was first recorded on the 1809 OS drawings and the buildings recorded during fieldwork appear to date to this period. Earthworks between buildings A and B may suggest an earlier arrangement of buildings. Whether the site was continually inhabited to the 19<sup>th</sup> century is unclear.

Evidence from the 1840 Tithe Survey suggests that this settlement may have once been known as 'Watts Penquite'. Although the actual position of the settlement was simply recorded as TA 1323, 'Land and Town Place' it was recorded as part of 'Watts Penquite' tenement. As part of 'Watts Penquite' a house was recorded (TA 1335) but this confusingly was positioned on the edge of Best's Penquite (**2**). This may suggest that while Watts Penquite was abandoned between 1809 and 1840 the land and tenement (and its name) became attached to a house which was part of the Best's Penquite settlement.

\*A quick search on the A2A website under 'Watts Penquite' located a bond dated 20/03/1775 *'for the repayment of £10, to be added to an existing mortgage of £60 between (1) and Wender Mountsteven (deceased), father of (2), of tenements called Watts Penquite and Poltjar and lands in Blisland'* (CRO BRA2606).

**Status** Extant **Importance** B

**Condition** The features survive in a dilapidated state but in stable condition. The surrounding field boundaries are heavily breached (see also **63**)

**Recommendations** *The site is a beautiful part of the property and should be included in any education visits. A measured survey of the site combined with a more comprehensive trawl of any possible documentary archives would benefit its interpretation.*

**GAZ** 58 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Findspot: Hearthstone **NGR(SX)** 10801 75651

**Period** Medieval/post-medieval

**Notes** A circular hearthstone measuring 1.2m in diameter and 0.1m thick was found by Dominic in a breach in the field boundary. The stone was used as a headstone (where it now lays) to commemorate Dominic's father who is buried within the deserted settlement of Watts Penquite. (see **57**) The hearthstone was engraved locally and reads 'Austin Churton Fairman 1924-1997'.

The roughly hewn hearthstone was probably roughed out from a local granite moorstone would have been used as the base for a hearth. Hearthstones were common features within the halls of medieval longhouses and could suggest that Watts Penquite may have its origins in the medieval period.

**Status** Extant **Importance** B

**Condition** The hearthstone is located in the deserted settlement of Watts Penquite.

**Recommendations** *A beautiful example of hearthstone.*

**GAZ** 59 **PRN** None

**Site Type** Stone-splitting pit **NGR(SX)** 10983 75674

**Period** Post-medieval

**Notes** A small number of stone splitting pits in this area of rough pasture and moorstone were noted during fieldwork.

The field names 'Great Down' (TA 1348), 'Little Down' (TA 1347) and 'Long Downs' (TA 1315 to 1316b inclusive) recorded on the c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3 and Appendix) suggest that these enclosed areas of rough ground were once open moorland; probably until the early post-medieval period. Both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5) record these areas as rough pasture and furze.

The pits suggest that the moorstone here was exploited as a stone source, although the numbers of pits suggest to a lesser degree than **28**. The pits are likely to date to the post-medieval period and may be associated with Watts Penquite (**57**).

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** The area is grazed and the pits are easily visible.

**Recommendations** *Although interesting the more extensive and impressive stone splitting site 28 would be a better site for education visits. The grazing regime means that the pits are easily visible and are yet another interesting layer in this remarkable landscape.*

**GAZ** 60 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Clearance cairns **NGR(SX)** 10946 75689  
**Period** Medieval/post-medieval

**Notes** A number of scattered small clearance cairns survive on the rock strewn slopes of the field known in c1840 as 'Great Down' (see Tithe Survey, Fig 3 and Appendix). The cairns are typically constructed of small to medium sized granite fragments placed on top of a large moorstone grounder.

Found throughout the prehistoric field system 47 and amongst the cultivation strips 55 they are associated with clearance during cultivation. Those found on Great Down are probably associated with the temporary cultivation of the rough ground, and could be associated with the occupation of Watts Penquite (57).

**Status** Extant **Importance** B

**Condition** The heaps are often un-vegetated and easily visible on the margins of the fields.

**Recommendations** *Due to the grazing regime the clearance cairns are highly visible. The features are quite stable and will continue to survive under the current land management.*

**GAZ** 61 **PRN** None  
**Site Type** Clearance cairns **NGR(SX)** Various  
**Period** 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Notes** Heaps of large angular granite moorstone blocks lie scattered across the north and western margins of the South Penquite property. They typically lie close to field boundaries as circular or linear heaps. Often the blocks are massive suggesting removal by mechanised means. In one instance the blocks have been dumped on to top of a well preserved prehistoric hut circle (45). Large individual moorstones have also been dumped against field margins.

The features are found in areas that both the c1881 and 1907 OS maps (Figs 4 and 5) recorded as rough pasture and furze, and typically where the less improved ground is found today.

**Status** Extant **Importance** C

**Condition** Many are clearly visible against the field boundaries.

**Recommendations** *Part of the landscape history of the property the features cause little visual interruption to the historic character of the farm. If stone is required for boundary repairs these could form an important local source of facing material (see 8).*



<b>GAZ</b>	62	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Stones	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	Various
<b>Period</b>	Unknown		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Two semicircular arrangements of single granite stones lie against a substantial field boundary: the easternmost example (SX 10843 75488) stands in the mouth of the entranceway in to a field recorded 'Broad Lane' (TA 1325) on the c1840 Tithe Survey; the westernmost example (SX 10785 75477) stands against the northern boundary of 'Harpers Down' (TA 1342; see Fig 3 and Appendix).</p> <p>Brief examination of the stones suggests that they lie on the turf level and are not embedded within the soil. The eastern example was clearly recorded on the 1946 RAF aerial photograph (Fig 6), the western one perhaps obscured by furze.</p> <p>The stones may be the result of limited stone clearance in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	C
<b>Condition</b>	The easternmost arrangement is clearly visible the western example is obscured by furze.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>The tenuous interpretation of the features means that unlike 61 these stones should not be re-used for any boundary repairs due to the possibility of misidentification.</i>		
<b>GAZ</b>	63	<b>PRN</b>	None
<b>Site Type</b>	Strip field system	<b>NGR(SX)</b>	10779 75633
<b>Period</b>	Medieval		
<b>Notes</b>	<p>A fossilised medieval strip system surrounds settlement 57. It is characterised by long rectilinear enclosures which are likely to be derived from strip fields. The system is found largely within the enclosures recorded as TA 1321, 1322 and 1324 on the c1840 Tithe Survey (Fig 3 and Appendix). A series of earthworks recorded within the fields during fieldwork are likely to mark the remains of former strip boundaries. The irregular layout and shape of the fields to the west of 63 suggests that elsewhere the medieval field boundaries overlie and re-use an earlier prehistoric system (see 8 and 47).</p>		
<b>Status</b>	Extant	<b>Importance</b>	B
<b>Condition</b>	The boundaries survive in good condition where maintained as active field boundaries and not so well where they are unfenced.		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<i>The field system is an integral part of the historic character of the South Penquite property and provides a context for the presentation and interpretation of the settlement 57.</i>		

## 9 Appendix

### c1840 Tithe Apportionment Details

#### Watts Penquite

Landowner	Occupier	No	Name	State of Cultivation	Acres	Rods	Perches
Wallis, John Rogers, Zechariah, lessee	Harris, John	1313	Part of Rye Downs		2	3	27
		1313A					7
		1314	Rye Downs		40	2	11
		1315	Long Downs			3	12
		1316A	Long Downs		2	0	37
		1316B	Long Downs		1	2	24
		1317	Little Down		2	1	7
		1318	Great Down		6	1	0
		1319	Great Down Plantation			2	13
		1320	Island				4
		1321	Long Park		3	3	2
		1322	Undertown		3	2	29
		1323	Land and Town Place			1	23
		1324	Bovetown		3	3	18
		1325	Broad lane		3	2	27
		1326	Crooked park		3	1	26
		1327	Stepfield		6	0	3
		1328	Island				14
		1329	Island near Delank				15
		1330	Island				5
		1331	Watts Coomb		14	2	16
		1332	Coomb Park		5	1	13
		1333	Higher Abovetown		2	3	2
		1334	Lower Abovetown		1	2	23
		1335	House in lower Abovetown				3
		1336	Fern Park			3	14
		1337	Well Garden			1	14

Landowner	Occupier	No	Name	State of Cultivation	Acres	Rods	Perches
		1338	Potato Plot				24
Wallis, John  Rogers, Zechariah, lessee	Harris, John	1339	Potato Plot		1	0	2
		1340	Great-a-Park		5	2	5
				Hedges	2	1	22
				TOTAL	116	3	22

### Best's Penquite

Landowner	Occupier	No	Name	State of Cultivation	Acres	Rods	Perches
Wallis, John  Rogers, Zechariah, lessee	Rogers, William	1341	Long Park		4	2	29
		1342	Harpers Down		9	1	11
		1343	Little Meadow		1	1	27
		1344	Bakers Park		3	0	4
		1345	Rounda Park		2	1	31
		1346	Well Park		2	3	17
		1347	South Park		4	3	8
		1348	New Coombe Park		1	2	27
		1349	Coombe Park		4	2	16
		1350	Coombe		26	2	0
		1351	Mowhay				17
		1352	Garden				6
		1353	Lane, Courtlage and Buildings			1	16
				Hedges	1	2	22
				TOTAL	63	1	31

### South Penquite

Landowner	Occupier	No	Name	State of Cultivation	Acres	Rods	Perches
Wallis, John Rogers, Zechariah, lessee	Rogers, William	1354	Potato Plot		1	0	35
		1355	Lower Ground		2	2	23
		1356	Bakers Park		2	3	28
		1357	Moor Meadow			3	19
		1358	Undertown		1	0	25
		1359	Bounda Park or Little Field		1	2	15
		1360	Long Park		2	0	12
		1361	Bovetown		2	2	18
		1362	Garden				12
		1363	Courtlage, Building and Road			2	16
				Hedges		3	4
				TOTAL	16	2	7
		1364	Penquite Marsh		16	1	27

### Black Penquite

Landowner	Occupier	No	Name	State of Cultivation	Acres	Rods	Perches
Wallis, John Rogers, Zechariah, lessee	Bunt, John	1365	Moor Meadow			3	20
		1366	Little Plot				25
		1367	Town Meadow		1	0	11
		1368	Cattle House				1
		1369	Cattle House				1
		1370	Clapps park		1	3	24
		1371	Little Abovetown			3	28
		1372	Great Abovetown		1	1	15
		1373	Borough Park		1	2	15
		1374	Bounda Park		1	2	27
		1375	Long Park		2	0	22
		1376	Down Park		1	2	22

Landowner	Occupier	No	Name	State of Cultivation	Acres	Rods	Perches
Wallis, John Rogers, Zechariah, lessee	Bunt, John	1377	Stone Park		1	2	15
		1378	Middle Park		1	2	17
		1379	Common		11	2	36
		1380	Garden				6
		1381	Mowhay				10
		1382	Barn, Townplace and Lane			1	19
			Hedges		1	0	32
				TOTAL	29	3	26

### **Timeline of the periods used within the report**

Note: for prehistoric period these are general dates

Prehistoric **anything before AD 43**

Mesolithic **8000BC- 4000BC**

Neolithic **4000BC - 2500BC**

Bronze Age **2500BC – 800BC**

    Early Bronze Age **2500BC – 1500BC**

    Middle Bronze Age **1500BC – 1100BC**

    Late Bronze Age **1100BC - 900BC**

Iron Age **800BC -AD43**

Romano British **AD 43- AD 410**

Historic **Early Medieval to present**

Early Medieval **AD 410 – AD 1066**

Medieval **AD 1066 – AD 1540**

Post Medieval **AD 1540 – present**

19<sup>th</sup> Century **AD 1800 – AD 1899**

20<sup>th</sup> Century **AD 1900 – AD 1999**

21st century **AD 2000 to present**

## 10 References

### 10.1 Primary sources

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### 10.2 Publications

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### **10.3 Websites**

<http://www.southpenquite.co.uk/>

<http://www.a2a.org.uk/> Access to Archives (online catalogue of archives held in England)

## 11 Project archive

The HES project number is **2005005**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of the Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 543).
3. Electronic drawings as ArcView files stored in the directory: L:\CAU\HE\_Projects\Sites\_S\South\_Penquite\_Farm\_2005005
4. Digital photographs stored in the directory: G:\CAU\Images\SITES.Q-T\South\_Penquite\_Farm\_2005005
5. This report held in digital form as: G:\CAU\HE PROJECTS\SITES\SITES S\SOUTH PENQUITE FARM\SOUTH\_PENQUITE\_REPORT\_2005005.DOC