T H E Q U A N T O C K H I L L S

A R E A O F O U T S T A N D I N G N A T U R A L B E A U T Y

An Archaeological Survey

SUMMARY REPORT

Prepared for Somerset County Planning Department

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CONTENTS

Abbreviations used

AM	Ancient Monument.
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
A/P	Aerial photograph.
Arch.	Archaeological.
CBA	Council for British Archaeology.
CRAAGS	Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset.
DoE	Department of the Environment.
E	East.
ed.	Editor.
ha	Hectare.
HBMC	Historic Building and Monuments Commission.
Hist.	History.
HMSO	Her Majesties Stationery Office.
km	Kilometre.
m	Metre.
mm	Millimetre.
N	North.
Nat.	Natural.
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council.
OD	Ordnance Datum.
Prehist.	Prehistoric.
Proc.	Proceedings.
RAF	Royal Air Force.
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England).
S	South.
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument.
SCC	Somerset County Council.
SCPD	Somerset County Planning Department.
SMR	Sites and monuments record
Soc.	Society.
Som.	Somerset.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest.
W	West.
WSDC	West Somerset District Council.

THE QUANTOCK HILLS

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SUMMARY REPORT

1.0.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0.1 This Survey was undertaken on behalf of the Somerset County Planning Department and was sponsored by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMC) and Somerset County Council (SCC). The work was carried out over a staggered seven month period between April 1985 and March 1988.

1.0.2 With an archaeological survey of the Exmoor National Park in progress (McDonnell, 1985) the Quantock Hills remained the last area of Somerset, with highland zone characteristics, to be approached at this non-intensive level of survey.

1.1.0 Objectives

1.1.1 The principal objective of this non-intensive survey was to produce an expanded and enhanced data base from which an overview of the character of the archaeological and cultural resource of the area might be inferred. It was intended that managerial priorities would be identified and that this document would provide a basis for the formulation of a management policy for the archaeological resource within the Quantock AONB.

1.2.0 Acknowledgements

1.2.1 Acknowledgement is made to Dr Ian Burrow and his successor Mr Bob Croft at the Somerset County Planning Department (SCPD) and also to Mr Paul Gosling of HBMC for their practical help and discussion throughout the work. My thanks are also extended to Mr Ed Dennison for his services in respect of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

2.0.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

2.1.0 The survey was undertaken in four stages and follows the methodology developed in the Exmoor National Park (McDonnell, 1980, 1985) and subsequently adopted in Somerset and other areas of the South West (McDonnell, 1986) (Ellis, 1987). The four stages are :-

Stage 1. Examination and plotting of the aerial photographic evidence.

Stage 2. Sample field assessment of the aerial photographic evidence.

Stage 3. Incorporation of all data into the Somerset County SMR

Stage 4. Summary Report of Survey.

3.0.0 THE AREA OF SURVEY

3.1.0 Administrative and AONB designation

3.1.1 The designation of the Quantock Hills as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was made in 1956 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. The area of survey complies with the boundary of the AONB and covers approximately 100 square kilometres. Three District Councils are represented within the area and these are Taunton Deane, Sedgemoor and West Somerset.

3.2.0 Topography

3.2.1 The Hills trend in a roughly NW-SE line and are approximately 18 km long by 5 km wide. They lie within the similarly oriented boundary of the AONB which is approximately 19 km long and generally about 6.5 km wide. Occupying a roughly central position within the County they represent the most easterly area of upland with highland zone characteristics in the South West peninsular. The Hills rise to 384 m OD at their highest but have a general summit accordance of 300 m OD at their N and W ends. The northern limit of the AONB lies against the Bristol Channel coast between St Audries Bay and Kilve. The drainage of the area is principally to the NE, E and SE, where longer, gentler gradients occur. The W and SW facing slopes are much steeper with fewer, shorter streams draining from them.

3.3.0 Geology

3.3.1 The geology of the area comprises four principal rock types. The oldest are the deposits of Middle Devonian Hangman Grits and occur at the higher, NW end of the hills where they are formed into a major anticline. The middle section of the hills is formed by the Ilfracombe Beds of the Middle and Upper Devonian and consist of slates, siltstones, sandstones and some limestone. The lower SE end of the hills are formed by the Morte Slates of the Upper Devonian. Around the lower, marginal slopes of the Quantocks the Devonian deposits are overlain by sandstones and marls of the Permo-Triassic (Edmonds and Williams, 1985).

3.4.0 Soils

3.4.1 Since no detailed soil survey for the area has been published the following account is necessarily a general one. The most extensive soil type within the AONB is the fine reddish loamy soils of the Milford association. These occur at the lower, SE end of the hills and are developed on the Morte Slates and Ilfracombe Beds. Some of the summits in this area have developed the shallow, well drained silty loams of the Manod soils. At the higher NW end of the hills, on the Hangman Grits, the steeper W facing slopes have developed the coarse loamy soils of the Rivington 2 association while on the flatter tops and the gentler gradients of the NE facing slopes, there have developed the acid, loamy soils with some iron pans and the thin, peaty surface horizons of the Larkbarrow soils. The soils developed around the lower margins of the hills, on the Permo-Triassic deposits, are generally fine silty loams over slowly permeable subsoils and belong to the Hodnet, Whimple 1 and Whimple 2 soil associations (Mckney, Hodgson, Hollis and Staines, 1983).

3.5.0 Land use

3.5.1 The economic land use within the AONB is exclusively agricultural, with the single exception of the mineral extraction operations at Triscombe Quarry. The use of the hills as a recreational amenity has increased considerably since the mid 1960's and has caused and is causing considerable, concern over the resulting degree of critical wear and erosion, particularly at the NW end of the area (SCC, 1974).

3.5.2 The present day land use within the AONB reflects the general geological divisions of the hills. On the

Hangman Grits at the higher, NW end of the area the landscape of open moorland is given over to rough grazing. The vegetation here is dominated by ericaceous species on the hills with unmanaged oak woods in the more sheltered combes. Some commercial, coniferous plantation also occurs. The amenity value of this type of landscape is well recognised and is over-exploited at this end of the Quantocks. The middle section of the area, which comprises the slates and sandstones of the Ilfracombe Beds, forms a transitional zone between the rough grazing of the higher ground and the enclosed pasture at the lower SE end. There are extensive areas of softwood plantation in this middle section but the landscape is generally one of enclosed hillsides with open moorland on the higher tops. The amenity value of this middle area is again well exploited but is here better managed, particularly by the Forestry Commission. The lower SE end is based on the Morte Slates and is all enclosed pasture. Around the edges of the hills on the rocks of the Permo-Triassic both pasture and arable occur.

3.6.0 Land ownership

3.6.1 The pattern of land ownership within the AONB places the open moorland of the higher NW end of the hills with relatively few owners while the lower and enclosed land is held by many individuals. Ownership of the upland areas includes Somerset County Council and the National Trust.

3.7.0 Commons

3.7.1 There are six areas where Rights of Common are registered. These are Quantock Common, which covers virtually the whole of the unenclosed NW half of the hills, Will's Neck, Aisholt Common, Broomfield Common, Broomfield Hill Common and Merridge Hill Common. These last five account for fairly small areas and between them amount to no more than three square kilometres. The principal registered rights include estovers, turbary, herbage, pannage, firebote, hedgebote, piscary and also some minor mineral rights. In addition the Parish Councils of Nether Stowey and Over Stowey have registered the right, on behalf of every householder within their parishes, to estovers, turbary and bracken cutting on their respective 'custom commons'.

3.8.0 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

3.8.1 There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, within the AONB. The largest, notified in January 1986 and called the Quantocks, covers the majority of the remaining heather and grass moorland and unmanaged oak woodland in the central and NW part of the hills. It extends for approximately 26 square kilometres. The second, smaller area is part of the Blue Anchor to Lilstock coastal SSSI notified in December 1986. This site extends beyond the AONB but runs for about 5 km along the length of the AONBs northern, coastal boundary.

4.0.0 PRE-SURVEY REPORT

4.1.0 Previous surveys

4.1.1 Prior to this survey there were 273 sites on the County SMR that were recorded within the AONB. Our understanding of this resource, the history and the development of the landscape was constrained by a limited data base. No archaeological excavations using present day techniques or methods of recording have been undertaken and little detailed survey has been made. The major published survey which includes this area is Grinsell's Barrow Survey of West Somerset (Grinsell, 1969). He also included the Quantocks in his Archaeology of Exmoor (Grinsell, 1970) and published a more detailed review in his Prehistoric Sites in the Quantock Country (Grinsell, 1976). Since his barrow survey, however, no new, systematic field survey of the archaeology of the area has been published.

4.2.0 Sites and Monuments data

4.2.1 It is notable that the largest general site type was for mounds (barrows, cairns and mounds). This group accounted for 92 (33.70%) of the total number of sites. The period represented by the largest number of sites was the prehistoric. There were 126 (46.15%) sites likely to be attributable to this period, a fact that has helped in our misconception of the Quantocks as an area of mainly prehistoric archaeology.

4.2.2 The following table shows the types and number of sites recorded within the AONB prior to this survey.

Type	No.	%
Barrows	50	18.32
Beacon	1	0.37
Buildings	8	2.93
Cairns	23	8.42
Castles	1	0.37
Cemeteries	12	4.40
Crosses	5	1.83
Deer Parks	7	2.56
Deserted Farm Sites	5	1.83
Deserted Medieval Villages	3	1.10
Enclosures	15	5.49
Field Systems	3	1.10
Fish Ponds	10	3.66
Flint Sites	27	9.90
Hill Forts	3	1.10
Lime Kilns	24	8.79
Linear Earthworks	3	1.10
Mills	16	5.86
Mill pond	1	0.37
Moats	1	0.37
Mines	11	4.03
Mounds	19	6.96
Other	22	8.96
Quarries	1	0.37
Trackways	2	0.73
Totals	273	100.00

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4.3.0 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

4.3.1 A surprisingly high percentage of sites were Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). Of the 273 sites 48 (17.58%) were scheduled. The majority of these were sites

scheduled after 1974 when only 8 sites within the AONB had been Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SCC, 1974).

4.3.2 The following table shows the number and percentage of sites within a site type that were scheduled. The totals in the last column are the total number of sites within the site type.

4.3.3 Scheduled sites, pre-survey

Type	Scheduled			Not scheduled		
	No.	%/type	%/SAM	No.	%/type	Total
Barrows	26	52.00	54.16	24	48.00	50
Beacon	1	100.00	2.09	0	0.00	1
Buildings	4	50.00	8.33	4	50.00	8
Cairns	6	26.08	12.50	17	73.91	23
Crosses	4	80.00	8.33	1	20.00	5
Hill Forts	2	66.66	4.16	1	33.33	3
Enclosures	3	20.00	6.25	12	80.00	15
Linear sites	1	33.33	2.09	2	66.66	3
Kilns (pot.)	1	100.00	2.09	0	0.00	1
Totals	48		100.00			

4.3.4 Our perception of the Quantocks as an area of mainly prehistoric archaeology is reflected in the site types that had been scheduled. It is notable that 52% of all barrows were scheduled and that of all the scheduled sites in the AONB 66.67% were barrows or cairns.

5.0.0 THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1.0 Methodology

5.1.1 The aerial photographic data was plotted free hand at 1:10000 scale on gridded film overlays. An accompanying gazetteer was compiled recording grid square, location, parish, a description of the site and a list of those aerial photographs from which the site or feature was recorded.

5.1.2 The following aerial photographic sources were consulted.

i. RAF, January 1947. CPE/UK/1944.
ii. Hunting Surveys Ltd. September 1971. HSL/UK/71

178.

iii. Hunting Surveys Ltd. July 1971. HSL/UK/71 145.

iv. Cartographic Services Ltd. August 1981. CS No. 969.

v. Miscellaneous collections of specialist and non-specialist obliques.

5.1.3 Sources i.- iv. were all vertical coverages with stereo facility overlapping and covered all of the AONB. It has not been considered cost effective to spend too much time examining collections of oblique aerial photographs when such good vertical material is available. Perhaps the most useful obliques are held by the SCPD and taken by Mick Aston.

5.2.0 Results

5.2.1 The following table shows how the new and known sites that were recorded on the aerial photographs were distributed by site type.

Type	New	Known	Total	%
Barrow	14	32	46	23.59
Buildings	2	1	3	1.54
Castles	0	1	1	0.51
Catch Meadows	5	0	5	2.56
Deserted Farms	18	1	19	9.74
Enclosures	23	8	31	15.90
Field Systems	12	2	14	7.18
Fish Ponds	0	2	2	1.03
Fish Weirs	5	0	5	2.56
Gardens	1	0	1	0.51
Hill Forts	0	2	2	1.03
Hut circles	3	0	3	1.54
Leats	2	0	2	1.03
Lime Kilns	0	2	2	1.03
Linear Features	0	1	1	0.51
Marl Pits	12	0	12	6.15
Mill Ponds	0	1	1	0.51
Mining Activity	3	1	4	2.05
Moats	0	1	1	0.51
Mounds	6	0	6	3.08
Other Sites	6	0	6	3.08
Quarries	23	0	23	11.79
Trackways	2	0	2	1.03
Villages	2	1	3	1.54
Totals	139	56	195	100.00

5.2.2 Of the 195 sites plotted from the aerial photographs 139 (71.28%) were sites new to the record while only 56 (28.72%) were sites already on the SMR. Many of the known sites were here extended and for some their general character and extent were plotted for the first time. A total of 195 sites over 100 square kilometres gives an incidence of 1.95 sites to the square kilometre recorded by the aerial photographs. This figure, however, although numerically correct, is misleading since the 12 new field systems recorded cover over 12 square kilometres on their own.

5.3.0 Summary of site types

5.3.1 All of the detailed records, maps and aerial photographic plots of the following sites have been deposited with the County SMR and entered onto the computerised record.

5.3.2 Round barrows

Of the 46 barrows recorded from the aerial photographs 14 (30.43%) were sites new to the record. Nine of these were considered on the evidence of the aerial photographs to be barrows, 4 were thought to be likely barrows and 1 site could not be located in the field. The forms of these sites included round mounds (7), mounds on platforms or with enclosing banks (3), ring banks (1) and vegetational indicators (3).

5.3.3 Buildings

Only 3 buildings were recorded from the aerial photographic evidence. Of these one was the known site of the Friar's Manor at Adscombe which was recorded as 1 ha of a complex of earthworks forming enclosures and platforms with the remains of a large rectangular building. The two new sites were the remains of a cottage in Buncombe Wood and a linhay on Merridge Hill

5.3.4 Castles

The only site in this category was the known possible site at Over Stowey. This site was known only as a possible castle mound but the aerial photographic evidence indicates the remains of earthwork enclosures to the E of the site that would suggest an area of baileys of about 0.5 ha.

5.3.5 Catch Meadows

There were 5 areas of catch meadows recorded and all were new to the record, in fact no sites in this

category had previously been recorded on the Quantocks. These sites comprise a series of contour leats which are used to transport water and farm yard slurry into the fields where they are then stopped up and allowed to overflow as required. They were used extensively in the Forest of Exmoor during its reclamation by the Knight family in the mid 19th century where they were also used to increase soil temperatures (Orwin and Sellick, 1970). The sites here, in total, covered 15.5 ha of ground and occurred within a single valley in the parish of Broomfield. The largest system of leats lies to the ENE of Stream Farm, covers 5 ha of a S and E facing slope and at 150 m OD was at the lowest altitude. The smallest system recorded lies to the ESE of Westleigh Farm, covers 2 ha of S facing hillside and at 225 m OD is the highest recorded in this survey.

5.3.6 Deserted Farm Sites

Of the 19 sites in this category, recorded by the aerial photographic evidence, 18 (94.74%) were new to the record. The known site, originally recorded from documentary sources, was to the S of Durrett's Copse in the parish of Broomfield. Four other known sites, all of which were initially recorded from documentary sources, were not recorded on the aerial photographs. The sites were generally defined by nucleated groups of small enclosures with evidence of building remains. They varied in size from 0.1 ha to 1.5 ha with 10 sites between 0.4 ha and 0.6 ha. Their altitudinal range lay between 30 m OD and 275 m OD with an average height of 147 m OD. Particularly good examples were located at Kenley Copse, in Bishop's Lydeard parish and at Duck's Pool and Binford Wood in Broomfield parish. The first two sites were both associated with remnants of their infields.

5.3.7 Enclosures

Of the 31 enclosures recorded on the aerial photographs, 23 (74.19%) were new to the record. The remaining 8 known sites comprised 3 tree ring enclosures, 3 miscellaneous cropmarked sites and the two Iron Age enclosures of Trendle Ring and Higher Castles. The last site, in Broomfield parish, was substantially added to with part of a concentric outwork. This took the form of a bank, now fossilised within the present field boundaries, enclosing an additional 1 ha of ground. Other sections of present day field boundaries in this area may also date from the Iron Age period. There were 7 further known sites which were not recorded on the aerial photographs.

5.3.8 Six of the new sites were rectangular enclosures of which none were larger than 0.35 ha. Three of these are likely to be parts of more extensive field systems, 2 were small enclosures around springs and the largest at Cushuish may be associated with the shrinkage of that settlement.

5.3.9 The remaining 17 new sites were all circular or sub-circular sites. Of these 11 were interpreted as tree ring enclosures. On Beacon Hill in, West Quantoxhead parish, 6 of these sites are strung out in a curving line over 1 km long in what was a piece of planned landscaping. The largest of this site type was 0.15 ha and the smallest 0.03 ha but in between 3 were 0.12 ha and 6 were 0.07 ha. This last figure suggests a possible standardisation for the size of these features. Apart from one extant site at Kilve Court, at 50 m OD, the altitudinal range lay between 200 m OD and 300 m OD and all were in areas of rough grazing.

5.3.10 The remaining 6 new enclosures in this group comprised 2 small sites, no larger than 0.08 ha, of uncertain date or function and 4 sites that are probably later prehistoric hill slope enclosures. Two of these hillslope enclosures were defined by differential vegetation, in an area of rough grazing, on aerial photographs that were taken 34 years apart. The sites are at Higher Halsway, within 40 m of each other, on the 250 m contour and are 0.3 ha and 0.2 ha in size. The smaller site encloses two circular features that may be hut sites. The third hill slope enclosure is at the head of Rams Combe in an area where prehistoric hut sites have been recorded (see 5.3.16.). The fourth enclosure of this type lies on improved grassland to the N of Triscombe Stone where it was uncertainly defined by differential vegetation. At 0.5 ha it was the largest site of this type and it lay at 320 m OD.

5.3.11 Field Systems

Of the 14 field systems recorded on the aerial photographs, 12 (85.71%) were sites new to the SMR. The 2 known sites were on Beacon Hill and Lydeard Hill and both were extended and plotted for the first time. The new sites in this group covered 13% of the AONB and represent the most significant discovery of this survey. Of the 26 square kilometres of remaining open moorland that comprise the Quantock SSSI, 12 square kilometres, or 46% of the remaining moorland, was covered by either remnant field systems or narrow rig ploughing. This category was subdivided into enclosures and ploughing since in many instances the two did not appear to be synchronous. The area of highest concentration of both occurred along the SW facing

slopes of the hills between Lydeard Hill in the SE and West Hill in the NW, in East Quantoxhead parish. Large areas of narrow rig ploughing were also recorded, however, on the flatter summits on the N side of the hills, notably on Higher and Lower Hare Knap and on Frog Hill. The altitudinal range of these sites lay between 150 m and 360 m OD. It should be noted that the systems at the N and W end of the hills is in effect one large field system. It has here been split into 6 separate sites over the three local government administrative areas in order to facilitate ease of data management within the SCPD.

5.3.12 Fish Ponds

Only 2 fishponds out of a known 10 sites were recorded from the aerial photographic evidence. These were the known sites at Courtway in Broomfield parish and to the NE of Court House in East Quantoxhead parish. Nothing substantially new was added to our knowledge of either site.

5.3.13 Fish Weirs

There were 5 intertidal fish weirs recorded in this part of the survey and although they were not on the SMR they have all been previously published (McDonnell, 1980). Four of these sites were in St Audrie's Bay, close to the mean low water line, while the fifth was to the ENE of Blue Ben.

5.3.14 Gardens

One new site not previously on the SMR was the area of enclosures covering about 1 ha to the E and N of Crowcombe Court.

5.3.15 Hill Forts

Two out of the 3 known sites in this category were recorded from the aerial photographic evidence. These were Rooks Castle and Dowsborough. At Rooks Castle a curving, concentric outwork on the E and NE side of the enclosure added a further 2 ha to this site. On the W interior side of the main enclosure a group of 4 rectangular subdivisions were recorded as low earthworks. The unrecorded site was Ruborough Camp which is in a conifer plantation.

5.3.16 Hut Circles

There were 3 hut circles identified from the aerial photographic evidence and all were new to the record. The sites were on the W side of Weacombe Hill at 200 m

OD with 2 sites at the head of Rams Combe at 225 m and 300 m OD. The evidence for a further two sites defined by differential vegetation and associated with one of the hill slope enclosures at Higher Halsway (see 3.5.10 above), was not considered positive enough to be included here. No features in this category had previously been recorded within the AONB.

5.3.17 Leats

Both of the leats recorded in this part of the survey were new to the record. The longest was at Higher Halsway and ran for 600 m from Halsway Manor to the bottom of Halsway Combe where it tapped the stream. The other site was at Cothelstone Farm where it ran for 300 m and was probably associated with the known mill site there.

5.3.18 Lime Kilns

Only 2 known sites in this category were recorded out of a total of 24 such sites on the SMR. The 2 sites were on the coast NE of Quantock's Head and nothing substantially new was added to the record.

5.3.19 Linear Features

The single known site recorded lay on Bicknoller Hill and was the probable out work to Trendle Ring. Although this site was not on the SMR it has been published with a plan (Grinsell, 1976) and was therefore considered as a known site. The aerial photographic evidence added nothing new to the site.

5.3.20 Marl Pits

The 12 sites in this category were all new to the record with no sites of this type having been previously recorded within the AONB. The sites were at the N end of the hills and were scattered within a square kilometre of each other to the S of Kilve Village. They were recorded as irregular depressions of which none were larger than 0.08 ha.

5.3.21 Millponds

The only site recorded was the known site at Blanchflowers Farm in the parish of East Quantoxhead. No new evidence was forthcoming from the aerial photographs.

5.3.22 Mining Activity

There were 4 sites recorded from the aerial photographic evidence which were interpreted as mining activity. One of these was the previously recorded site at Raswell Farm in the parish of Broomfield. The aerial photographic evidence indicated about 1 ha of earthworks forming enclosures and a large round mound. Of the 3 new sites 2 were large circular depressions on Aisholt Common which were thought probably to be associated with mining operations. The third new site was W of Knowle Wood in the parish of East Quantoxhead. This site comprised nearly 0.5 ha of soil and/or vegetation marks defining two contiguous circular features with two short linear features curving away from them. Once again there was no definite evidence of mining but this interpretation was considered to be the most likely.

5.3.23 Moats

The single site in this category was the known site at Courtway in the parish of Broomfield. No new evidence was added to this site from the aerial photographs.

5.3.24 Mounds

The 6 mounds recorded were all new to the SMR and were defined as small, round mounds. They were all considered to be clearance cairns and were all located in areas of relict field system or narrow rig ploughing.

5.3.25 Other sites

The 6 sites in this group were all new to the record and comprised slight, indeterminate earthworks, recent field boundary removals and unclassified sites. The aerial photographic evidence suggested that none of the sites were of any particular significance.

5.3.26 Quarries

The 23 sites in this group were all new to the record. The largest quarries were mainly on the SW facing slopes of the hills on the deposits of Hangman Grits. Other quarries exploit the deposits of limestone that are found in the Ilfracombe Beds.

5.3.27 Trackways

Both trackway sites were new to the record and both were identified as established routes defined by earthworks. The shortest was 200 m long and lying as it

did within a single field was probably a local agricultural route. It ran roughly N-S to the N of Milton Farm in West Bagborough. The longest trackway, however, was traced for over 2 km in 5 sections which were connected by either field boundaries, lanes or footpaths. It ran from just NE of St. Audrie's School, around the NW end of the hills, to just below Smith's Knapp. It is part of a long established arterial route along the West Somerset and North Devon coast of which this particular section has been supplanted by the A39 Trunk Road.

5.3.28 Villages, shrunken and deserted settlements

Of the 3 settlements recorded here 2 were new sites. The known site was the deserted village of West Quantoxhead of which our knowledge was derived principally from documentary sources. The aerial photographic evidence has now added nearly 6 ha of linear features with a trackway and rectangular enclosures. Of the 2 new sites the largest was the group of 6 rectangular and subrectangular enclosures to the SW of Landshire Farm in the parish of West Quantoxhead. This site extended for 4.2 ha and lay off the hills at 70 m OD. No building remains were recorded on this site. The other new site was at Westleigh Farm in the parish of Broomfield where various earthwork enclosures suggested that this was probably once a small hamlet of about 2.2 ha which lay at 225 m OD.

6.0.0 FIELD ASSESSMENT

6.1.0 Objectives

6.1.1 The principal objectives of the field assessment were to qualify the evidence of the aerial photographic survey and to make a sample assessment of the general condition of the resource within the AONB.

6.1.2 Field work was carried out during the late winter and early spring of 1986, during a period of exceptionally low temperatures, and during the late summer of 1987. A total of 121 sites were examined of which 58 (47.93%) were sites that were recorded on the aerial photographs, 25 (20.66%) were known SMR sites and 38 (31.40%) were completely new sites discovered during the course of the field assessment.

6.1.3 Approximately 9 square kilometres (9%) of the AONB were examined on the ground, slightly below the target sample of 10%. Areas were selected on a sample basis

according to landscape type. During the first season, 1986-87, these types were woodland, enclosed pasture and open moorland. In the second season the field assessment was undertaken almost exclusively on the open moorland and the unmanaged oak woodlands at the NW end of the hills.

6.2.0 Assessment of the Aerial Photographic Evidence

6.2.1 The value of examining the aerial photographic evidence as a remote sensing technique for any area depends upon the nature of the landscape and in particular its vegetative cover. In an upland context ericaceous species and bracken will reduce the resolution of the evidence. In this instance the problem posed by those areas covered by high, summer stands of bracken was eliminated by examining the RAF coverage taken during the winter of 1947. Within the Quantock AONB, however, the overall value of such an approach is qualified by the extensive woodland cover for which there is no seasonal solution. There are approximately 2490 ha of woodland on the Quantocks which amounts to 25% of the AONB. This means that the window available to remote sensing techniques of this nature was only three quarters of the designated survey area.

6.2.2 Given these limitations, however, the aerial photographic evidence was generally found to be very good. Of the 58 sites recorded by this method and examined in the field, only one site was found to be non-existent and only 2 sites, which were in oak scrub, could not be located. The field assessment inevitably added much detail to sites but generally their nature and extent, as plotted from the aerial photographs, was found to be fairly accurate.

6.2.3 The deserted farm site at Kenley Copse, already identified from the aerial photographic evidence as an interesting site, proved in the field to be an excellent example of its type. It survives as a coherent group of earthworks defining yards, enclosures, building remains and banks, forming part of its infield and extending for approximately 2 ha. It is likely to be of medieval date and is very similar to other deserted medieval farm sites in West Somerset (McDonnell, 1982 p. 81-86) (Aston, 1983).

6.2.4 The extensive field systems recorded were only sampled in the field assessment but all areas where these features were recorded were examined. Some of the most upstanding were on Lydeard Hill where the enclosure banks survive as substantial features and the narrow rig ploughing is easily recognisable. In other areas

the ploughing is contained by very low turf banks no more than 300 mm high which, in some instances, have themselves been subsequently ploughed over. On Higher and Lower Hare Knap there is little evidence of enclosure banks associated with the ploughing and there is also an unusual example of cross ploughing on this hill. On West Hill, in East Quantoxhead parish, the top and SE part of the hill had been marked out by ploughing single furrows.

6.2.5 The aerial photographic evidence indicated that the enclosure banks and ploughing extended for 12.14 square kilometres but the field assessment increased this area only very marginally.

6.2.6 These features appear to be of medieval origin with the earliest reference to the parish of Bicknoller in 1330 (Siraut, 1985). The earliest references to Crowcombe (Bush, 1985) and West Quantoxhead (Dunning, 1985) are, respectively, 1405 and 1417. Other parishes where cultivation on the Hills is mentioned include Holford, 1630, East Quantoxhead, 1454 and Kilton, 1504 (Dunning, 1985). Rye and oats are both crops mentioned in association with these enclosures.

6.3.0 New Sites

6.3.1 Of the 38 new sites, discovered as a result of the field assessment, 6 were mounds, 6 were hut sites, 19 were flint sites and 7 were miscellaneous, generally unclassified, sites.

6.3.2 Five of the mounds were considered to be clearance features and all were in the vicinity of the narrow rig ploughing. The mound on the ridge between Will's Neck and Lydeard Hill, however, was interpreted as a round barrow.

6.3.3 The 6 hut sites were all located as part of a single, dispersed, later prehistoric settlement extending for 1 ha at the head of Rams Combe. The average external diameter of these sites was 10.5 m and two types were recorded. The first type comprised levelled platforms with, in one case, a bank around the rim of the platform. The second type, of which there were 3, comprised circular or sub-circular depressions, with surrounding banks with well defined entrances on their E, SE and N sides. Both types of hut site have been previously recorded within the Exmoor National Park in association with hill slope enclosures and field systems (McDonnell, 1980).

6.3.4 Of the 19 new flint sites only 3 supported scatters of more than 6 pieces of flint. The largest scatter of 14 pieces was on the W side of Frog Hill, there were 8 pieces on the SE side of Beacon Hill and 6 pieces from the head of Viny Combe. Worked flint accounted for 46.43% of all recorded flint and included scrapers, blades, retouched pieces and flakes.

6.3.5 The 7 new miscellaneous sites recorded, as a result of the field assessment, included several unclassified sites as well as the Holford dog pound, a quarry on Stowbarrow Hill, a circular platform in Swinage Wood, that may be a charcoal burning site, and a boundary stone on the parish boundary between East Quantoxhead and Holford on Longstone Hill.

6.4.0 Condition of sites

6.4.1 The assessment of the condition of sites was based on a subjective judgement of the visible above ground remains in association with an interpretation of their original design and function. Of the 121 sites visited 25 (20.66%) were not assessed for their condition. These included the single negative aerial photographic site, 3 sites that could not be located and 21 non-structural flint sites.

6.4.2 All of the flint sites visited were revealed as a result of erosion caused by trackways used by both pedestrians and vehicles and so all of these sites have to some extent been damaged. Since the extent and nature of the actual sites is unknown the degree of damage cannot be calculated. It should be additionally noted that it is generally only as a result of this erosion that these sites are identified in the first place.

6.4.3. The following table shows the condition of the remaining 96 sites:

Condition of sites

		No.	% of 96
A	Very good	7	7.29
B	Good	34	35.41
C	Fair	30	31.25
D	Poor	19	19.79
E	Bad	6	6.25
	Totals	96	100.00

6.4.4 With two thirds (66.66%) of the sites assessed as being in either good or fair condition the general health of the resource within the AONB appears to be accordingly fair to good. However, areas of concern were also identified. Footwear and vehicle traffic erosion were identified as the single most damaging aspect of current, principally recreational, usage within the AONB.

6.4.5 As a site type group, round barrows were found to be in poorer condition with much recent damage and continuing footwear erosion in evidence. Of the 37 barrows and funerary cairns that were assessed 27 (72.97%) were in only fair to poor condition.

Condition of barrows and cairns

		No.	% of 37
A	Very good	0	0.00
B	Good	7	18.92
C	Fair	13	35.13
D	Poor	14	37.84
E	Bad	3	8.11
	Total	37	100.00

6.4.6 Barrows situated on hill tops and hill spurs, which often make good view points, are especially vulnerable to footwear erosion, and they appear to attract a considerable number of casual visitors. The removal of the vegetational cover on these usually high and exposed sites can be quickly followed by the erosion of the thin soils. In the case of cairns structural material is then rapidly dislodged. Particularly bad cases occur at the summit barrow cemeteries of Beacon Hill and Wills Neck. The erection of Ordnance Survey trigonometrical pillars, actually on barrows, at these two locations has exacerbated the problem.

6.4.7 The round barrow on the SE side of Wilmot's Pool has been used by motor cyclists as a scrambling obstacle and this has caused deep radial scarring of the monument. The SMR records show that in 1983 there were only four radial scars while in 1987 this survey recorded six.

7.0.0 RESULTS

7.1.0 Sites by type

7.1.1 There were 7 new specific site types added to the record. These were catch meadows, fish weirs, gardens, hut circles, leats, marl pits and unclassified sites. The table below shows how these and all other sites were recorded in this survey.

7.1.2

Type	A/P	Field	SMR	Total	%
Barrows	14	0	50	64	14.22
Beacons	0	0	1	1	0.22
Buildings	2	0	8	10	2.22
Cairns	0	0	23	23	5.11
Castles	0	0	1	1	0.22
Catch meadows	5	0	0	5	1.11
Cemeteries	0	0	12	12	2.66
Crosses	0	0	5	5	1.11
Deer parks	0	0	7	7	1.55
Deserted farms	18	0	5	23	5.11
Enclosures	23	0	15	38	8.44
Field systems	12	0	3	15	3.33
Fish ponds	0	0	10	10	2.22
Fish weirs	5	0	0	5	1.11
Flint sites	0	19	27	46	10.22
Gardens	1	0	0	1	0.22
Hill forts	0	0	3	3	0.66
Hut circles	3	6	0	9	2.00
Leats	2	0	0	2	0.44
Lime kilns	0	0	24	24	5.33
Linear features	0	0	3	3	0.66
Marl pits	12	0	0	12	2.66
Mills	0	0	16	16	3.55
Mill ponds	0	0	1	1	0.22
Mines	3	0	11	14	3.11
Moats	0	0	1	1	0.22
Mounds	6	6	19	31	6.88
Other sites	6	3	22	31	6.88
Quarries	23	1	1	25	5.55
Trackways	2	0	2	4	0.88
Settlement	2	0	3	5	1.11
Unclassified	0	3	0	3	0.66
Totals	139	38	273	450	100.00

7.2.0 Sites by period

7.2.1 The periods where most new data was collected were the prehistoric, with 45 new sites and the medieval, with 49 new sites. The high number of sites where no period was attributable, the uncertain group with 62 new sites, reflects another aspect of the limitations inherent in surveys based on remote sensing techniques. The following table shows how the archaeological sites in the AONB are now distributed by period.

7.2.2

Period	A/P	Field	SMR	Total	%
Prehistoric	19	26	108	153	34.00
Romano British	0	0	2	2	0.44
Medieval	45	4	81	130	28.89
Post medieval	20	1	59	80	17.78
Uncertain	55	7	23	85	18.89
Total	139	38	273	450	100.00

7.3.0 Sites and Monuments Register update

7.3.1 The principal objective of this survey was to expand and enhance the data base. As a result 177 new sites have been added to the record which is now increased by 64.84%, from the original total of 273 sites, to 450 sites. These figures are further broken down in the table below.

7.3.2

	No.		% of 450	
Pre-survey sites	273		60.66	
New A/P sites	139	> 177	30.88	> 39.33
New sites in field	38		8.44	
Totals	450		100.00	

8.0.0 DISCUSSION

8.1.0 Archaeological by period

8.1.1 Prehistoric period

This survey has added little to our understanding of the early prehistoric period beyond the addition of the new flint sites, although this was to be expected given the nature and limitations of the survey.

8.1.2 From the first part of the later prehistoric period the Bronze Age barrow cemeteries are the only surviving elements of the highly organised upland landscapes that we might expect from that time (Flemming, 1978 and 1983). On Quantock the field systems and identifiable settlements are missing. The most significant advance in respect of the later prehistoric period has been the discovery of the settlement at the head of Rams Combe. Previously settlement from this period was only inferred from the later hillfort sites. It is not clear to which cultural group these new sites belong.

8.1.3 The recording of out works and possible field banks around the Higher Castles enclosure underlines the necessity for viewing all archaeological sites as part of a larger landscape of inter-related sites. In this particular case it seems likely that some of the present day hedges in this area are on boundaries that were established during the Iron Age. The general absence of field systems attributable to this period on Quantock is puzzling unless we assume that the later medieval agricultural activity has destroyed the evidence. For a variety of reasons, principally the ephemeral nature of the medieval works, this is not a wholly convincing assumption.

8.1.4 Our perception of the Quantock Hills as an area of mainly prehistoric archaeology was no doubt helped by the fact that it was only prehistorians who had demonstrated any real interest in the area (Grinsell, 1969, 1970 and 1976)(Norman and Norman, 1974)(Norman, 1975). Such characterisation was helped by the mistaken association of open moorland with prehistoric agricultural exploitation. The idea being that all upland heather and grass moorland must be ancient and either represent a flora that developed in the ameliorating climate of the last, immediate post glacial period, or on soils depleted by early prehistoric agricultural techniques. As we shall see later in this section this is not the case on the Quantocks and in some areas the vegetation is of relatively recent origin.

8.1.5 Romano British period

Although activity from this period is recorded around the area of the AONB (Grinsell, 1970) nothing new was added to our understanding of this period on the Quantocks as a result of this survey.

8.1.6 Saxon period

The name of the hills dates at least from this period and is probably derived from the celtic 'cantuc' meaning a ridge or chain of hills (Ekwall, 1977). Alternatively both the hills and the settlement of Cannington may have taken their name from the description of a possible Royal estate in this area (Costen, 1988).

8.1.7 Woodlands are now firmly established as integral features within past economic landscapes and their contribution to our understanding of that past is considerable (Rackham, 1976). Archaeologically, they are considered important for three reasons. One, they are landscape specific sites and therefore archaeological sites in their own right. Two, they are likely to have preserved other types of archaeological sites and three, they have amenity value and potential for interpretation and monument presentation (Darvill, 1987, 92). On Quantock the evidence from the field survey suggests that it is the first reason that is likely to be most significant.

8.1.8 The seventh century Anglo-Saxon charter for West Monkton mentions 'that famous wood which is called Cantocwudu', a wood which Rackham points out did not succumb to Saxon or medieval farming but to modern forestry (Rackham, 1986, 84). The evidence from the Domesday Book shows that in 1086 woodlands in the W of the county were an important part of the economy and their distribution indicates that Quantock was well wooded (Darby and Welldon Finn, 1967, Fig.41). Although included here under the Saxon period, woodland management in the area will have continued right through both the medieval and post medieval periods. In 1986 the NCC published maps indicating only 426 ha of ancient woodland surviving (Lister and Pinches, 1986). This is woodland that has existed from at least medieval times and accounts for 17.11% of all present woodland within the AONB.

8.1.9 Evidence for past woodland management in the form of pollards and possibly coppice was recorded in several of the now unmanaged areas of oak woodland. In Adder Wood, Bircham Wood, Black Ball Wood and on Lady's Edge, pollards were recorded as widely scattered features

which may have formed internal boundaries within these woods. No wood bank or other associated earthwork features were recorded in this survey. It is likely, however, that other archaeological sites will survive hidden in the 25% of the AONB that is woodland and which now remains the one area where virtually no systematic archaeological survey has taken place and where aerial photographic techniques cannot be usefully applied (see 6.2.1 above).

8.1.10 It is possible that some of the deserted farm sites recorded in this survey date from this period. Of 137 deserted farm sites listed on Exmoor and the Brendon Hills, 5 or 6 were found to pre-date 1086 (Aston, 1983). As in the case further W, in the Exmoor National Park, deserted farms tend to occupy the marginal zones between land that is economically viable and that which is not. This means that they are a particularly vulnerable site type whose survival always was, and continues to be, at the mercy of fluctuating economies and the vagaries of climatic change. Many of these sites exist for those very reasons. They were marginal, perhaps opportunist, sites established under favourable conditions only to be abandoned at the onset of more stressful times.

8.1.11 Medieval period

Without a detailed programme of documentary research and excavation it is not possible to distinguish, on morphological grounds alone, between a Saxon or a medieval farm site. It is expected that many of the deserted farm sites recorded are medieval. It is also as well to remember that nearly all of the existing enclosed landscape within the AONB bears testimony to its medieval origins with its settlement patterns, fields, hollow-ways and woodland.

8.1.12 The extensive medieval and post medieval field systems and areas of narrow rig ploughing are probably the most significant features recorded in this survey. Although something of their extent was suspected (Aston, 1978) this is the first time they have been mapped throughout the AONB and their true extent appreciated. The SW facing slopes of the Hills are particularly well covered with these features and this may reflect an understanding of the advantages of how soil temperatures change with aspect. With present day soils on Exmoor those on W facing slopes are markedly warmer than those on N or E facing slopes (Curtis, 1971).

8.1.13 Vegetational survey of Quantock heathland has indicated some interesting correlations between the distribution of these cultivational features and the classification

of heath types. The areas where ridge and furrow occurs have, with few exceptions, moderately to well drained podzol and brown ranker soils which support Pteridium, Ulex-Agrostis heath and herb rich heath. Dry Calluna-Deschampsia heath is also found on cultivational features but ridge and furrow supporting wet Calluna heath is rare (Ninnes, 1984). It is not clear if the areas of cultivation occur where they do because of the better drained soils or whether the soils are better drained because they have been cultivated. Ninnes draws attention to the very abrupt transition between the Ulex-Agrostis heath and the Calluna heath at the edge of the ridge and furrow on Longstone Hill. This forms an archaeological and a vegetational boundary that is coincident with the parish boundary between East Quantoxhead and Kilve. In this instance it might be argued that the cultivation on the Kilve side of the boundary is responsible for the development of freer draining soils. In general, however, not enough detailed information is available to enable us to determine how much of the distribution of the ridge and furrow is constrained by pedogenic factors.

8.1.14 It is not clear from the literature whether or not the Quantocks were a Royal Forest in their own right or whether they were wholly or partially included in the Forest of North Petherton. By the thirteenth century the administration had been transfered to the royal park at North Petherton (Rackham, 1988).

8.1.15 Post Medieval period

Although the earliest reference to cultivation on the Quantocks is in 1330 (Siraut, 1985), it is not known when this cultivation finally ceased. In Crowcombe, in the early part of the 18th century, common could still be tilled on payment of a small rent (Bush, 1985). William Marshall writing of the Quantocks in 1796 reports that the surface of the hills have been "heretofore cultivated" suggesting that they were no longer cultivated at that time (Marshall, 1796). It seems likely that this activity was never particularly intensive and the practice probably succumbed to the deteriorating climate of the 18th century.

8.1.16 Little new evidence has been forthcoming in relation to the post medieval industrial activities. The 3 new sites provisionally associated with mining are all unassessed aerial photographic sites.

8.2.0 Resource management

8.2.1 With the designation of the Quantock AONB in 1956 and the subsequent appointment of a warden, the County Council already possess both the necessary committee structure and the facility to monitor and influence a range of activities that occur within the daily working life of the Hills and their immediate surroundings. In addition the designation of the Quantock SSSI provides further constraint upon a range of both proscribed and indiscriminate activities occurring within a large section of the AONB.

8.2.2 The relationship between nature conservation and cultural resource management has been under close scrutiny over the past few years and practitioners from both disciplines have become more aware of the desirability of intergrated heritage policies (Lambrick, 1985). In view of the influence of the NCC upon the management of such a large and archaeologically important section of the AONB, it is considered desirable that a close, informal liaison is maintained between the NCC and the archaeologist in the SCPD (see para. 9.1.5 below).

8.3.0 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

8.3.1 Prior to this survey 17.58% of archaeological sites in the AONB were scheduled as Ancient Monuments, with the addition of sites added to the record as a result of this survey, this figure has dropped to 10.66%. This is still well above the national average of 4.2% but is now close to the figure for upland areas which is at 9.7% (Darvill, 1986, 58). This situation does not, however, reflect any particular advantage upon the overall management status of the AONB since 66.67% of all Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the Quantocks fall within the barrows and cairns group. The table, 8.3.2 below, shows the unbalanced nature of previous scheduling priorities. This aspect of the resource management within the AONB is clearly unrepresentative and requires attention. This is not a problem peculiar to Quantock, however, but is recognised nationally and is under review (Wainwright, 1985). While it would be desirable to have a representative sample of sites from each period and site type within the AONB scheduled, it should be borne in mind that it is not sufficient to simply schedule a site to secure its protection. The further commitment of a properly designed management plan and a management agreement with the owner of the site is also required.

8.3.2 Scheduled and unscheduled sites incorporating survey data

Type	Scheduled			Not Scheduled		Total
	No.	%/type	%/SAM	No.	%/type	
Barrows	26	40.62	54.17	38	59.37	64
Beacon	1	100.00	2.08	0	0.00	1
Buildings	4	40.00	8.33	6	60.00	10
Cairns	6	26.08	12.50	17	73.91	23
Castles	0	0.00	0.00	1	100.00	1
Catch meadows	0	0.00	0.00	5	100.00	5
Cemeteries	0	0.00	0.00	12	100.00	12
Crosses	4	80.00	8.33	1	20.00	5
Deer parks	0	0.00	0.00	7	100.00	7
Deserted farms	0	0.00	0.00	23	100.00	23
Enclosures	3	7.89	6.25	35	92.10	38
Field systems	0	0.00	0.00	15	100.00	15
Fish ponds	0	0.00	0.00	10	100.00	10
Fish weirs	0	0.00	0.00	5	100.00	5
Flint sites	0	0.00	0.00	46	100.00	46
Gardens	0	0.00	0.00	1	100.00	1
Hill forts	2	66.66	4.17	1	33.33	3
Hut circles	0	0.00	0.00	9	100.00	9
Leats	0	0.00	0.00	2	100.00	2
Lime kilns	0	0.00	0.00	24	100.00	24
Linear features	1	33.33	2.08	2	66.66	3
Marl pits	0	0.00	0.00	12	100.00	12
Mills	0	0.00	0.00	16	100.00	16
Mill ponds	0	0.00	0.00	1	100.00	1
Mines	0	0.00	0.00	14	100.00	14
Moats	0	0.00	0.00	1	100.00	1
Mounds	0	0.00	0.00	31	100.00	31
Other sites	0	0.00	0.00	30	100.00	30
Pottery kiln	1	100.00	2.08	0	0.00	1
Quarries	0	0.00	0.00	25	100.00	25
Trackways	0	0.00	0.00	4	100.00	4
Settlement	0	0.00	0.00	5	100.00	5
Unclassified	0	0.00	0.00	3	100.00	3
Totals	48		100.00	402		450

8.4.0 Kilve Pill

8.4.1 The ease of access to the coast at Kilve Pill makes it probably the most popular visitor site that lies within the AONB and is not actually on the Hills. The car park and beach here attract a large number of visitors to a small area that contains a number of important archaeological sites. These include:-

i. the remains of an early 14th century chantry (AM 480).
ii a farm house originally associated with the chantry (grade II* listed building).
iii the 14th century church (grade II* listed building).
iv the remains of a medieval fish pond.
v the remains of a 20th century oil retort house (grade II listed building).
vi a limekiln.
vii the remains of a small harbour first mentioned in the 16th century.

8.4.2 The beach here falls within the Blue Anchor to Lilstock SSSI which is designated because it is of international geological importance. At Kilve there are, in addition, important coastal geomorphological structures upon which are developed a macro-tidal environment also considered to be of national importance. Within half a kilometre to the SW lies East Wood and within a similar distance to the E lies Kilton Park Wood. Both woods are listed by the NCC as ancient woodland (Lister and Pinches, 1986.). East Wood is linked to the Kilve Pill complex by a foot path.

8.4.3 The interpretative potential of the area at Kilve is extraordinarily high and it is here considered desirable that it should be developed, if only at a basic level, to prevent damage occurring to sites through ignorance. The implemented recommendations of the Kilve Pill Conservation and Amenity Project (SCC and WSDC, 1985) would go a long way towards protecting the fabric of the archaeological and architectural features but fall short of recognising the full, integrated, county heritage potential of the area. The sites here form a coherent group ideally suited to short, self-conducted trails. No other group of archaeological sites has been identified within the Quantock AONB that display such a variety of site types coupled with such a high visual profile. It is not suggested that more people should be actively encouraged to the area but that a comprehensive, preferably off site, interpretative system should be developed to provide as much information as possible about all aspects of the landscape here. A proliferation of on site interpretative boards is not considered desirable. A formal publication along the lines of Hampshire County Councils Countryside Heritage series might be considered as an appropriate format. Information relating to the archaeological sites should set them within their economic, religious and landscape contexts.

8.4.4 Part of the attraction of the Kilve Pill area is its intimate scale and exposed coastal wildness, coupled with an inland scenery which contains many features in the tradition of the eighteenth and nineteenth century English romantic landscapes. Great care should be taken not to destroy, through insensitive interpretative installations, the very real, and symbolic, value that such landscapes possess for many people today.

9.0.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.0.1 The recommendations that have arisen out of the current work have been incidental to this survey and they should not be considered as a definitive statement of requirement. They do, however, represent a fair sample of the types of action that will be required to satisfactorily safeguard the archaeological resource within the AONB.

9.1.0 General Recommendations

9.1.1 1. That the County Council and HBMC should continue to support the identification and detailed mapping of sites of archaeological importance in order that it may define those sites and areas in detail.

9.1.2 2. That the County Council and HBMC should continue to support the assessment and evaluation of the defined sites and areas of archaeological importance.

9.1.3 3. That the County Council should seek the protection of those sites deemed to be of national, regional or county importance by either:-

i. Proposing sites and areas for scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979.

ii. Seeking to take sites into Public Ownership or Guardianship.

iii. Entering into a management agreement with the owner and tenant.

iv. Notifying owners and tenants of the presence of archaeological features and to agree a voluntary notification procedure relating to a limited range of activities that may affect those features.

9.1.4 4. That the County Council should undertake the promotion of information about the archaeology and history of the Quantock Hills.

9.1.5 It is recommended that as an initial step towards an informal liaison with the NCC, the SCPD should produce, for the NCC, a map of the Quantock SSSI with all sites and areas of archaeological significance marked on it. It is not considered necessary that the relative importance of sites need be indicated.

9.1.6 Woodlands

It is recommended that all woodland within the AONB is surveyed archaeologically. Priority in the first instance should be given to those woods listed in the NCC's Somerset Inventory of Ancient and Semi-natural woodland.

9.2.0 Specific Recommendations

9.2.1 The area or site specific recommendations come under the three general headings of Scheduling and scheduled sites, Evaluation and Monitoring.

9.2.2 Scheduling and scheduled sites

It is suggested that the following sites are of national importance and that the SCC and HBMC should therefore consider them for scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979.

i. The deserted farm site with the remnants of its infields at Kenley Copse (SMR No. 43611).

ii. The later prehistoric settlement at the head of Rams Combe (SMR No. 11390, includes hut sites SMR Nos. 11391, 11392, 11393, 11394, 11395 and 11360).

iii. An area of medieval field systems on Beacon Hill and West Hill to also include the line of tree ring enclosures and the hill top barrow cemetery (SMR Nos. 33333, 33334, 33335, 33336, 33346, 34713, 34718, 34719, 34720, 34721, 34722).

iv An area of field systems and narrow rig ploughing on Lydeard Hill (SMR No. 43008).

v. It is recommended that the scheduling of Dead Woman's Ditch, AM 453 (SMR No.11127), be extended to include the whole of the visible monument. To the N this area will need to be

extended for approximately 0.5 km and to the S for some 400 m.

vi. It is also recommended that the possible motte and bailey at Over Stowey (SMR 10673) be considered within this section but that its inclusion should depend upon an evaluation and survey of the site.

9.2.3 It is recommended that Ruborough hill fort, AM 333 (SMR 10228), and the large, probable Iron Age enclosure at Plainsfield, AM 334 (SMR 11128), are metrically surveyed. Both sites are in Forestry Commission soft wood plantations and a management agreement should be sought prior to felling taking place. At Ruborough, where there are trees growing inside the enclosure, it would probably be less destructive to make a controlled, archaeological cut through the N side ramparts rather than having machinery entering and removing felled trees through the original entrances. The tree stumps should be left in place within the outer limits of the enclosure.

9.2.4 Evaluation

Recommendations for the evaluation of sites are made on the grounds of their apparent national or regional significance. Such action is required to determine the nature of their subsequent management.

9.2.5 The evaluation of sites is defined here as a process by which sites are assessed by the application of the non-statutory criteria developed to determine whether or not a site is to be scheduled (DoE, 1983). These criteria are :-

Survival/Condition
Period
Rarity
Fragility/Vulnerability
Diversity
Documentation
Group value
Potential

A variety of methods including geophysical and metrical survey, documentary research and limited evaluation trenching are considered appropriate. The following sites or areas will require evaluation.

9.2.6 Sites of national importance

i. Kenley Copse deserted farm site (SMR 43611).

ii. The later prehistoric settlement at the head of Rams Combe (SMR No. 11390, includes hut sites SMR Nos. 11391, 11392, 11393, 11394, 11395 and 11360).

iii. An area of medieval field systems and tree ring enclosures on West Hill and Beacon Hill (SMR Nos. 33333, 33334, 33335, 33336, 33346, 34713, 34718, 34719, 34720, 34721, 34722).

iv. An area of narrow rig ploughing and field system on Lydeard Hill (SMR. No. 43008).

v. Dead Woman's Ditch (AM 453, SMR No.11127). Including the unscheduled areas to the N and S.

vi. The possible motte and bailey at Over Stowey (SMR 10673).

vii. Ruborough Hill Fort (AM 333, SMR 10228).

viii. Plainsfield enclosure (AM 334, SMR 11128).

9.2.7 Sites of regional or county significance

i. The deserted farm site at Kings Cliff Wood (SMR 11353).

ii. The deserted farm site at Binford Wood (SMR 11354).

iii. The deserted farm site at Duck's Pool (SMR 11380).

iv. The deserted farm site at Great Hill (SMR 34706).

v. The deserted farm site at Smokenham (SMR 43600).

vi. The two hill slope enclosures with possible hut circles at Higher Halsway (SMR Nos. 34702, 34703).

vii. The ruinous barrow on Will's Neck which lies within an area where there is an application to extend Triscombe Quarry (SMR No. 43064).

viii. The remains of mining activity at Raswell Farm (SMR No. 10254).

9.2.8 Monitoring

Round barrows were found to be the one particular site type whose condition gave cause for concern (see 6.4.5 above). As a consequence it is recommended that, under the direction of the Field Archaeologist of the SCPD, the Quantock AONB Warden should have included within his bi-annual tasks, a programme of monitoring specific barrow sites to assess any changes which occur on selected groups of monuments. As well as monitoring the general wear and tear, such an exercise will also provide an early warning system in critical cases. The number and identification of sites that might be included in this programme are itemised below in a draft list of 14 sites.

9.2.9 List of barrows for bi-annual monitoring

Beacon Hill, 33331 (AM 418), 33332 (AM 418).
Hurley Beacon, 33226 (AM 412), 33228 (AM 412), 33229, 33230.
Higher Hare Knap, 33290.
Wilmot's Pool, 10671.
Will's Neck, 43059, 43060, 43061 (AM 409).
Lydeard Hill, 43003 (AM 410).
Cothelstone Hill, 43025 (AM 411), 43031.

9.2.10 Initial surveys of these sites should include areas of eroded soil cover, vegetational mapping and contour plotting to at least 1:50 scale. At least three permanent grid markers per site should be deployed in order that changes noted in subsequent monitoring can be related to the original survey.

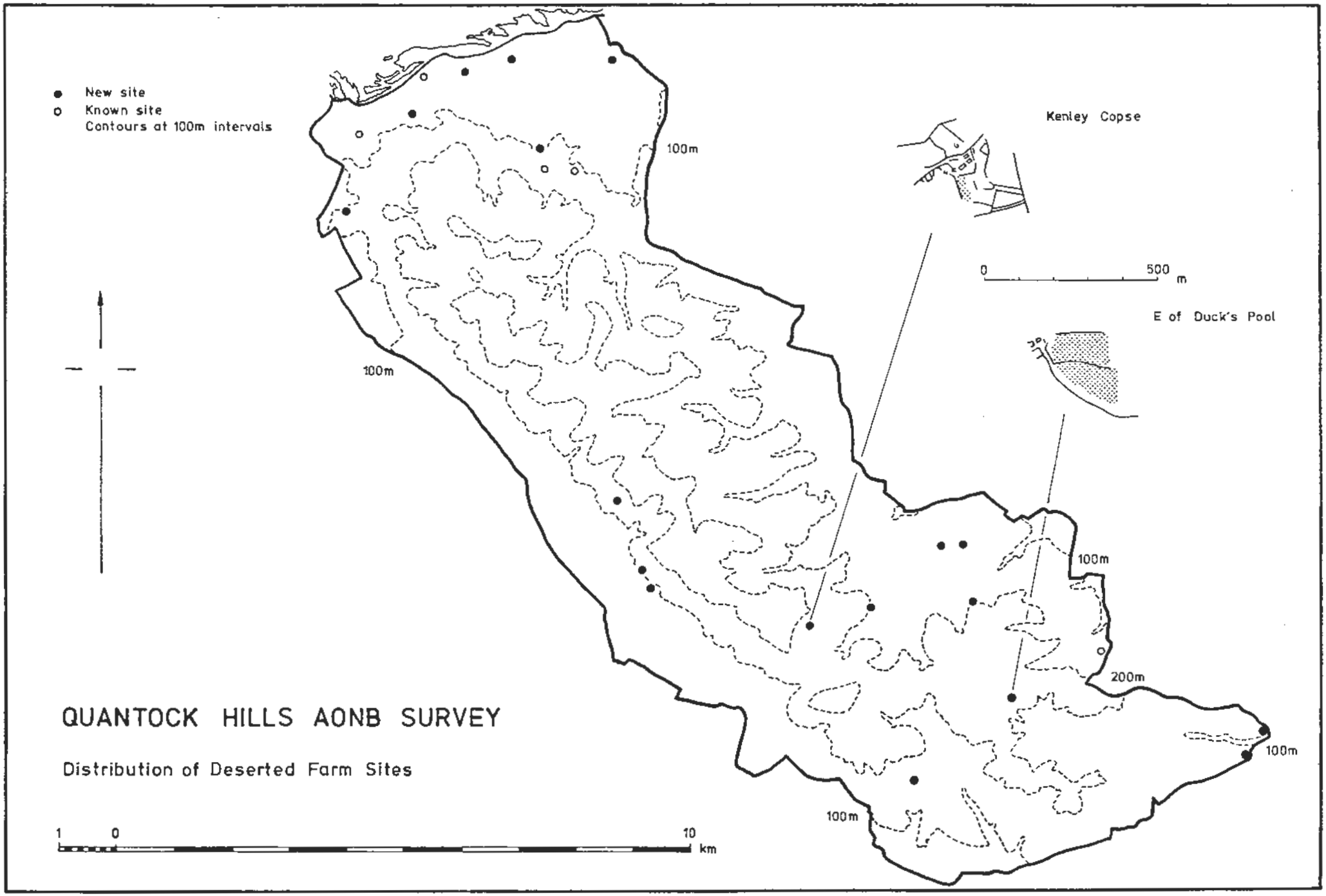
10.0.0 CONCLUSION

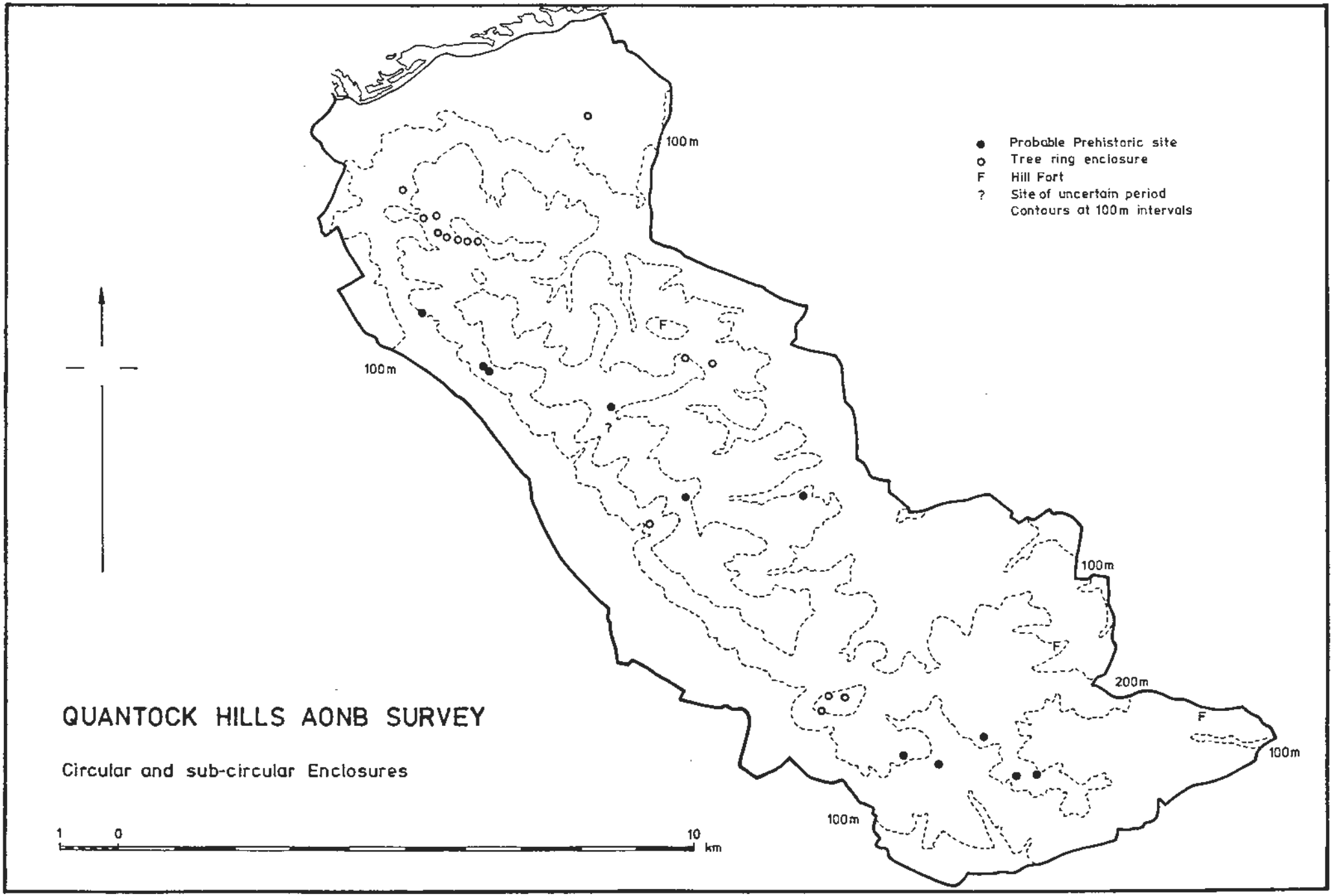
10.0.1 Although this survey has added substantially to the data base it should be remembered that the results are derived principally from remote sensing techniques. Furthermore these techniques could not be usefully applied to the 25% of the AONB that is covered by woodland. In this respect this survey, even at a non-intensive level, cannot claim to be comprehensive. It should be seen, however, as the initial, data gathering stage in a longer programme of systematic survey and evaluation of the cultural resource within the AONB.

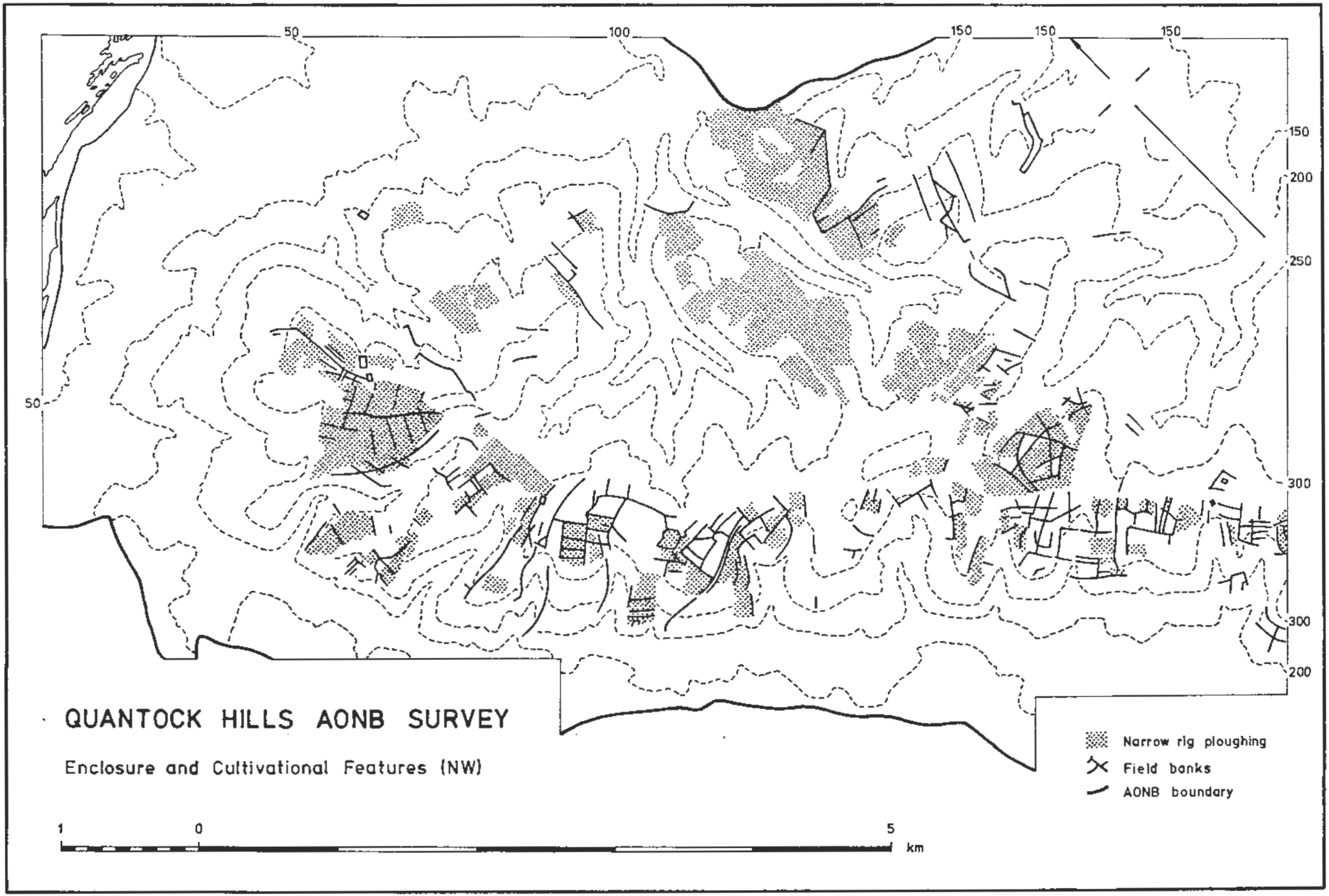
10.0.2 Of the 121 sites visited in the field 38 were new to the record. This means that for every known site visited a further 0.46 completely new sites were discovered. If we project this figure on the basis of the 412 known and aerial photographically recorded

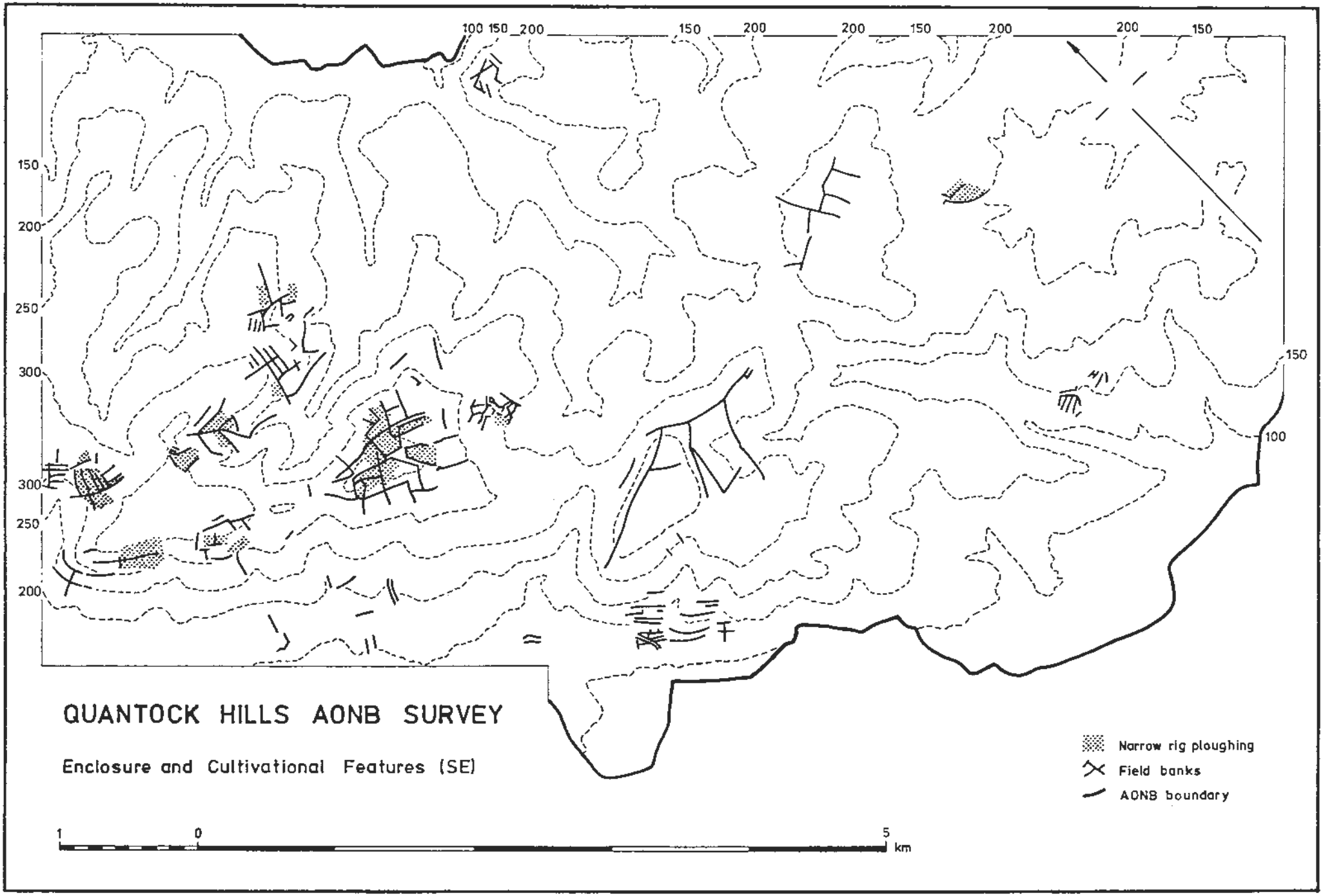
sites, the potential increase in the data base will be in the region of 190 sites. That is an increase of 46%. This figure, however, does not take into account the potential increase in the number of sites from other sources which have not been addressed by this survey. Documentary sources, in particular, are likely to reveal more new sites.

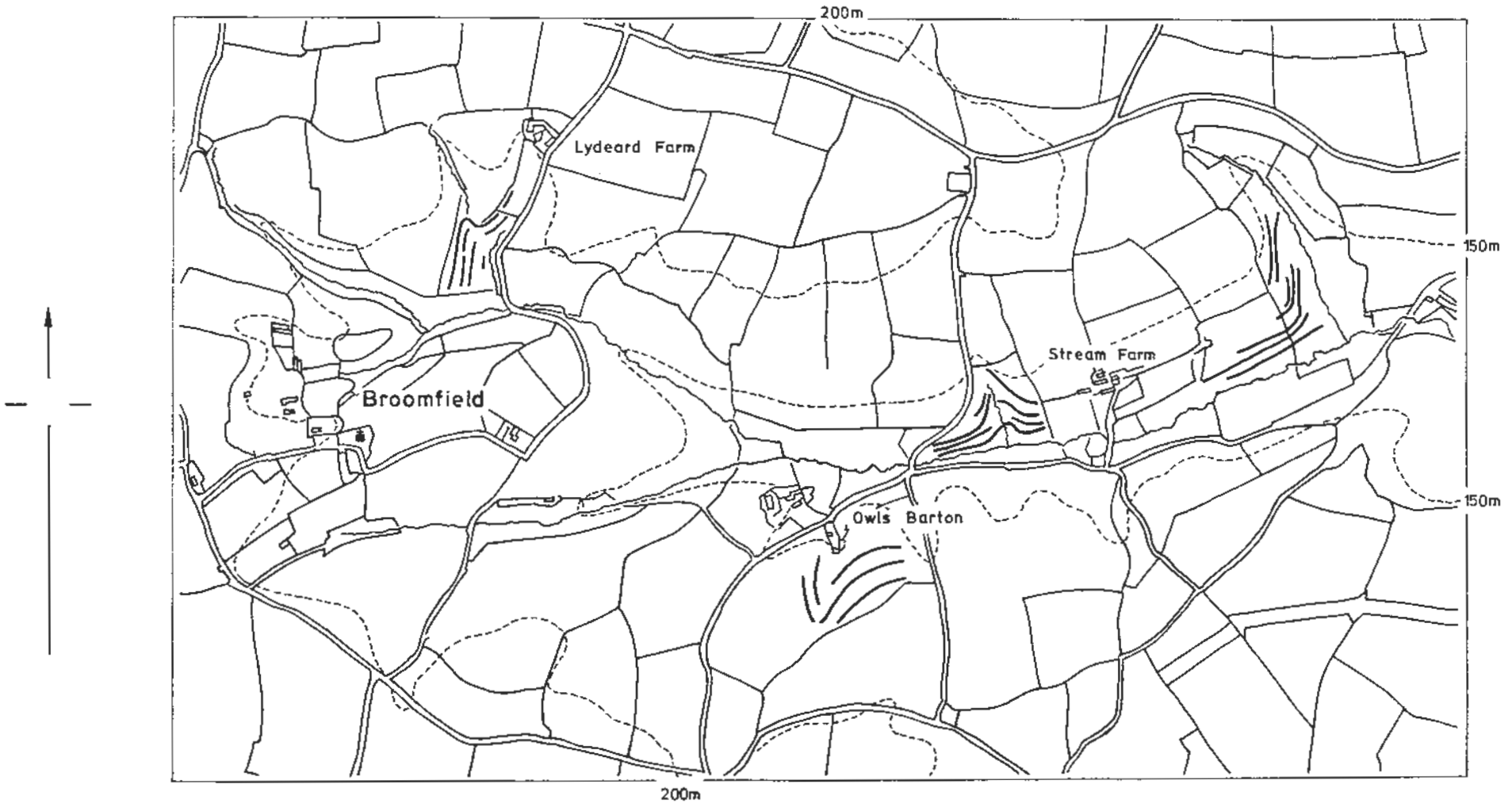
10.0.3 The implication is that the potential reserve of archaeological evidence in the AONB is likely to be considerable. Management policies should be directed towards preserving the physical data intact and consider the total archaeological excavation of sites only as a last resort and then only when faced with the unavoidable circumstances of a sites complete destruction.


New site
Known site
Contours at 100m intervals
100m
100m
Kenley Copse
0
500
m
E of Duck's Pool
100m
200m
100m
100m
QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SURVEY
Distribution of Deserted Farm Sites
1
0
10
km


Probable Prehistoric site
Tree ring enclosure
F Hill Fort
? Site of uncertain period
Contours at 100m intervals
100m
100m
100m
200m
100m
F
F
F
?
QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SURVEY
Circular and sub-circular Enclosures
1 0 10 km


50
100
150
150
150
150
200
250
300
300
200
50
QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SURVEY
Enclosure and Cultivational Features (NW)
Narrow rig ploughing
Field banks
AONB boundary
1
0
5
km


100 150 200
150 200
200 150 200
200 150
150
200
250
300
300
250
200
150
100
QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SURVEY
Enclosure and Cultivational Features (SE)
Narrow rig ploughing
Field banks
AONB boundary
1 0 5
km



QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SURVEY

Catch Meadows

1 0 2 km

12.0.0 REFERENCES

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