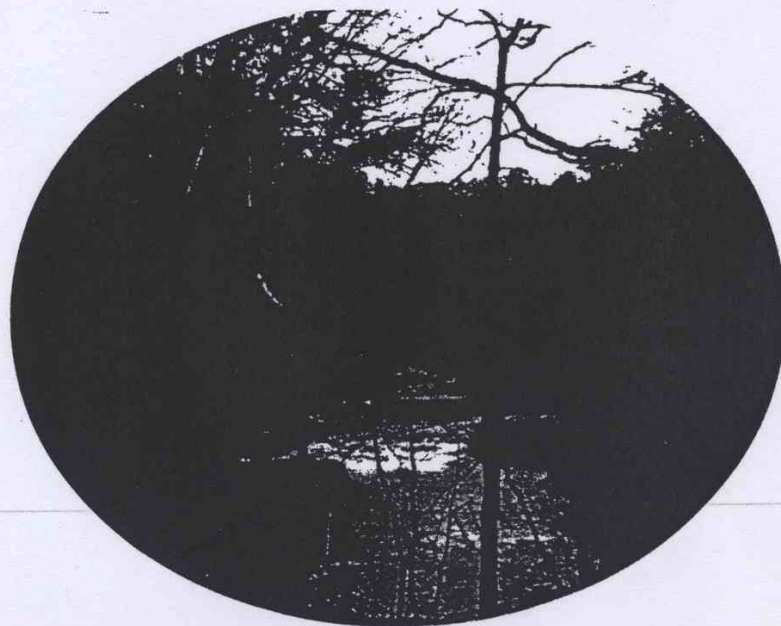


DARTIA

The Dart Valley Bioregion



A Preliminary Examination of the Watershed of the
River Dart, Devon,
as a Cohesive, Regenerative, Sustainable Ecological Region.

Some of its Past, its Present and its Achievable Future.

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INTRODUCTION

This packet has been assembled by participants in a three-week seminar at the Schumacher College, Dartington, and is offered to the citizens of this area as a gift that represents the best of our thoughts and feelings about this lovely and inspiring region.

The ideas that take shape in these pages arise from a number of sources--books, interviews, presentations, conversations, inspirations--that we have encountered over the last few weeks. We are particularly indebted to:

Totnes Library

National Rivers Authority

Dartmoor National Park

Nature Conservancy Council

Planning Department, South Hams

District Council

and especially:

Bill Bennett, M. S. Carpenter, Patsy Gifford, Stephan Harding, Norman Jarrett, Helen Sheard, and Colin Ward.

We ask that readers of the pages that follow accept them in the spirit of friendship and solidarity in which they are presented. We ask also that they understand that these ideas and supporting data are very preliminary, the result of an intensive but very short-term investigation, limited by inevitable deficiencies of information-collection. We would hope that in the future those who are touched by the visions captured here and who might be moved to carry these investigations future would join us in this project of refining and

strengthening the perceptions of a prosperous, sustainable,
healthy, and regenerative future for the bioregion of the
Dart watershed.

Bioregional Course/Project

Schumacher College

April 2, 1992

(For further information, please contact the Bioregional
Project, Schumacher College, Dartington, Totnes, Dartia,
Devon TQ9 6EA.)

DARTIA: WELCOME HOME

This study is an effort to apply the principles of bioregionalism to the River Dart watershed, a natural area we have christened "Dartia."

Bioregionalism, for all its seven-syllable grandeur, means simply:

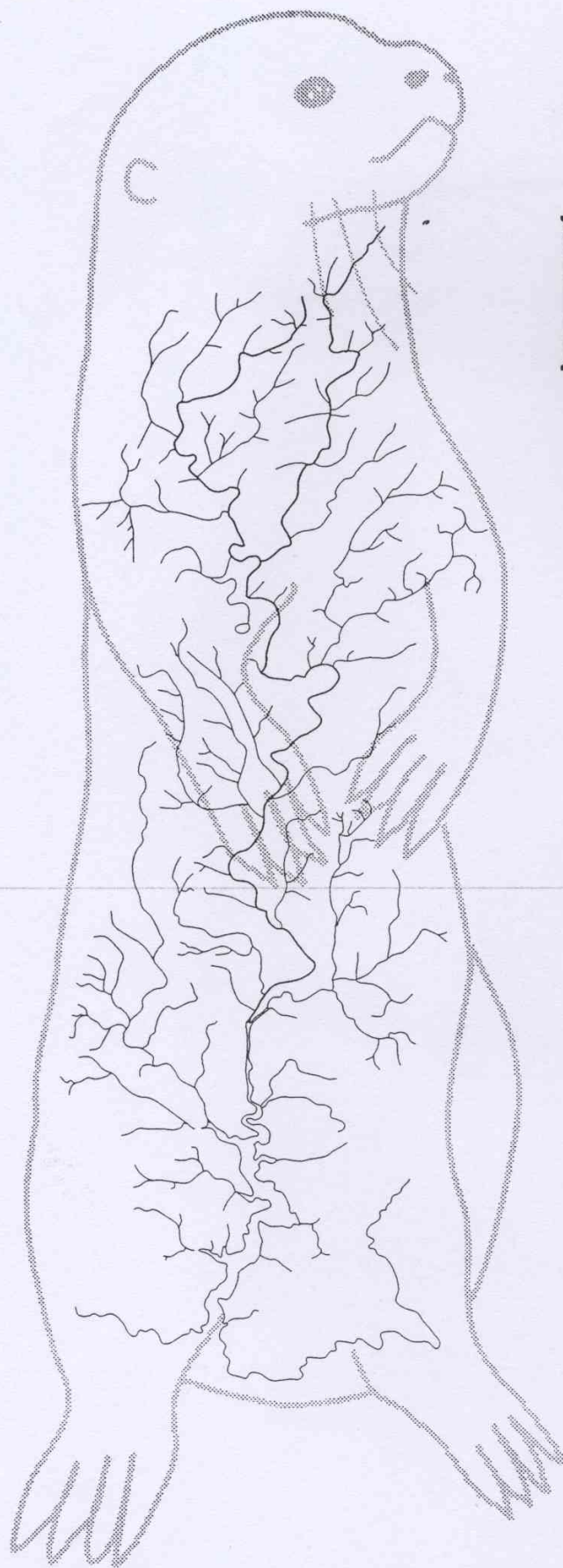
an understanding of the re-enchantment of the earth,
at the scale of the nature-given territory,
according to the laws of nature,
and guided by a reverence for the other species
of the territory and a goal of seeing them flourish.

Bioregionalism means learning a sense of place, a love of place, through a knowledge of its lore, an appreciation of its natural systems and flows, a reliance on its basic natural resources, and a liberation of its best energies and talents.

Bioregionalism means understanding the world around one--as all ancient people did, as many country folk and an appreciation of the birds and animals, the trees and flowers, the rivers and hills, the land and air, the families and communities, the traditions and wisdoms.

Bioregionalism means saving one part of the earth from the terrible spectre of ecological disaster--what some° are calling "eco-cide"--by trying to live without the consumption, the complexity, the poisons, the pollutions, the waste, the destruction, and the extinctions of the modern industrial monoculture that surrounds us. Such a task, we know, is not easy, but it does seem increasingly to be necessary. And if necessary, possible., to secure a safe and happy home.

Welcome home.



Darta the Otter

Energy

Although the region will be dependent on centralised energy sources for some time to come, a few enthusiastic citizens are already experimenting with local, renewable energy sources.

Although there is a tendency to consider alternative energy sources in terms of large, centralised sites such as wind farms and hydroelectric schemes, the effects can often be intrusive and even environmentally damaging. In addition, the economies of scale are less attractive once transmission costs and losses are taken into account.

Schemes that operate at community level, such as a wind generator or small hydro-generator can have advantages of local efficiency coupled with flexibility and robustness. It is evident that reliance on one form of alternative energy will not be enough: the sun goes down at night, rivers run dry, least freeze over and the wind is unpredictable. But we could use a combination of elements such as:

- * basic renewable resources such as pumped storage and heat
- * transfer technologies such as pumps
- * demand management.

Demand management means looking at energy conservation, particularly in terms of building design. Effective insulation and designs for trapping solar heat, such as conservatories, can significantly reduce energy requirements, since the bulk of energy used in the home is for space heating and water heating. A second feature of demand management is in smoothing the peaks in energy use: avoiding on all the rings on an electric cooker, for example. Also water can be heated and stored when energy is available, rather than trying to heat it from cold during peak load times.

This combination could go a long way towards meeting the energy needs of communities within Dartia.

A suitable long term policy would be to reduce the requirement for high voltage AC electricity, which is usually associated with high installation costs for generators. Many items of equipment that cannot operate on anything but electricity, such as computers and radios, are often able to run on low voltage DC. Other applications can often be supplied directly from renewable resources. Application of renewable energy sources include:

- * water and space heating (mainly solar)
- * mills for grain, saw-logs, toolmaking etc, also compressors (water power)
- * water pumping, pump storage, heat pumps (mainly wind).

Even with the best managed schemes, year-round needs will have to be supplemented by other sources of heat. The most suitable, sustainable source is wood fuel.

If there is no net loss of trees, wood burning has a neutral effect on the gases which cause the greenhouse effect, although poorly designed fires and stoves can cause air pollution. New housing developments can be designed to need minimum input from wood heating, which could be provided on a communal basis from a central oven, which could also be used for baking, forging and so on.

New low energy technology like manually operated earth compression rams, water and damp proofing techniques can also be taught. The ultimate aim is to make buildings affordable and suitable for self-building.

Clothing

Traditionally the people of Dartia relied on local resources for their clothing and footwear, principally sheep, sheared in late summer, whose wool was spun on both cottage and commercial hennies, and cattle, which provided leather processed in local tanneries.

Stock of both sheep and cattle, kept at half their present populations could, we estimate, fully supply the regular clothing needs of the Dartian population, supplemented perhaps by pigskin and sheepskin, and with a careful recycling of cloths, leathers, and other materials.

Water

The Dart bioregion is blessed with a natural and plentiful water system throughout almost all of its territory. emphasis must be on assuring that the pure waters of Dart are not fouled and polluted at any point upstream that all downstream may have access to a potable supply. In addition, the water table at most places in the area permit the use of wells where necessary, as was common in historical areas.

Reservoirs as sited at present are probably a necessity, at least in the short run, though their use must be balanced against the desirability of free-flowing waters for both the flourishing of fish and other riverine species and the running of watermills. A reduction of the careless waste of water that is now common, coupled with household and community systems of catching and using rainwater directly, would significantly reduce the present draw-down of water supplies and hence the dependence on reservoirs.

Prime attention must be paid to avoiding pollution to the river either by sewage flows, agricultural run-off, or industrial wastes. The elimination of toxics of all kinds, including agricultural chemicals, is of highest priority to this end, coupled with intensive recycling at all points and of most elements in the waste stream.

Transportation

Ideally, Dartia would work to reconfigure its settlement and employment patterns over time so that the place of work is in or near the home, so that extensive daily travel is unnecessary and could be accomplished by walking and cycling. Shopping, schooling, and other vital services would be kept, as in the traditional communities, within easy distance of all but the most distant household.

A reduction in the use of the internal-combustion engine is an environmental necessity, and we envision a gradual phasing-out of much individual automobile travel, and that confined to a few motorways. In its place, systems of community travel (by bus or train) and individual reliance on foot, cycling, animals (especially horses and ponies) and perhaps, (if the technology is benign) electric cars, would be more ecologically sound. Eventually it might be possible to convert many of the small lanes and tertiary roads to bicycle use exclusively, thus permitting a safe and extensive network of transportation.

We would also envision a much greater reliance on the Dart itself for personal and commercial transportation within the bioregion, particularly in the estuarian portion between Totnes and Dartmouth where the greatest number of people now live. Many water-borne means of transportation exist - most of them traditional to this region - that are safe, efficient and non-polluting, and many citizens of the bioregion are already skilled in their building and use.

Shelter

A wide variety of local materials have been used as evidence from the study of archeological remains. All these materials have been locally available, bio-degradable and harmless to life. Most importantly, all these materials have been put to a wide variety of use. Mud has been used for walling, plastering and white-washing. Heather, which is widely available on Dartmoor, has been not only as a roofing material, but also as lining material under thatched roofs.

Bricks were introduced in the Tudor times but were rejected because of problems in manufacture, transport and the wide availability of other building materials. When bricks were re-introduced in the 20th C, better transport and "fashion" made bricks and then later concrete came into wide use. In 1808, a cob house with thatched roof cost £60, while a brick house of similar size cost double the amount. Also brick and concrete are high energy material while cob is not. So obviously local materials save in energy costs during manufacture, transportation costs and energy costs during the life of the building.

A thatcher is a highly skilled person. His craft has remained virtually unchanged since the Middle Ages. However today, thatching has become uncommon. A whole genre of local tradition and also employment has quietly died down. Similarly plastering skills have also vanished.

Local building construction:

1. Use of local materials: Instead of importing building materials like slates, and reeds, strong emphasis must be placed on local materials. Materials can be re-worked with new low energy technology, if needed. For example if cob walls prove to be wasting too much floor area, compacted unbaked earth bricks are a good solution.

2. Use of low energy building materials: Materials that use very little energy during manufacture and yet are energy efficient during use should be encouraged. Mud or earth walls are a good example of this. Also building materials should be bio-degradable and harmless to life. Various soils can be used, for instance, for coloring lime-washes. The green staining fungus, beeswax and various natural oils could be used in staining woodwork.

3. Use of local building skills: Training centres can be set up to re-introduce people to the joys of vernacular building skills

Food

This area has a strong tradition of agriculture and horticulture which has contributed much towards the health and wealth of the population. In the past, the region has been self-sufficient in food with its own local distribution systems.

There is a firm foundation for building a future of abundant food and good health, independent of energy price rises and economic shocks. A future emphasis might be on having citizens:

- * increase the consumption of regional, seasonal foods
- * substitute exotic fruits and vegetables by growing more of the traditional, almost forgotten, local varieties
- * research traditional growing and cooking methods e.g. monestary kitchen garden records
- * provide education in nutritious, tasty methods of preparing local food
- * encourage citizens to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables in diverse, productive kitchen gardens
- * explore low-energy, self sustaining gardening methods
- * set up neighbourhood co-operatives and small businesses to cultivate direct marketing between consumers and producers
- * research the link between food and human health

Employment

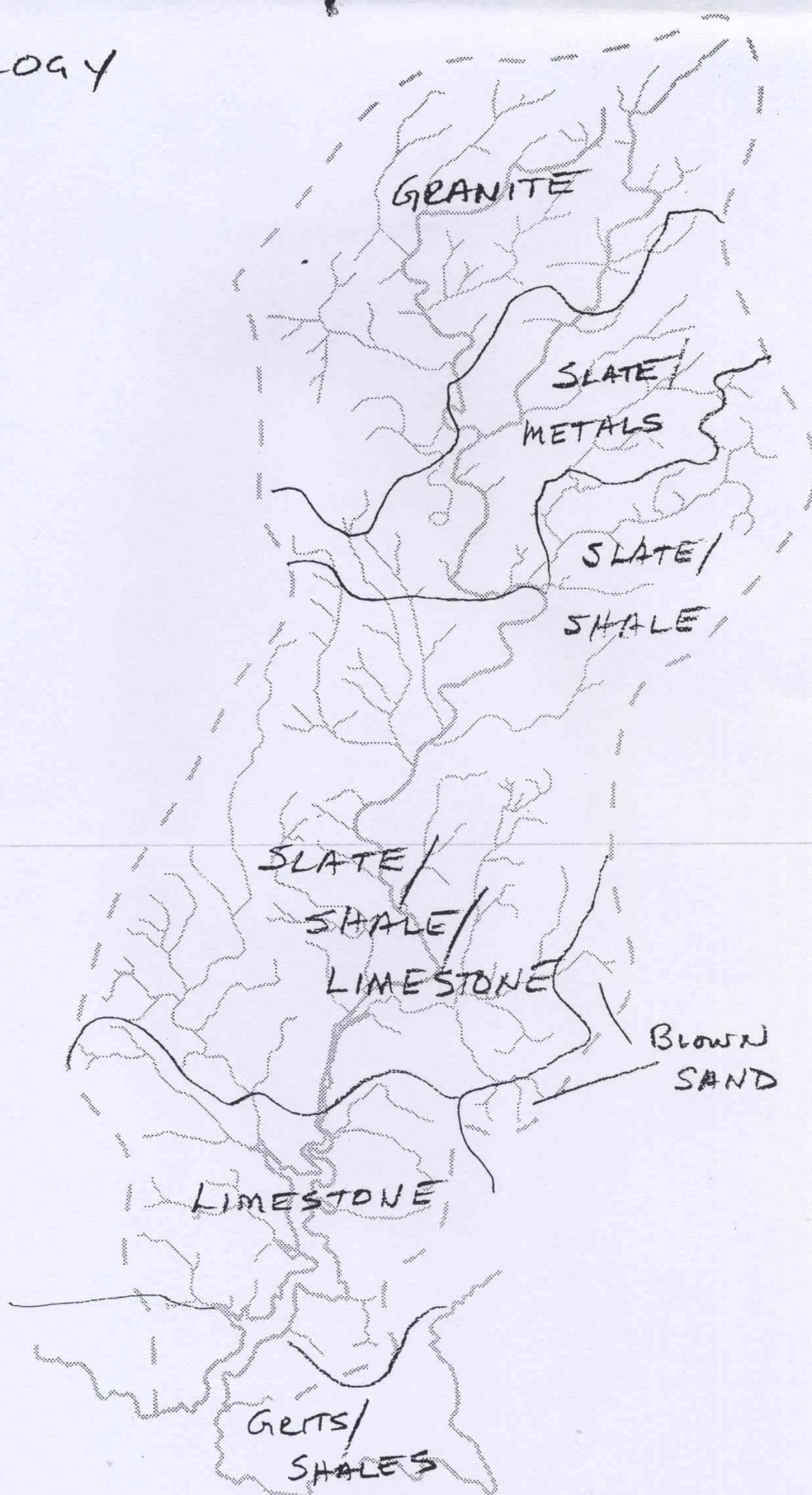
The goal of life in a bioregional Dartia is not work, and indeed one might expect an increase in leisure time in a self-sustaining economy, as is typically the case in non-hierarchical traditional societies. Nonetheless, certain functions must be carried out, and the virtue of a bioregional economy is that it offers a wide range of basic employment to all able willing hands.

In Dartia, as in any self-dependent area, increased emphasis would be placed on agricultural work, much of which would be labor-intensive rather than machine-driven, and on home and community artisanship and craftwork to supply daily needs. In a process known as 'import replacement', local manufactures would gradually replace those shipped in from elsewhere, and those would require local labour; in addition, the reliance upon local materials for regular needs would require the proliferation of local mills, workshops, home industries, markets and services

TOPOGRAPHY

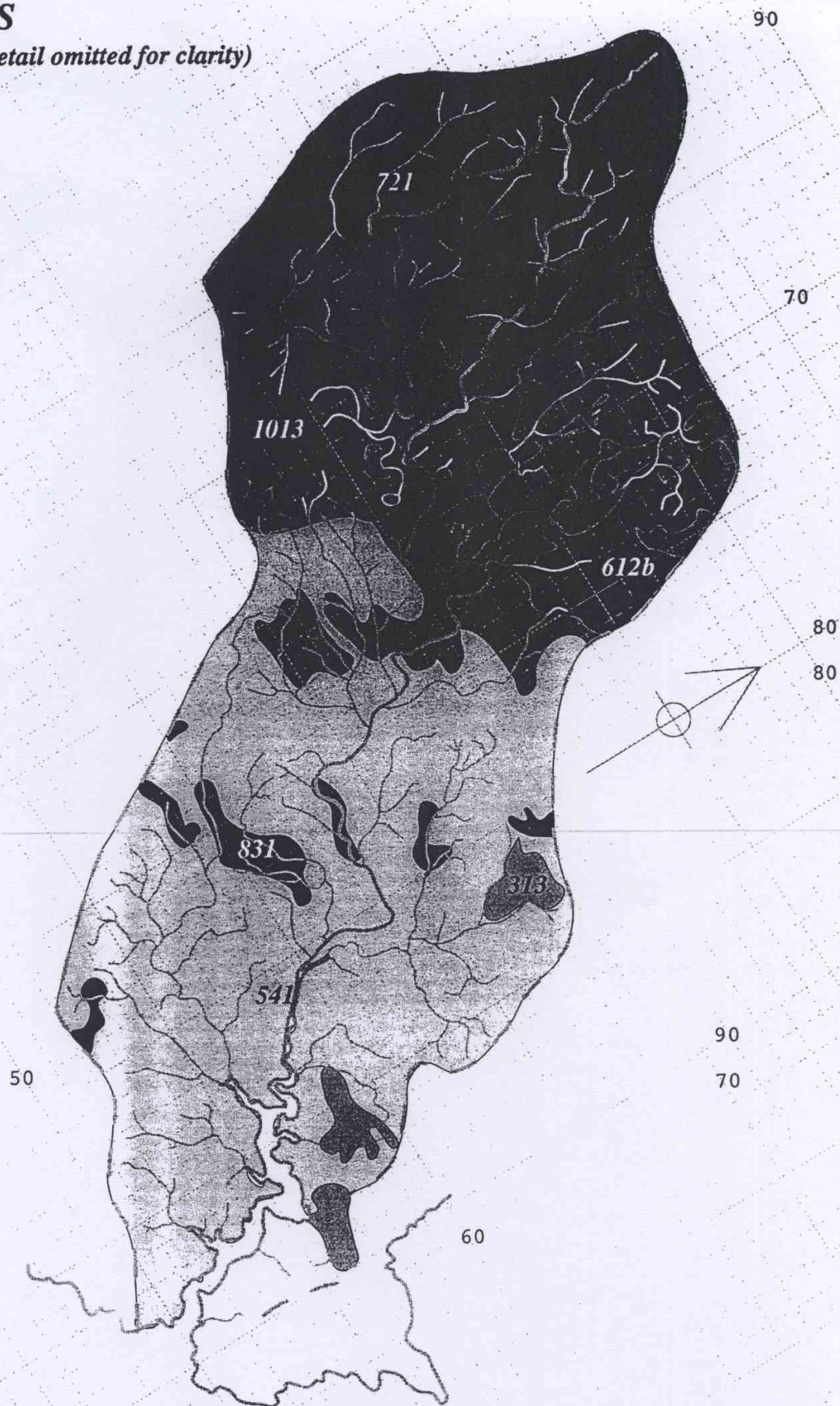


GEOLOGY

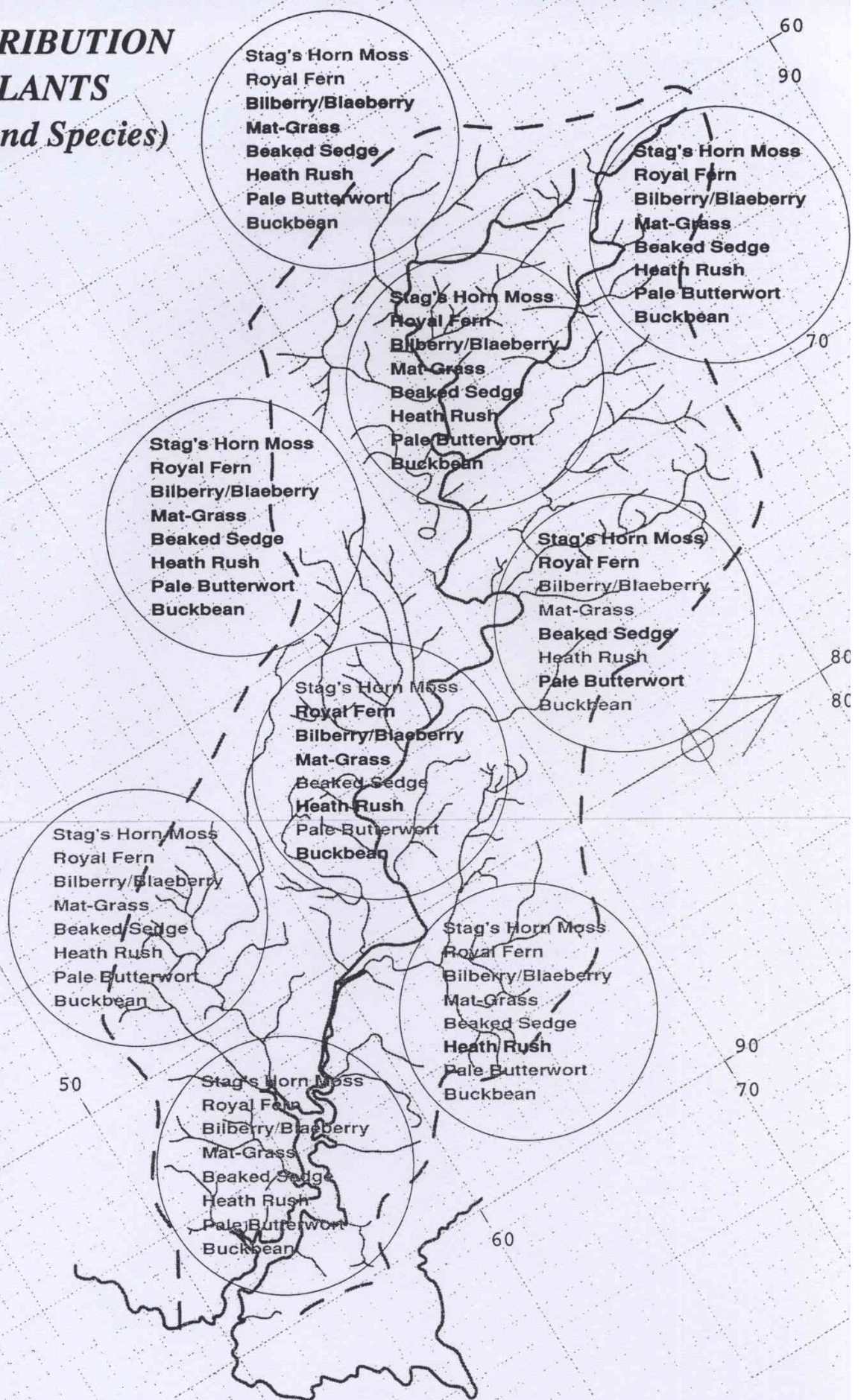


SOILS

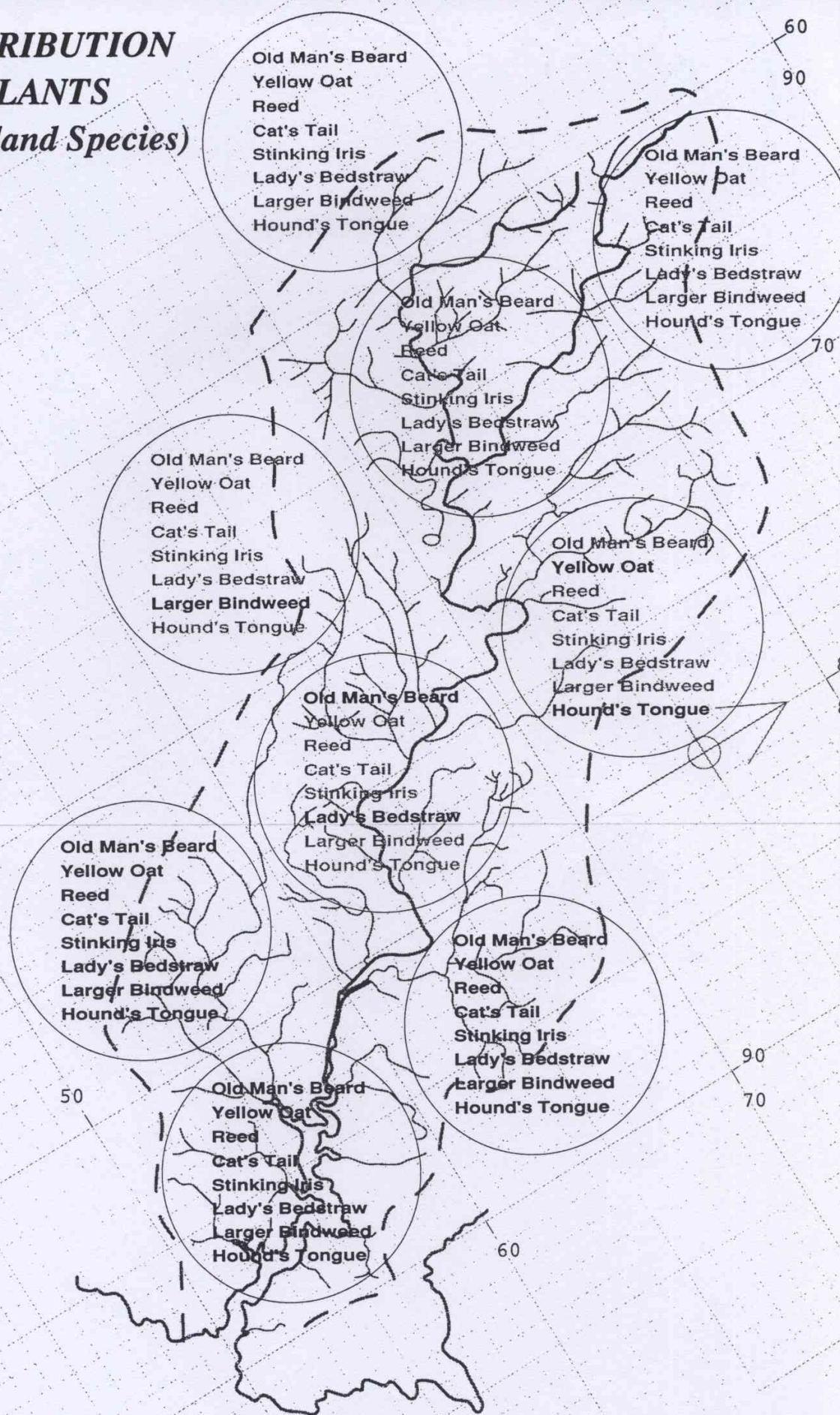
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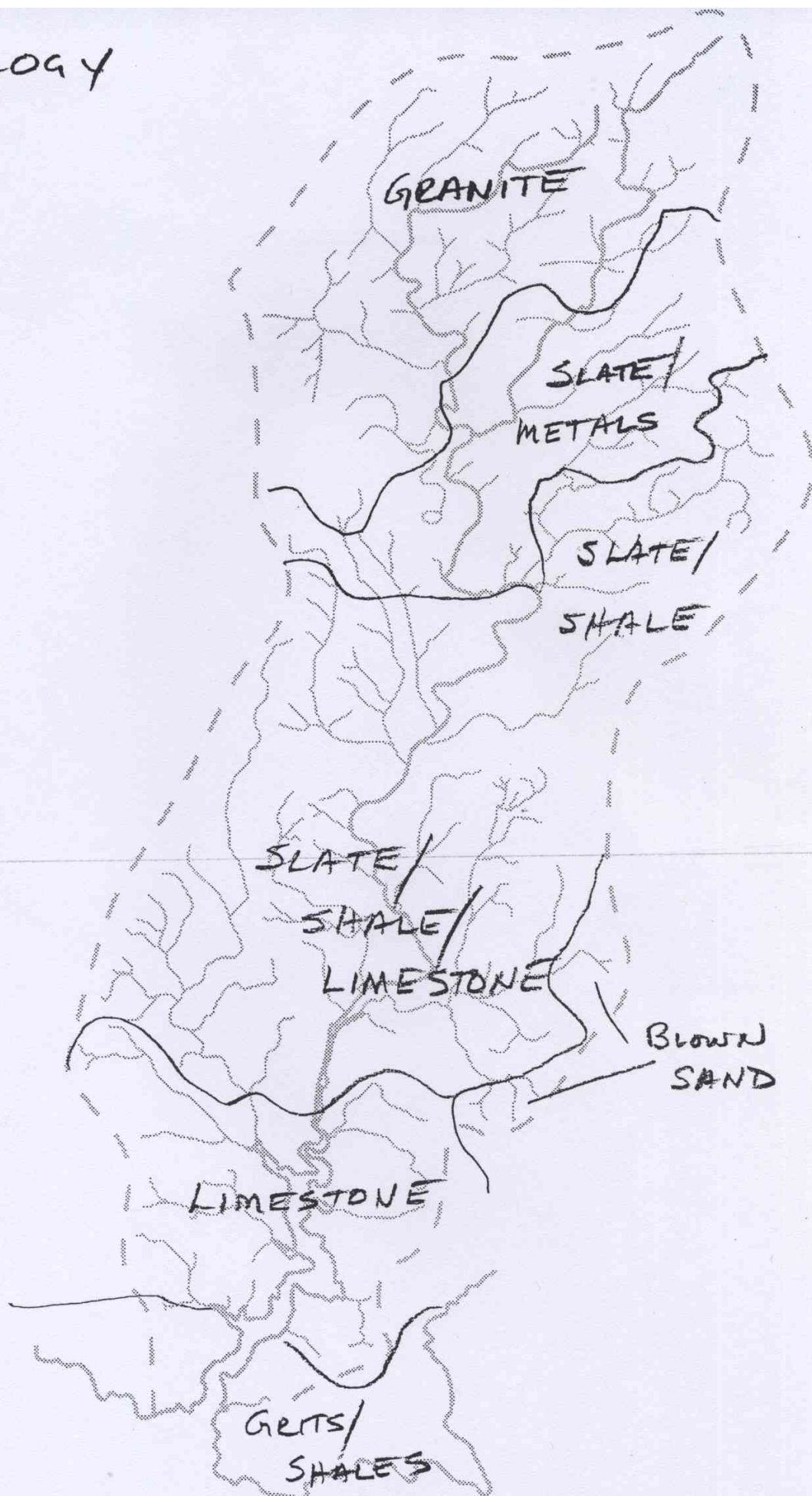
DISTRIBUTION OF PLANTS (Upland Species)



DISTRIBUTION OF PLANTS (Lowland Species)



GEOLOGY



VEGETATION & LAND USE



DART CATCHMENT AREA
HYDROLOGICAL DATA
River flows and catchment surface areas

DUNNABRIDGE

132 m³/s max (1979)
0.14 m³/s min (1976)
1.10 m³/s mean (to 1980)

47.9 sq km

21.5 sq km

BELLEVER

67 m³/s max (1979)
0.10 m³/s min (1976)
0.64 m³/s mean (to date)

247.6 sq km

146.2 sq km

AUSTIN'S BRIDGE

550 m³/s max (1979)
0.58 m³/s min (1976)
6.70 m³/s mean (to date)

50

60

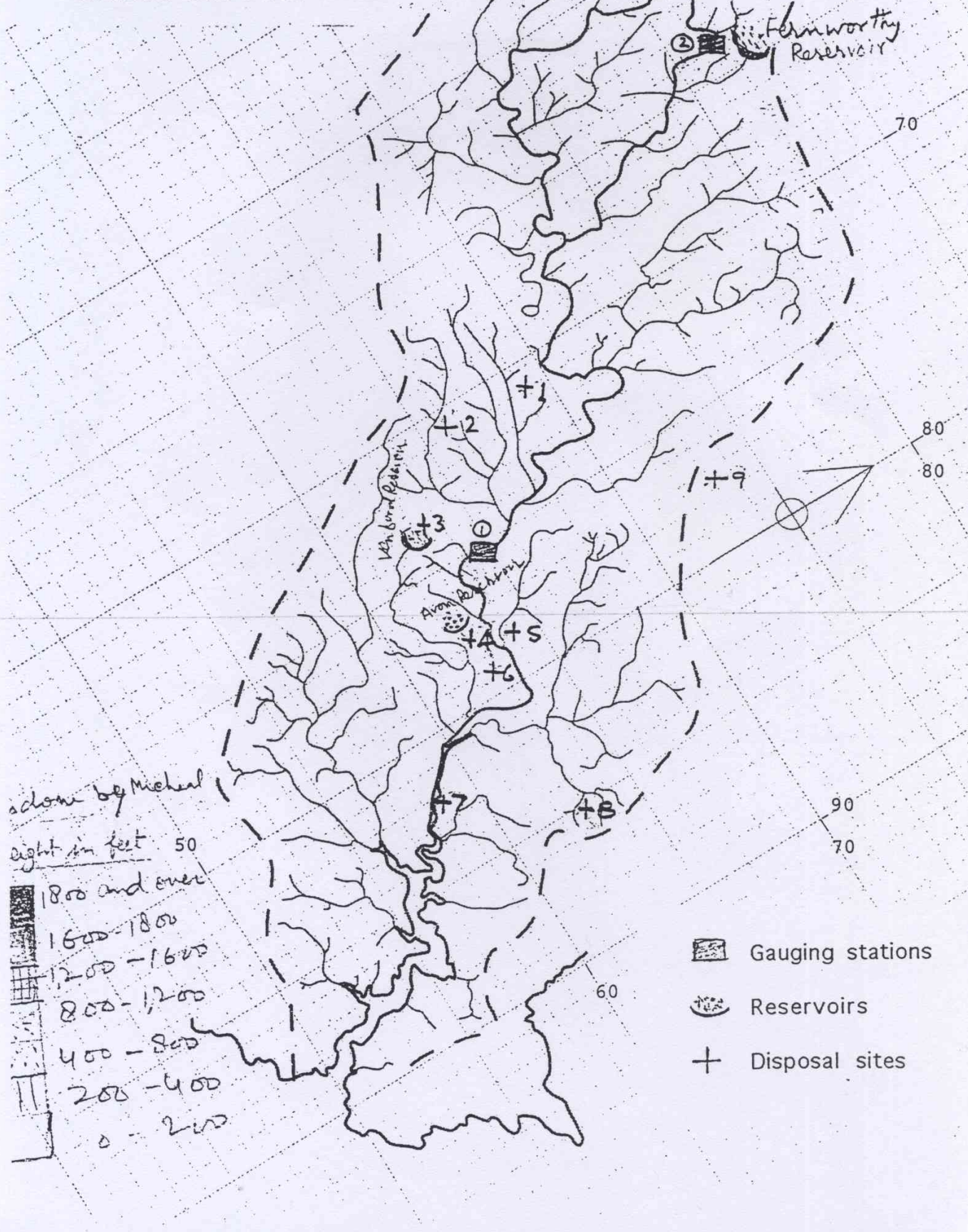
90

70

80

80

DART CATCHMENT AREA RESERVOIRS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SITES

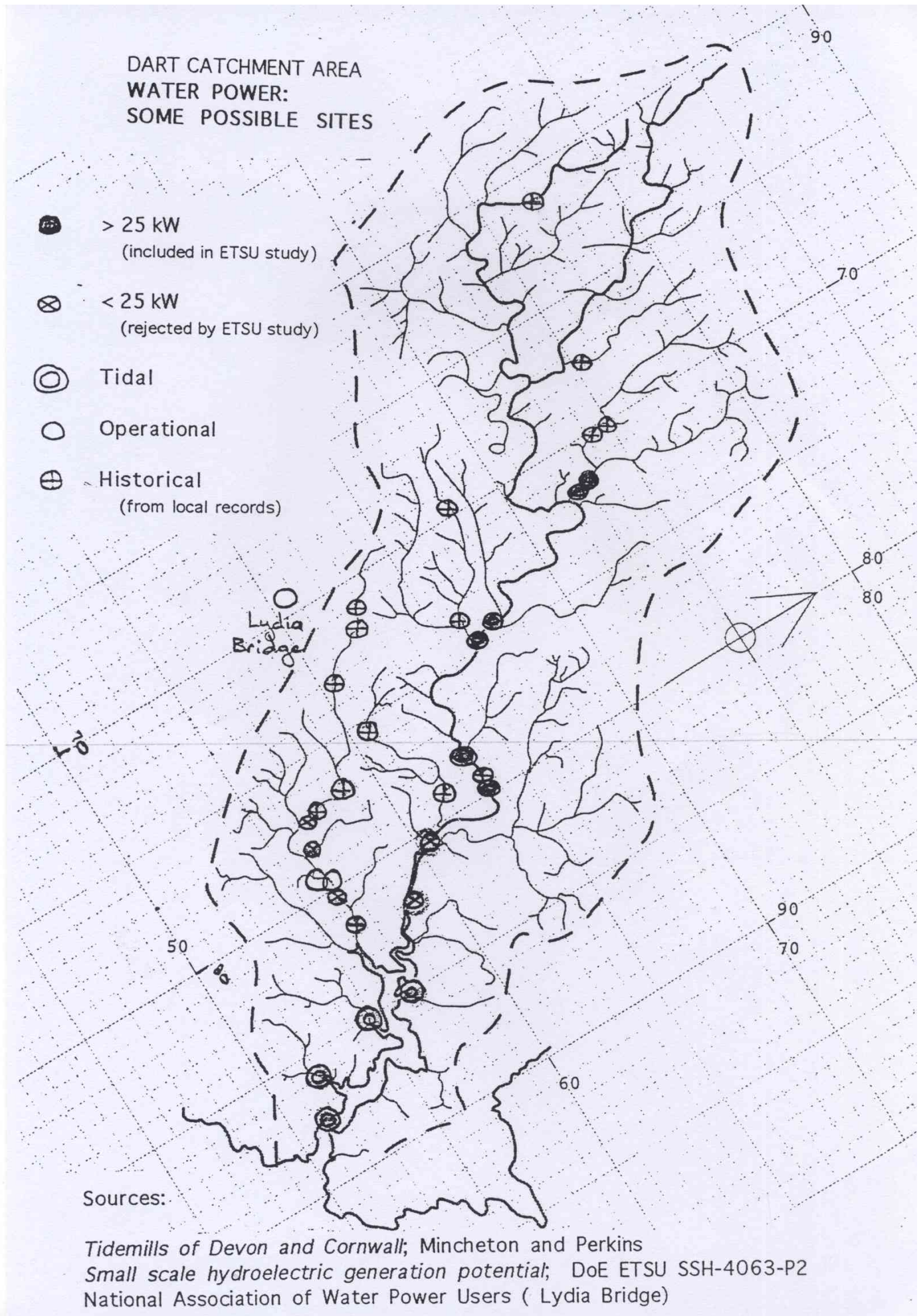


**DART CATCHMENT AREA
WATER POWER:
SOME POSSIBLE SITES**

- > 25 kW
(included in ETSU study)
- ⊗ < 25 kW
(rejected by ETSU study)
- ⊙ Tidal
- Operational
- ⊕ Historical
(from local records)

Sources:

*Tidemills of Devon and Cornwall; Mincheton and Perkins
Small scale hydroelectric generation potential; DoE ETSU SSH-4063-P2
National Association of Water Power Users (Lydia Bridge)*



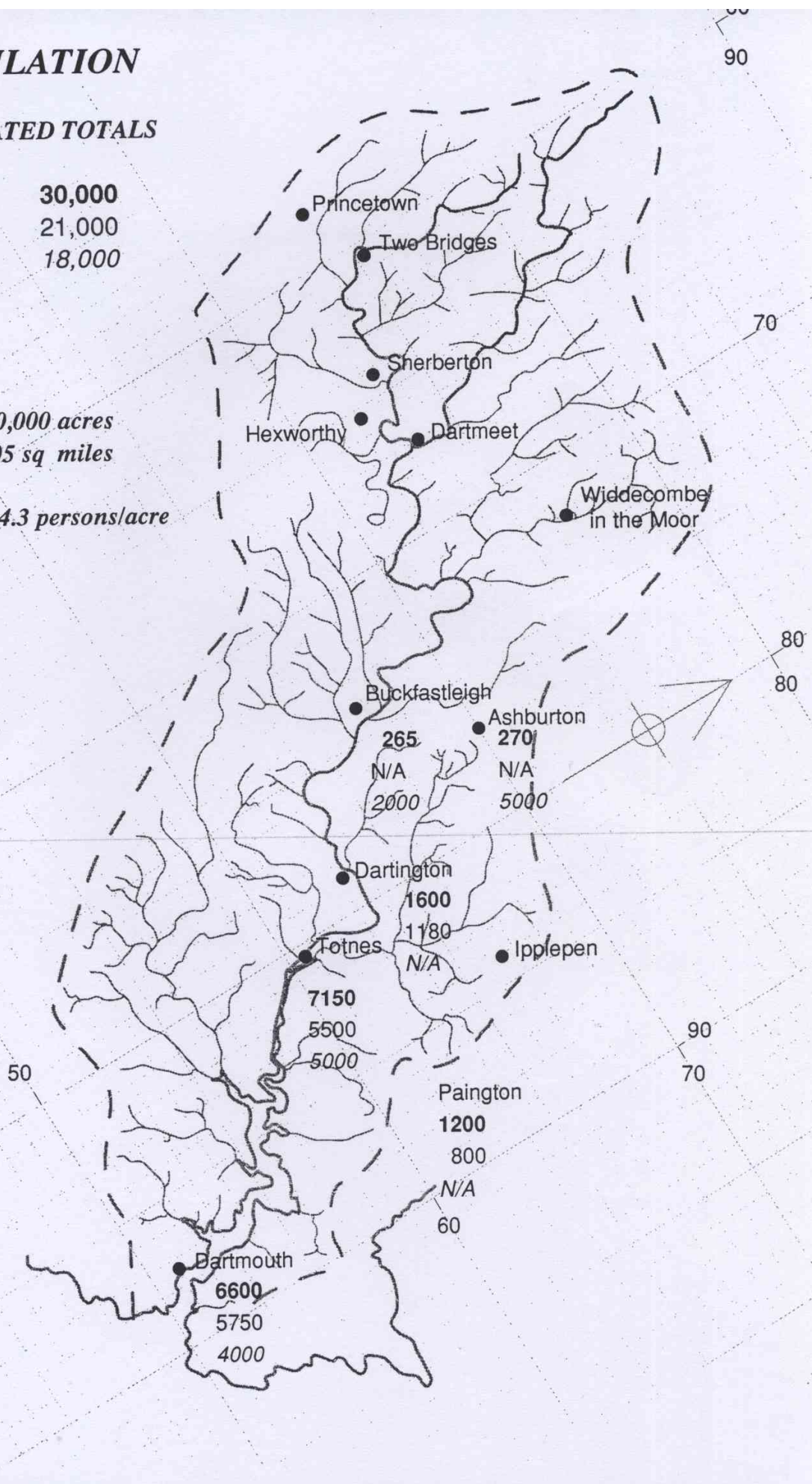
POPULATION

ESTIMATED TOTALS

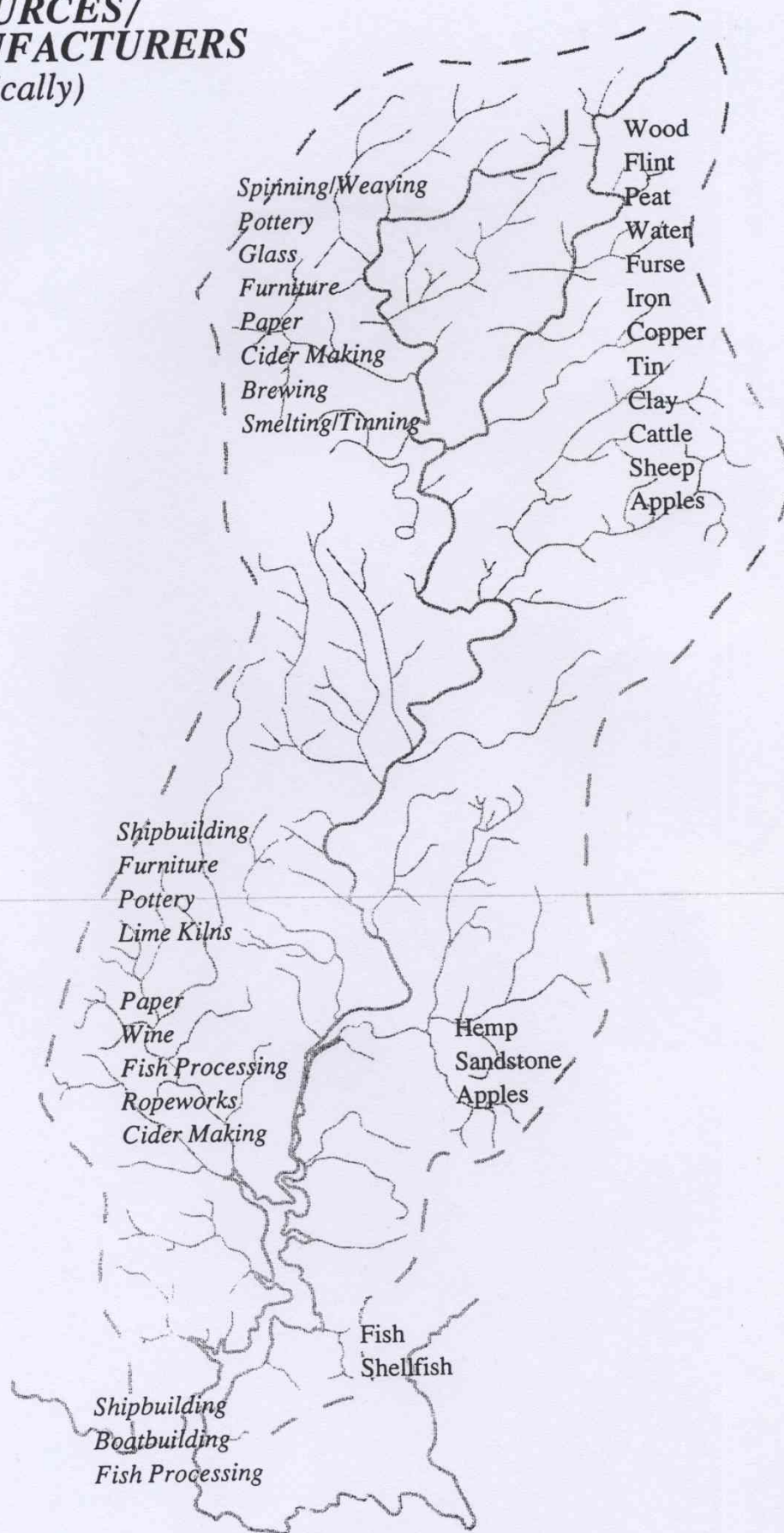
1990	30,000
1960	21,000
1850	18,000

Area 130,000 acres
205 sq miles

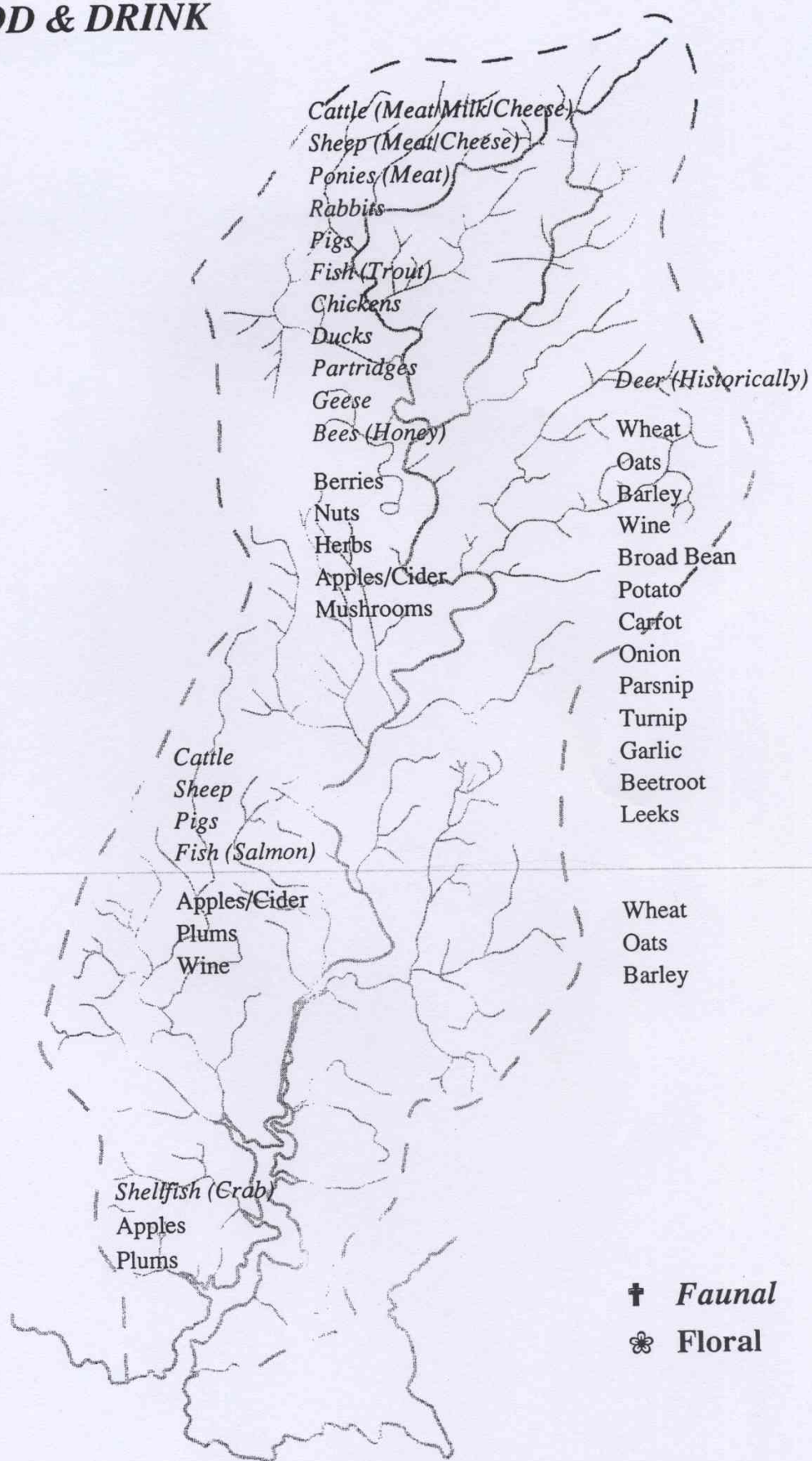
Density 4.3 persons/acre



**RESOURCES/
MANUFACTURERS**
(Historically)



FOOD & DRINK



D' ART OF BUILDINGS

Walls

1. Cob from at least 13th C.
2. Granite and "Moorstone" from 17th C onwards.
3. Slate hanging on walls from 18th C onwards.

Roofing

1. Heather / Bracken / Broom / Reeds.
2. Thatch: Devon reed and then Norfolk and continental reed from 20th C onwards.
3. Slate from 18th C onwards.

Other Building Materials

1. Lime ash for flooring.
2. Cement and other types of flooring from 20th C onwards.
3. Oak and Elm for timber. Softwood from 20th C onwards.

Walls

1. Cob walls.
2. Brick from 19th C, although introduced in the Tudor times.
3. Devon slates and schist.
4. Concrete from mid- 20th C. Other imported stones used as well.

Roofing

1. Devon reed and then Continental, Norfolk and Abbotsbury reed from 20th C onwards.
2. Local slates and then Welsh and Spanish slates.
3. Clay tiles from 20th C

Other Building Materials

1. Lime ash flooring and then other types of flooring from 20th C onwards.
2. Oak and Elm. Now various types of soft woods.

2,000 ppl. $\rightarrow$ 500 ppl.
* Darwin

In the north century the area became the hunting-
ground of the western kings - deer, hare, bear and wolf
were abundant and strongly protected for royal use.

1785: Edward Bray, solicitor managing Duke of
Bedford's Devon properties carved out 4000 acres
for himself as Earl of ...
Thomas = John Hulst

Thomas - John Huiler at University of Illinois across of
what had been common land -

1 in every 1,000 Britons is in custody - (only Turkey + Austria have a larger proportion of their population behind bars - Guadalupe 18.6%)
we spend \$1 billion annually on the prison service

1239 Richard, Earl of Cornwall gave Forest of
of 1240: and thence in line to Wallbroschede and
Dort to the other Dort, and so by the other Dort going up
to Oresbrochede, and so going up to the Dyptert and so
to Piquenote, and so going up to Kuthphull
thence in line to Wallbroschede, and so by Sheriff of Dorset
to record bounds, and we taught knights of the county to try and
settle all the disputes. . . .
law boundary
of 1050: twice grant of land to bishopric of Caster
example of increasing christianism of the man
common land and appropriation, when be
end of the 7th century

1-336 of
land in
National
Parks is
actually
publicly
owned.

Down

1951 Padmoor designated as a National Park

1989 visitors: Ever Datt Country Park 64,000
Dartington Glass Press 512,000
Buckfast Abbey 751,000

(8-73 is way up to where of Padmoor 1499)
= 756 stayed with 1 mile of way.

{ 833 no. Earliest mention of Darlington House.
14th Century: Duke of Exeter, brother of Richard II
builds Darlington Hall.

Thus - found on Duchy land - regarded as royal mints
all Dartmoor was a stannary area - virtually
self-governing state within a state. Our base
customs, courts, good - exempted from all royal
taxes - in 1314 complaints were made that
tunnies were destroying "300 acres a year"
but all these & other grievances against tun-
tealers - with patronage of Duke of Cornwall as
or king - considered highly fit cases, in sum
Richard I, wars with France etc by numerous
stannary tithes. In 15th century complaints that
tunnies waste was settling up Dartmoor that
was ruled - "stannary organisations had all the
aspects of an industrial corporation - many of the
features of a totalitarian state, while in the act
of the times themselves there are many reminders
of present day industrial practices" Frank Booke

Cattle: - "Widcombe" type of South Devons - (or South Hams) largest breed of cattle native to Britain - dark chestnut, lightening around eyes and muzzle; inside leg - large belly to cope with tough moorland vegetation, "do" better than most breeds - excellent quality milk, for cream & butter - very good converters - good meat, and strong and docile for the plough. (never overwintered on commons) - basis for tanning & leather dressing -

Sheep: - Dartmoor white-faced: brought in for winter - known throughout England for excellent mutton, & produce good long wool - shorn July/August. basis for thriving woollen industry.

Ponies: - Dartmoors descended from original feral Celtic ponies - only domestic animal that can breed and fatten simultaneously on the open moor.

Rabbits: - introduced in 12 century & warrens set up.

Grasses: *Molinia caerulea* (flying bent) (sedge grass) May to flowering in July - realised by stock providing good feed for ewes, cows & mares. - after flowering turns yellow & loses all food value (stock then turned on to Lammas land - stubble unseeded)
Nardus stricta (mat grass) not liked by cattle or sheep - can be kept in check by ponies - generally worthless as feed.

Furze: deep rooted - can take up minerals from subsoil - (lack of trace elements in Dartmoor top soil) - nitrogen fixing - excellent for fuel - young growth cut & bruised as winter feed. - also heather.

Bracken: cut extensively as winter bedding (poisonous if eaten in large quantities)

Oak: coppiced, used for tanning - (bark "ripped" & stacked before being used to impart suppleness & colour to leather)

Peat: fuel - naphtha, petrol, oil-tar, acetic acid distilled - (Poncetown's poison lit with gas candles) basis for paper-making -

DARTIA: A SENSE OF PLACE
--A Few Glimpses of Common Land--

"Those who speak with understanding must hold fast to the common in all things." --Herakleitos

Common land tell a story of cooperation in human society and with the land (and of the gradual imposition of private interests) as fragments of the old 'cottage economy' in a present beset by totalitarian market forces and where the majority are outsiders in their own country.-- Francis Reed

c. 2000-500 B.C.

Bronze Age settlements in "Dartmoor" in pastoral villages--the upper Dart region was a favoured settlement area... realisation of the very large prehistoric field systems and an elaborate network of land boundaries led to discovery of many similar patterns world-wide... and a view of early farming as groups of robust collectives, linked by many mutual obligations.

The Commons was a fine summer grazing-ground to be used by all those in the shire of Devon who were willing to drive their cattle and sheep to it for the valuable pasture--limited to the number that their farm could overwinter. In the 9th century the area became the hunting-ground of the Wessex kings--deer, hare, boar and wolf were abundant and savagely protected for Royal use.

During the 12th century all Devon was afforested. In 1204 King John removed an edict--the commonality of Devon paid a huge sum to him for the privilege--this charter de-afforested the county "up to the metes of the ancient regards of Dartmoor."

1785: Edward Bray, solicitor managing Duke of Bedford's Devon properties carved out 900 acres for himself at Beardown.

Thomas and John Hullet etc. enclosed 3,000 acres of what had been common land.

1785-1798: Thomas Tyrwhitt made friends with the Prince of Wales at Christ Church, Oxford, became his secretary and set to work forming 2,300 acres of moor land himself, called Tor Royal estate after his patron. He strove to build up a self-sufficient community called Prince's Town, but his dream of corn, flax, root crops and plantations failed. But as M.P. and confidant of the Prince he was able to pull strings and get the prison built there. Soon Sir Thomas had built a corn-grinding mill, a brewery, and 30 other houses, and established a thriving market. These enclosures occasioned considerable hardship by depriving farmers of their best common pasture without any compensation whatever.

(One in every 1,000 Britons is in custody--only Turkey and Austria have a larger population behind bars--Guardian, 18.4.87. We spend £1 billion annually on the prison service.

1239: Richard, Earl of Cornwall, given the Forest as a "chase"--

Perambulation of 1240: "and thence in line to Wallebroke's hede, and so along the Wallebroke to where it falls into the Dart, and so by the Dart to the other Dart, and so by the other Dart going up to Okesbrokysfote, and so going up the Okebroke as far as to Dryeworke, and so going up to the Dryford, and so thence in line to Battysull...." To record bounds--carried out by Sheriff of Devon and 12 lawful knights of the county, to try and settle all the disputes.

Pedington's land boundary of 1050: a huge grant of land to the Bishopric of Crediton--an example of increasing "colonisation" of the moorland common land, and appropriation, which began at the end of the 7th century.

1951: Dartmoor designated as a National Park. 1.38 per cent of land in National Parks is actually publicly owned.

1989: Visitors: River Dart County Park.....64,000

Dartington Cider Press.....512,000

Buckfast. Abbey.....551,000

(8.73 m. day visits to the whole of Dartmoor in 1989;

75 per cent stayed within 1 mile of car.)

833: Earliest mention of Dartington House.

14th century: Duke of Exeter, brother of Richard II, builds Dartington Hall.

Schumacher College

NUMBER THREE • SUMMER 1992

THE BIRTH OF DARTIA

by Kirkpatrick Sale

Scholar in Residence • March 16 - April 3, 1992

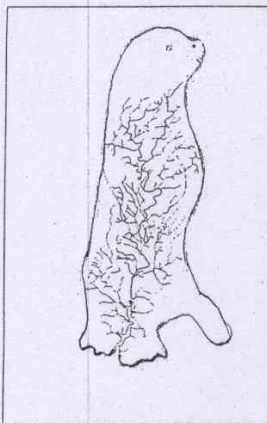
I am at the moment at Schumacher College, teaching a course in bioregionalism. Some critics would tell you that bioregionalism is nothing less than a 'new, shallow America fad'. It is, they say, a reduction of humanity and the sort of back to nature short cut that those oddities in the United States have come up with in their New Age dilemmas.

Hard to know what the critics know about bioregionalism, but I venture to say, not much. It is by no means a short cut to anything, and indeed I don't know anyone in or near the movement who thinks it is anything but a long-haul philosophy whose transmission to the world at large, much less its implementation in practice, will take quite a long time indeed. And though it is in truth not more than about fifteen years old, it could hardly be considered a fad on the level of hoola-hoops and has, as a matter of fact, established a pretty good track record for durability, resilience and continuity.

As for being 'back to nature' and 'reducing humans', well, there may be some truth to that. There is a sense in which bioregionalism does seek a return, if that's the word, to the perception of nature as it dwelt in primal peoples everywhere on earth at one time, and a return to a careful and regardful way of living in harmony with nature as was known to quite

a good many rural and village folk the world over not so many decades ago. That is, the bioregional project, as I see it, does start with an understanding that nature is literally sacred, that humans must dwell within it with some care and humility, and that the vainglorious attempts to conquer and subdue it that have characterised industrial society for the last two hundred years are demonstrably pernicious and destructive.

And, I suppose to some eyes that looks as if it is reducing human-kind if it asks that this one species does not so dominate all others that we extinguish two of them forever every hour, destroy or threaten their habitats merely to satisfy our own perceived whims and desires on a global scale, and come close to making life on the surface of the earth uninhabitable for those, not to mention our own, species. Reducing the impact of industrial civilisation, yes; reducing the polluted impact of its extraction, production, and disposal processes, yes; reducing its intrusion into wild habitats and homelands of indigenous people, yes.



Map of Dartia produced by the Bioregional course

Bioregionalism is about biocentrism and I regard it as the key concept of any ecological society, of any sentient person. It argues quite simply that the human is merely another species, valuable for what it can produce and achieve in certain ways, but not therefore superior to any other species or endowed with rights to dominate and destroy them beyond its sheer survival needs. In that wisdom, I suggest, lies the key to a sustainable future, if ever there is to be one.

So, anyway, here I am at Schumacher College, teaching what as far as I know, is the first extensive (3-week, 45-lecture-hour, mapping-project) course in bioregionalism, an exciting challenge indeed. It is difficult and thorough and sweeping and exhausting, and doesn't feel much like a fad just now.

My aim from the beginning has been not only to talk about bioregionalism, but to work toward an actual study of a bioregion, its resources, settlements, potentials and all. Hence we have been very busy here for the last few weeks mapping the area where Schumacher College

(continued on page 4)

THE BIRTH OF DARTIA • continued from page 1

is located, the valley of the Dart river as it courses from Dartmoor to Dartmouth - a bioregion we have come to call 'Dartia'. Mapping it as it was, as it is, as it might come to be.

My students are of all ages and talents, from India, America, Eastern Europe, and all over Britain. My sense is that each of them is enriched by a close study of this complex concept and that a number of them are likely to use it effectively in their future work. Perhaps they will assist in the task of spreading the idea and building the movement - though that, I admit, is a lot to hope for after a few short weeks, despite all my hints about the necessity for scores of bioregional Johnny Appleseeds. I may even reach through to one or two who may end up with the same conviction that I have: if there is to be a future, it must be bioregional.

At the completion of the course copies of the Dartia project were presented to the Totnes Museum, and the Chief Planning Officer of the South Hams District Council. Articles have appeared in the Totnes Times, the New Statesman and the Western Morning News.

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Happily the shop, situated in the heart of the village, will continue to offer the same kind of excellence and standard of service it always

The founder of the first shop premises, David Seymour Guy, had emigrated to Canada and, when the First World War broke out, he joined the Light Cavalry and

met his future wife, Gwendoline Hill of Hill's Cider fame. After they married they set up a small grocery business in the Dartington Lodge, which was fran-

has remained in the family since 1926.

Of course the original shop was a far cry from the expanded business of today. In those days it was a large house and only the front

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● Mrs. Sheila Guy and her husband, Eddie (centre), toast the future with staff and customers on their retirement celebrations after a lifelong association in the grocery and post office business at Dartington. The couple, whose family have run Guy's since 1926, plan to take a trip to Russia to visit relatives in the near future. Photo: Alan Craig

International seminar produces 'Dartia' study

A CASE study has been carried out on the Dart River Valley and its capital, Totnes, which presents a way forward for the future identity of the area.

The project has been undertaken by members of an international seminar that has been meeting over the last three weeks at Schumacher College, Dartington, to examine principles of a new ecological philosophy called bioregionalism.

The philosophy works with the natural regions of the land, such as watersheds and plateaux, as the areas in which to create sustainable and environmentally sound societies.

The findings were last week presented to Totnes Museum, the town's library and South Hams District Council's Planning Committee and will be offered to the County's Education Department, the Dartmoor National Park plus other agencies whose work affects the area.

Included in the project material are maps that show

the Dart 'bioregion', which they have christened 'Dartia', and its natural features and resources. Charts, diagrams and supporting data are used to envision how an ecologically benign and self-reliant Dartia might function.

Author

Visiting scholar in charge of the course, American author Kirkpatrick Sale, said the map and charts depicted a natural area of the Dart River watershed.

The citizens of this geographic area, who understand themselves as part of the natural systems and life-forms of the region, might be considered Dartians,' he said.

The bioregional movement originated in the United States about ten years ago and encourages people to think of themselves as part of coherent natural 'bioregions', rather than artificial districts, states or nations.

'It seeks to get people to understand and identify with their region so as to sink roots in it, protect its ecosys-

tems, and help it to live in a sustainable, non-violent, non-polluting fashion,' said Mr Sale.

Visiting lecturers at the course included former mayors Neville Jarrett and Bill Bennett, curator of the museum, and Mr Michael Carpenter, district planning chief.

Participants came from the USA, Hungary, Czechoslo-

vakia, India and all parts of the UK.

Mr Bennett, on accepting the bioregion project, said he was sure it would benefit the town and was delighted that a link had been forged with the Schumacher College.

The information will be placed in the museum's study centre where it will be available for public use.

Around the W.I.s

Dartington

MEMBERS of Dartington Women's Institute were delighted to learn at their April meeting that the Institute had won the cup at the group meeting held at Diptford.

Mrs J Clarke, the President, said she hoped this would give encouragement to everyone to support further competitions.

The resolutions for the Spring Annual Meeting at Exeter University were then discussed and accepted.

Mrs K. Stanyon gave a demonstration on 'Practical Tapestry', and each member present was given a sample piece of tapestry, along with a needle and some lengths of wool.

Lee Moor

AT the March meeting of Lee Moor Women's Institute the speaker was Mr K Farmer of Cornwood on 'The Care of House Plants'.

Mr Farmer had brought with him a number of cuttings and plant specimens to illustrate his talk and members were so interested in the subject that many questions were asked and answered.

The competition, 'A Flowering Plant', was won jointly by Mrs M. Roper and Mrs M. Hugill.

Members were asked to take part in the Anstice Group Meeting, to be held at Lee Moor Public Hall, the competition for this meeting being a Knitted Tea Cosy and/or a Country Pate.

Joshua W.I.

The Institute sent by Mrs Gate, who app Boyfriend.

Mrs Butler duced Mrs Eile Sales and Int officer at Moun House in Corri delighted memb talk and slide Mount Edgurd and Park.

The evening with a birthday cut by Mrs Eile celebrate the third birthday.

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South Brent MRS Pauline opened the Men meeting of So Women's Insti

