

## Discussion and Implications

### Interpretation of the Results

The earliest evidence identified during the survey was the two possibly prehistoric settlement enclosures within the southeast and southwest of the common. Each are enclosed by a bank and ditch circuit.

The common appears to have been subject to intensive cultivation during the medieval period. The evidence for which derives from the series of lynchets visible largely along the western and northern slopes of the common. Along side these, within the southern part of the common; a complex field system survives as earthworks in which at least two distinct field patterns are present.

Evidence from the post-medieval period comprises features connected with the extraction of stone. Both the southern and western slopes of the common are littered with quarries ranging from shallow delves to large areas of industrial-scale quarrying. Associated with these sites are platforms constructed to support a structure or simply for storage

The survey also recorded a cottage site built as an attempt to claim land from the common. The construction of which removed what was previously a section of the common boundary.

Some final additions to the archaeology within the common occur during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the activities of the military. The remains of the radio tracking station, the barrack block and generator block were constructed during World War II and are visible today as foundations and wall stubbs.

## Significance of Features

The key sites recorded on Garway Hill Common can be categorised in order of significance:

**HSM 6251** – Settlement Enclosure = National Significance

**HSM 43902** – Settlement Enclosure = Local Significance

**HSM 43911** – Medieval field system = Local Significance

**HSM 33817** – Medieval field system = Local Significance

**HSM 43848** – Post-medieval cottage = Local Significance

### Implications regarding the archaeological resource

The topography and geology (especially the soils) of Garway Hill Common dictate that due to the gradient and drainable soils within the common, archaeological features i.e. banks, ditches platforms survive generally well. In addition the lack of modern activity and the absence of woodland have greatly favoured the survival of

archaeological features. A number of areas, particularly along the southern and northern sides of the hill are susceptible to soil creep the soil moves down slope, covering and distorting any archaeological features. Surface disturbance of archaeological features within the common is caused largely by gorse and bracken coverage

### **Implications regarding site condition**

Upon Garway Hill Common, platforms, banks, ditches quarries and enclosures remain visible. A number of relationships can be noted linking features. The main settlement enclosure HSM 6251 appears to have been re-used during the medieval period to mark field boundaries, by the time of the post-medieval period the enclosure was used as a source of stone. Similar relationships can be seen along the western slope of the common where pre-existing medieval lynchets are cut by post-medieval quarries.

### **Implications for future management**

The enclosure HSM 6251 is rare in that it has survived in a clear and understandable form. This feature has high potential to provide information concerning early settlement activity on the common from the prehistoric period onwards. The feature is currently vulnerable to bracken and gorse encroachment.

The control and ultimate removal of bracken and gorse from this monument would be beneficial. The enclosure is ideally placed for public access and would lend itself to some form of information panel close-by. The same management regime would be appropriate for the enclosure HSM 43902.

The areas of field systems HSM 33817 and HSM 43911 would also benefit from bracken control in order to make the earthwork features associated with these systems more visible.

The other visible and therefore potential feature that could involve some form of information resource is the ruined cottage HSM 43848. It may be possible to remove the gorse and saplings which are presently damaging the surviving fabric of the building. This however may require specialist advice. Members of the public should not be encouraged to access this monument in its present state due to health and safety issues.

### **Implications for future field work.**

Garway Hill Common contains a high density of visible archaeological features relating to grazing, agriculture and land management such as modern drainage activity. The features recorded consist primarily of medieval field systems and post-medieval quarrying, with further recordings surrounding settlement and 20<sup>th</sup> century activity.

The common land has a high potential for the presence of well-preserved archaeological features and a chronology of flora and fauna. It should be possible to recognise relationships between the features recorded and hence produce at least a rudimentary series of phases illustrating the changing management of the common.

A second, more intensive survey is needed to establish a more complete picture of the archaeological resource, and to answer several specific questions i.e.

Is there a relationship between the suspected settlement enclosure HSM 6251 and the surrounding field systems? Where was the entrance to enclosure and how were the ramparts constructed? What are the similarities between this enclosure and the sub-rectangular enclosure HSM 43902? Are the two features contemporary? How does the common relate to the wider landscape? Has the common increased or decreased in size since its formation? What was the purpose of the two distinctly different field systems HSM 43911 and 33817? What was their relationship to the funnel entrance to the south of the common?

Detailed survey of both enclosures should be a priority. This will help highlight the relationships between these features and later features relating to changes in land-use. This drawn recorded could be complemented with geophysical survey in order to identify buried structures within each enclosure.

Ultimately the date and use of both enclosures can only be ascertained by excavation. If both measured and geophysical surveys have been undertaken then small scale but targeted excavations could be carried out in order to investigate sample areas.

Following any clearance work surrounding the cottage site within the west of the common it would be preferable to carryout a detailed survey in order to record the detail of the structure.

An intensive study of the common's peat deposit would be a further benefit. In doing so radiocarbon dates and pollen analysis would indicate not only a chronology of fauna and flora within the area over time, but also indicate whether or not waterlogged conditions within the common have remained constant over time.

Prior to any land management within Garway Hill Common these areas should be subject to a more detailed walk over survey in order to record and assess the location, archaeological potential and significance of any features present.

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