

DETAILED PROJECT PLAN

HLF Programme Area			
Area	Programme Title	Main Area (tick one box only)	Links to Other Areas
A	Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character.	✓	
B	Increasing community participation in local heritage		✓
C	Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage		
D	Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills		
E	Scheme staffing, overheads and running costs		✓

PA5

Unveiling the Bronze Age landscape of the High Moor and Forests



Shovel Down Stone Row (© DNPA; Kerenza Townsend)

Heading	Content
Summary	The project aims to improve understanding, to enable better management and promote the internationally important Bronze Age landscape on Dartmoor through a programme of survey, research, excavation, interpretation and conservation management works
Project description	<p>The scheme area hosts one of the most important collections of archaeological remains in Western Europe revealing a chronology of human activity stretching back over 8,000 years. There is a rich tapestry of hut circles and settlements, burial cairns and cists, standing stones, stone circles and rows and a network of over 100 miles of reaves (prehistoric boundaries). This is exemplified by the existence of 165 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 5 Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PAL's) within the area</p> <p>PALs arose as part of the process of creating a Vision for Dartmoor's moorland in 2005. This vision was agreed by DNPA, English Heritage, Dartmoor Commoners Council, Defence Estates and English Nature (now</p>

Natural England). They are historic landscapes of such importance that the agencies who signed up to the Vision agreed that in these areas the management requirements of the historically important features, especially archaeology, will take precedence over that required for their ecology.

High Moorland

The results of the excavation of the Whitehorse Hill burial cist in 2011 and the contents discovered therein have provided a totally unexpected and fascinating glimpse into what life might have been like in the early Bronze Age on Dartmoor. In particular they have provided a rare glimpse into the personal and treasured possessions of Dartmoor's inhabitants some 4000 years ago.

The ongoing programme of analysis on the peat surrounding the cist , including the study of pollen, other plant remains, supported by radio carbon dating has provided important evidence for the vegetation, land use and climate change at the time it was in use.

These results are already been seen as being of national importance and certainly the most important to come from Dartmoor in the last century. The results of this research are so significant that the BBC have commissioned two half hour documentaries dedicated to this, and the artefacts will eventually be put on permanent display at Plymouth Museum.

Research programme

The question remains though, how many other prehistoric sites are there situated within the environs of Whitehorse Hill, still concealed by the peat. It is most unlikely that this burial took place in total isolation in the landscape away from contemporary sites. In order to fully understand the context of the burial the whole area needs to be explored physically and by using remote sensing techniques.

Funding towards a well structured research programme is required. It would help establish the extent of what remains within this landscape in what at present are apparently 'empty' areas. The findings would also help inform future management of the upland area of peat and would be especially relevant to the ongoing Mires on the Moor project.

Working in partnership with English Heritage, the Duchy of Cornwall, MOD, and groups like the Dartmoor Preservation Association and Devon Archaeological Society the project could draw down expertise on a number of fronts, practical help and a reservoir of experience.

High Moorland Forests

The afforestation of the areas of moorland at Bellever. Fernworthy and Soussons created a very different and artificial landscape from that which previously existed. Nevertheless it is one with its own attraction and its own relationship with the moor but which could still be greatly improved. The three Forests are all situated within the heart of the moor and despite the afforestation they contain a large number of archaeological sites. During the original operations many of these sites lost their intervisibility

with each other, which had been an important element of their original laying out. Many more sites were partly obliterated, disturbed or obscured by the tree planting.

All 3 plantations attract a large number of visitors of all ages and backgrounds who are able to enjoy a network of routes, footpaths, some bridleways and ancient tracks such as the Lych Way which makes the archaeology easily accessible both physically and intellectually. Most of this archaeology is marked out and the sites managed by FE, but, apart from the DNPA'S *Guide to Bellever, an Archaeological Landscape*, there is little information available to the general visitor who encounters them. Understanding the sites as they are, how they relate to each other, their original positions within the landscape and indeed their chronology, is a challenge and must lead to many lost opportunities for understanding and enhanced enjoyment.

Assacombe in Fernworthy is an example. The site includes a longhouse (possibly dating to the 13/14th century and another farmstead). These medieval farmers placed their buildings and land boundaries on top of a middle Bronze Age landscape containing hut circles and enclosures which they modified to suit their needs. A short distance away, during the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period, a fine double stone row leading up to a spectacular multiple circle burial cairn and cist was built. A single hut circle is situated just below this with others near by, and their inhabitants slighted the earlier double stone row by building one of their field boundaries right across it. This has left a relict landscape displaying all the elements of the palimpsest which makes Dartmoor internationally famous. There is no interpretation or signing for these sites, they are rarely visited. At present the top part of Assacombe is detached from the rest of the site by conifers which if cleared would restore the integrity of the whole landscape.

The LIDAR survey and field survey has found a number of new or previously thought to be lost sites, including a new hut circle, two medieval farmsteads, prehistoric boundary walls, boundary stones, leats and old trackways linking former farmsteads, as well as highlighting, by the newly drawn plans the significance of existing sites such as those described above at Assacombe where a previously unknown area of medieval tin working has been identified through the LIDAR survey.

The NP Visitor Centre at Postbridge will be the hub explaining, interpreting and sharing all the work planned within all 3 plantations and Whitehorse Hill. Regular updates about stages of the project would be available here and opportunities advertised for volunteers to become involved.

The possibility of having a moving the cist from Whitehorse Hill to this location is being discussed and would really help tell the story of Dartmoor's Bronze Age.

The recent excavations at Bellever together with various Open Days (attracting about 3,000 people in 2013) and considerable media coverage, have already demonstrated the huge public interest there is in Dartmoor's archaeology.

	<p>There is still more archaeological work to be done within the area of the excavations and additional funding for this would help complete the picture and help in future interpretation of the site.</p> <p>Copies of the LIDAR results and the field survey at Fernworthy which have both been funded through the development phase of the scheme are available as supporting documents – they are a fascinating read.</p> <p>Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PAL's) .</p> <p>PALs were developed as part of the process of creating a Vision for Dartmoor's moorland in 2005. This vision was agreed by DNPA, English Heritage, Dartmoor Commoners Council, Defence Estates and English Nature (now Natural England). They are historic landscapes of such importance that the agencies who signed up to the Vision agreed that in these areas the management requirements of the historically important features, especially archaeology, will take precedence over that required for their ecology. There are 5 PAL's in the area but Ripon Tor is a significant area which has never had a full baseline survey completed. It's location next to the road running between Bovey Tracey and Widecombe and with 5 mins drive of the Haytor visitor Centre means that this is a well used area and offers scope for more interpretation of the features of the area so that visitors go away better informed.</p> <p>The Bronze age project includes the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey, research and excavate specific sites within the Whitehorse Hill area. Undertake restoration/conservation work as necessary. • Implement programme of works to reveal and restore 24 archaeological sites to their age old settings within the 3 Forestry Plantations. Assist with future management, provide better public access and interpretation of these sites. • Carry out archaeological baseline survey of the Rippon Tor area (one of Dartmoor's PALS which contains 130ha of Scheduled Ancient Monuments) to underpin and inform future ES management plans and interpretation/education strategies • Organize conservation works on 12 Scheduled Monuments (SMs) identified as being Heritage at Risk in conjunction with English Heritage (EH) Out of the 165 SMs within the MTME area 21% are currently recorded as being at High Risk. This will be EH main contribution to the MTME project and the work will be supervised by their Historic Environment Field Adviser (HERFA)
<p>Beneficiaries and communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities/volunteers will be invited to participate in the survey and excavation work within the Whitehorse Hill area. • The wider community and visitors will benefit from the exhibitions and accompanying publications and have a better understand of the Bronze Age on Dartmoor and have the chance to appreciate the 4000 year old personal/treasured possession of Dartmoor's former inhabitants. Final outputs of the project will undoubtedly be of national significance and will be given wide coverage by the national media as well as the local press, magazines, local societies and through the DNPA media.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of work within 3 plantations will assist in positive management of the archaeology therein by the Duchy of Cornwall, Forestry Commission, private landowners and farmers • The new survey of the Rippon Tor area may well reveal new sites and working with the landowner will assist in positive management of the known sites. Part of the PAL is within a HLS and this work will help ensure positive outcomes. As a popular area near Haytor this site will attract interest from the public. • The main beneficiary of the MMS project will be that sites will be removed from the At Risk Register and there will be a programme of care agreed with land managers. <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will be supported by the MTMTE website • Use of Postbridge Visitor Centre to provide updates and through DNPA website. • Also the Plymouth museum exhibition will raise profile and interest and updates can be provided for Museum staff.
Project buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans are well underway for joint major Exhibition on Whitehorse Hill burial, organised by DNPA and Plymouth CC Museum – opening September 2014 (This is funded outside of this bid but shows significant interest and buy in). Discussions currently being held with Plymouth Museum/Exeter University/DNPA and Postbridge Community regarding displays of artefacts at the DNPA Visitors Centre. BBC already involved with second programme on Whitehorse Hill to be shown January 2013. • Discussions have taken place with Forestry Commission over the desired outcomes of Plantations project. Ideas have been approved for redesign of areas of the Forests to improve the settings of some of the archaeological sites and will be included in the new Forest Design Plan • Natural England has a current Environmental Stewardship Scheme Agreement for much of Rippon Tor PAL; the new survey would underpin this and help inform management plans when this comes up for renewal. Local landowners and commoners will also be closely involved in this process. • EH has national target of 15% reduction in number of high risk SMs by 2015, the work on the MTME SMs will help achieve this
Project lead	DNPA: Jane Marchand – Senior Archaeologist jmachand@dartmoor.gov.uk
Partners / contractors etc.	DNPA – lead Forestry Commission, - FC will lead on forest clearance, to improve intervisibility and access for sites on their land English Heritage – interest in all projects, providing in kind time for HEFA post. Duchy of Cornwall – landowner, providing permission for work to take place. Plymouth Museum – exhibition, promotion of the project

	<p>Natural England – interest and links to AE schemes Volunteer groups – delivery of work on ground (DPA, Chagford and North Bovey Conservation Volunteer Groups) Local community at Postbridge – champion for the exhibition.</p>
<p>Project development</p>	<p>This project remains largely unchanged. The detail for it has been informed by the surveys undertaken through the development phase and the consultation work undertaken by the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited amount of walkover survey has taken place within Whitehorse Hill area, 2 hitherto unknown archaeological sites (possibly a new cairn site) have been identified at with huge potential for further research/excavation and understanding of the area. • New archaeological survey taken place of Fernworthy (in 2 phases) LiDAR coverage of 3 Forestry Plantations completed. This work has revealed a number of new or previously thought to be lost sites, including a new hut circle, two medieval farmsteads, prehistoric boundary walls, boundary stones, leats and old trackways linking former farmsteads. It has also highlighted the significance of existing sites such as those described above at Assacombe where a previously unknown area of medieval tin working has been identified through the LIDAR survey. This work has helped us prioritise the surveys, excavations and management works proposed for the delivery phase of the project. • Vegetation clearance work by Chagford Conservation Volunteers and DPA volunteers carried out on two of the rediscovered sites. • SM'S at High Risk within MTME already identified • During the year it was decided not to pursue the Birch Tor industrial archaeology project due to concerns about disturbance to birds (red backed shrike and golden plover) and some local concerns about change. However we will provide better interpretation of the area through a new interpretation board included in PC1 • We have trialled the “Adopt a monument scheme” during this year but some land managers are quietly concerned. We will continue to work on this idea and try and improve buy in from key stakeholders but progress may be slower than anticipated.

Activities and Timetable

Year 1:

- Commission geophysical survey of new sites in Whitehorse Hill area (Sittaford stone circle): July 2014. **£3,000**
- Organize walkover surveys of area (using volunteers): August 2014
- Organize archaeological excavation of one of the recently discovered sites (Sittaford stone circle). Good opportunity for volunteer involvement. Widely disseminate results to demonstrate the hitherto unrealized importance of area. August – December 2014 **£20,000**
- Initiate discussions for new interpretation and self guided walks to include new and cleared sites within the plantations
- Clear new sites with volunteers at Fernworthy: February 2015 **£1,000**
- Complete Rippon Tor survey: June 2015 **£8,000 (specification and one quote attached)**
- Undertake work to on 4 Monuments at Risk (detail will depend on ES timetables): September, December 2014 and March, June 2015 **£4,000**

Year 2:

- Complete post excavation work at Sittaford stone circle December 2014 – September 2015 **£5,000**
- Concentrate efforts on display of Whitehorse Hill artefacts at Postbridge, plus other possible outlets (eg Okehampton Museum)
- Complete walkover surveys, organize field survey and excavation of newly discovered untouched burial cairn near Whitehorse Hill: July 2015 – September 2015 - **£13,000**
- Complete post excavation work on Whitehorse Hill new cairn: April – June 2016 **£6,000**
- Publication of reports on both excavations, opportunities will exist for comparative analysis and publication of all recent Whitehorse Hill work along the lines of Recent Discoveries within the Northern Dartmoor Ritual Landscape: December 2016 **£3,000**
- Continue to engage with FE, following up on newly cleared area, create new access routes and interpretation to link cleared sites at Fernworthy: April to June 2016 **£2,000**
- Soussons and Bellever, ground truth LIDAR with volunteers and clear sites January - March 2016 **£2,000**
- Undertake work to on 4 Monuments at Risk (detail will depend on ES timetables): July 2015 – June 2016 **£5,000**
- Identify possible car park sites for promotion/interpretation/self guided walks using results from Rippon Tor survey

Year 3:

- Workshop, celebration and publication of all findings: January 2017 – December 2017 **£10,000**

New visitor guides to Whitehorse Hill, Fernworthy and the Birch Tor area will be produced as part of the scheme but these will be funded through DNPA core budget as charged publications.

Activity Timeline	Y1						Y2				Y3				Y4				Y5									
	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
PA5 Unveiling the heritage of the High Moor and Forests																												
Sittaford Stone Circle																												
Geophysical Survey	█																											
Excavation and Interim Report		█	█	█	█	█	█																					
Sittaford Stone Circle complete post excavation work						█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█															
Whitehorse Hill																												
Landscape Walk over surveys, research, publication		█											█	█	█			█	█	█					█	█	█	█
Landscape Walk post excavation work on cairn															█													
Fernworthy																												
Groundtruth LiDAR surveys with volunteers			█	█	█																							
Clear new sites with volunteers						█	█	█																				
Create new trails														█	█													
Bellever																												
Groundtruth LiDAR surveys with volunteers						█	█	█	█																			
Clear new sites with volunteers														█	█	█												
Soussons																												
Groundtruth LiDAR surveys with volunteers						█	█	█	█																			
Clear new sites with volunteers															█	█	█											
Workshop and produce archaeological publication for all 3 Forest plantations																		█	█	█	█							
Complete Rippon Tor Survey	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█															
Monument Management Scheme (in-kind EH contribution)	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█														

Budgets	Cost Breakdown		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitehorse Hill area £53,000 • Archaeology in the Forests £15,000 • Rippon Tor survey £8,000 • Monuments at risk £8,000 		
Estimated Total Cost	Cost		Contingency:
	£89,000		£5,000
VAT	a. Is VAT applicable?	b. Is VAT reclaimable?	c. VAT amount:
	YES	YES	£0
Lead Partner Contributions	Type:	Secured:	Unsecured:
	Cash (source):	£	£0
	Staff:	£0	£0
	Volunteers:	£0	£0
	In-kind:	£21,155 (HEFRA time)£8000 Other in kind: DNPA 100 days @£100 = £10,000 staff £3,155	£0
	TOTAL:	£21,155	£0
Other Contributions	Type:	Secured:	Unsecured:
	Cash (source):	£0	£0
	Staff (source):	£0	£0
	Volunteers (source):	£0	£0
	In-kind (source):	£0	£0
	TOTAL:	£0	£0
Moor than meets the eye contribution	Contribution:		Intervention Rate (%)
	£67,845		76%

Outputs	<p>Interpretation and Communications Whitehorse Hill Exhibition at Postbridge with displays/handling collections available and various types of interpretation Results of surveys and excavation widely disseminated Events and information for visitors - Produce new DNPA Guide to the Archaeology of Fernworthy, Birch Tor and Golden Dagger area and Whitehorse Hill</p> <p>Site Management and Conservation New Management plan drawn up for Rippon Tor PAL 12 SMs currently at High Risk removed from the EH Register Excavation of 2 recently discovered sites 24 archaeological sites restored to natural setting and public access improved.</p> <p>Learning and skills Volunteers learn more about the archaeology of the area and techniques to monitor and survey features.</p>
Output indicators and targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25,000 people visit Whitehorse Hill Exhibition at Postbridge per year • 2000 copies of Whitehorse Hill cist excavation and the Birch Tor/Golden Dagger publications sold • 24 archaeological sites in the high moor plantations restored to natural setting and access improved • 200 volunteers trained in all aspects of archaeological skills • 12 Scheduled Monuments currently at High Risk removed from the EH Register
Outcomes	<p>People will have learnt about heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of the archaeology in the Whitehorse Hill area • Enhanced appreciation of the skills, craftsmanship and widespread contacts which Dartmoor inhabitants had 4000 years ago <p>Heritage will be better managed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved management of the sites within the Plantations and the Rippon Tor PAL and the sites through the MMS scheme. Vegetation clearance work can be incorporated into wider landscape management schemes such as improving local grazing
Evidence	<p>Work of volunteers will continue with monitoring newly cleared and discovered sites and results fed back into future management, access and interpretation plans. Volunteers encourage to adopt a site. Visitor centre and event feedback and surveys Field surveys to sites once completed and on rolling programme</p>
Wider context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB6 Managing volunteers. All the projects will give a number of volunteers valuable opportunities to learn new archaeological skills whilst carrying out important practical archaeological survey, excavation and conservation works

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plantations project, the Rippon Tor survey and the MMS projects will all feed into other LP projects • PD1 Dartmoor Diploma – courses to help volunteers with survey techniques. • PB1 Postbridge and Bellever Trails – interpretation and events focus for archaeology • PC1 Discovering the Dartmoor Story 			
Legacy and maintenance of benefits	<p>Overall the projects will help safeguard and improve future management of Dartmoor's archaeology</p> <p>All these projects will help to firmly establish the importance of Dartmoor's Bronze Age landscape, (comparable with the association of Orkney/Shetland with the Neolithic) and contribute to its long term survival</p> <p>FC will manage the plantation sites and DNPA rangers will support with local conservation volunteer groups who will be trained in archaeology</p> <p>Postbridge exhibition, DNPA will maintain and refresh when necessary to maintain ongoing interest.</p> <p>Research and evidence – all reports will be stored by DNPA and archived by Dartmoor Trust</p>			
Risks and Risk Mitigation	Risk	Severity	Likelihood	Measures
	Refusal of permissions to lend artefacts for display in VC	M	M	Ensure Plymouth Museum keeps artefacts on show Post Exhibition
	Volunteers & Local Communities do not get involved	L	L	Several vols/groups already involved
	Partner organisations do not want to contribute	L	L	Partners already committed to various projects, unlikely to change
	Lack of uptake of ES schemes	H	H	Ensure that MMS Conservation work completed
	Post 2015 Lack of HE management options in new schemes	H	H	by 2015 Further promotion of the adopt a monument scheme
Background information	<p>Many of the sites within the project areas are Scheduled Monuments. Two of the areas are Dartmoor PALS.</p> <p>Archaeological Management Agreements between English Heritage and the Forestry Commission are already in place for the Plantations</p> <p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up between the DNPA and Plymouth Museum for the period of the Exhibition which also identifies that some of the artefacts will be loaned to the DNPA for display</p>			

