

**Peter Beacham**

**The longhouse tradition and historic significance of Higher Uppacott.**

The thing about the longhouse tradition is is that it could be something incredibly modest and it could be something really quite grand; and Higher Uppacott stands in the middle of the range, that's part of, I think, the attraction of the this business we call 'the vernacular building traditions', that you can have the same building type but it can be built at different scales, depending on the ambitions of the owners. Why the longhouse attracts the imagination of the ordinary punter is because it seems like the kind of archetypal dwelling, a primitive dwelling of having a house one end and animal shelter the other, and the great thing about Dartmoor is that it is only really in the whole of England, and indeed actually wider than that, in the whole of Western Europe now, that you've got a survival of this house type that shows that, in that particular way, so clearly. The examples that survive are very rare and because they're all slightly different each one of those rare survivals can truly be called unique; but where they do survive it is the fact that the shippon has not been converted that is rare, and we're down to a very, very small number, Higher Uppacott is one of the top six of the surviving longhouses.