

Prehistoric Dartmoor

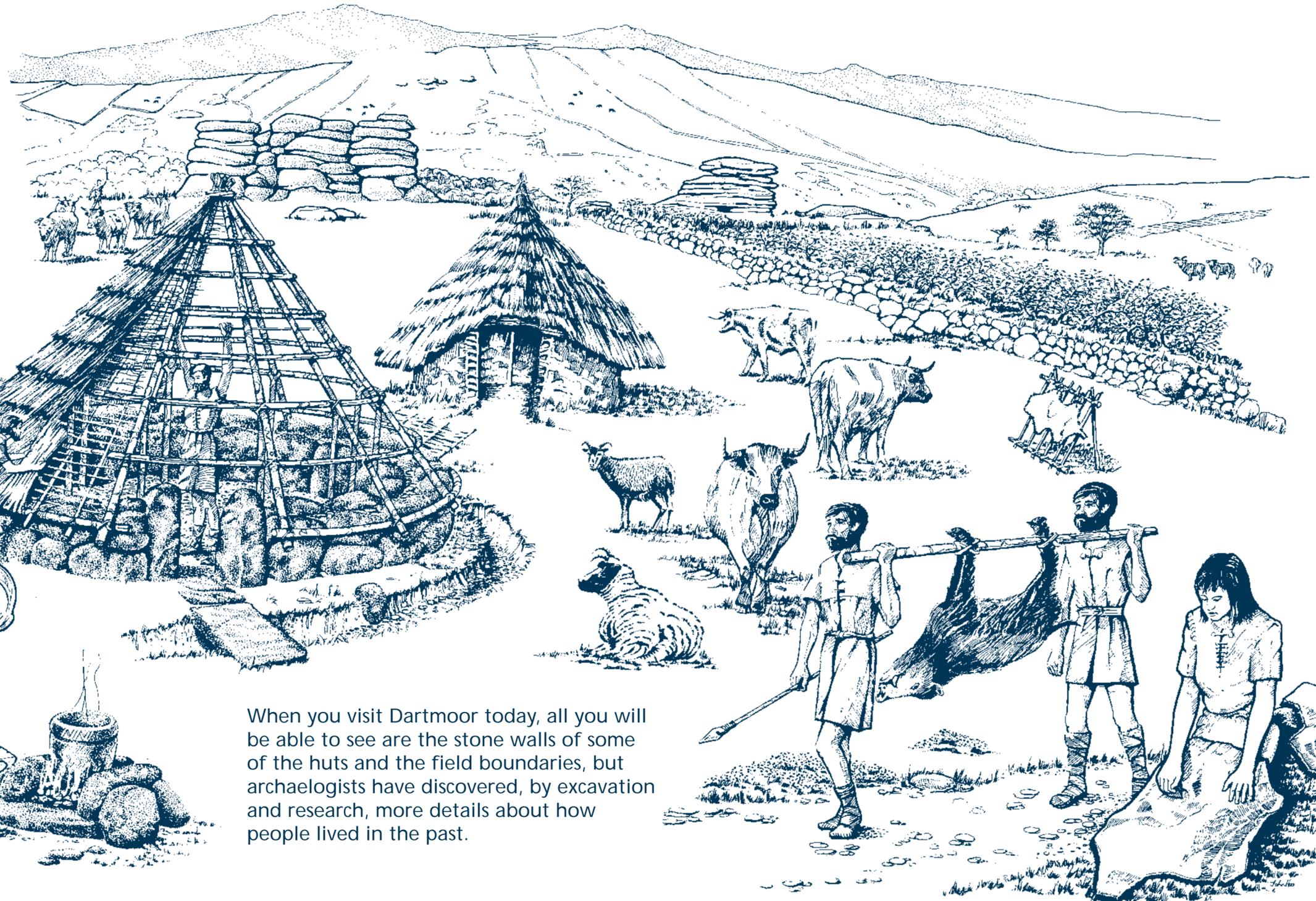


Dartmoor Poster

This is what Dartmoor may have looked like about 3,500 years ago. Stretching away into the distance, you can see long narrow fields bounded by stone walls (called reaves) in which animals are grazing. In the foreground a new house is being built. This has stone walls, and a conical wooden roof which is being thatched. A drain has been dug around the house to catch water dripping from the roof. In the distance are the remains of earlier houses, which by this time had been abandoned. Just behind the house is another round hut with walls of wattle (small interwoven pieces of wood) and daub (clay). Because no stones were used to build this, there will be no trace of it today on the ground, nor of the wattle hut animal pen to the left of the stone house or the rack for drying skins.

Cooking was sometimes done inside the houses. Here a woman is cooking on an open fire, using pots made from clay.

The people who lived here probably grew some crops, but Dartmoor was chiefly used for grazing cattle and sheep. Sometimes wild animals may have been hunted using spears made from wood and flint, or with bows and arrows (also made of flint).



When you visit Dartmoor today, all you will be able to see are the stone walls of some of the huts and the field boundaries, but archaeologists have discovered, by excavation and research, more details about how people lived in the past.

The clothes people wore would be made of wool and leather; the woman on the right is preparing a piece of leather with a flint scraper.

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