

Jane Marchand

Introduction to the archaeology on Lakehead Hill.

We're standing on the top of Lakehead Hill and to the south we're looking towards Bellever Tor and you can appreciate what a wonderful view it is of the tor from the top of Lakehead Hill and we're actually standing in what we call the unplanted area between two areas of stands of trees and this area is particularly rich in archaeology and it would seem to have been treated as a sacred area because we've got a number of burial cairns up here and we've also got three stone rows, possibly there were more stone rows here and why its particularly interesting is actually we've got five prehistoric cists and cairns which does give one the feeling that this was an area that was actually reserved for burial and other kinds of ceremonies, there are a large number of settlements in the area but they all seem to be situated just on the lower slopes of Lakehead Hill and round down into Bellever Tor itself.

So how is it that there's this very distinct unplanted area in the middle of Bellever Forest?

I think when the planting was first proposed there was a lot of local feeling about it because there was the recognition of how much archaeology there was up here and my understanding is that there must have been some kind of agreement with the Forestry Commission, possibly led by R.H. Worth, that actually Lakehead Hill itself would be kept clear of trees, because of the damaging effect that they have.