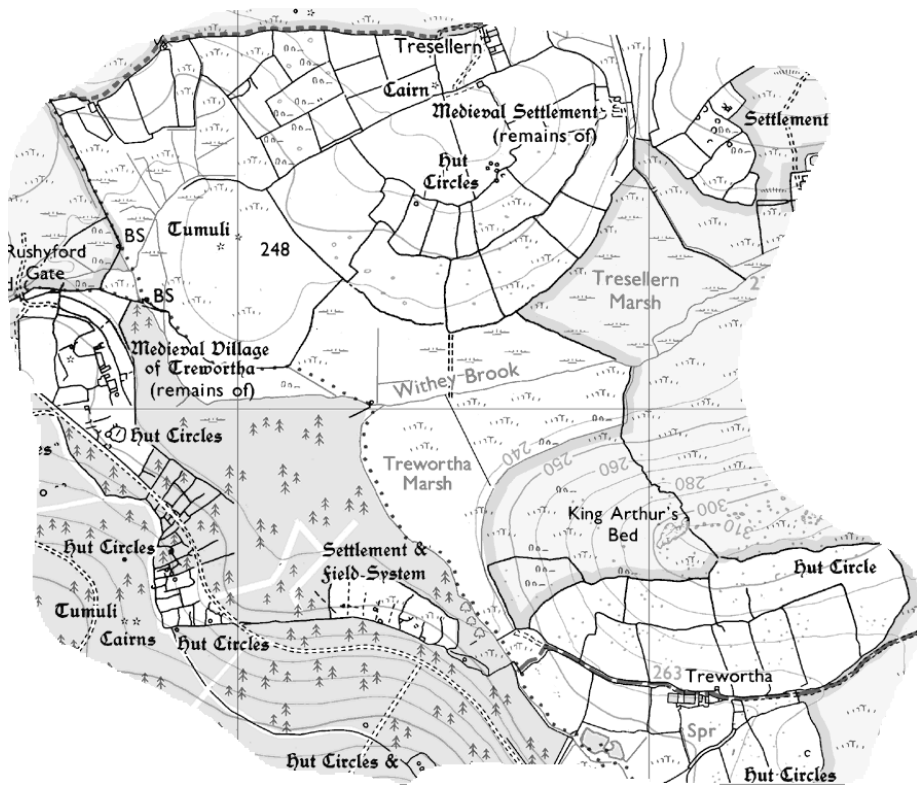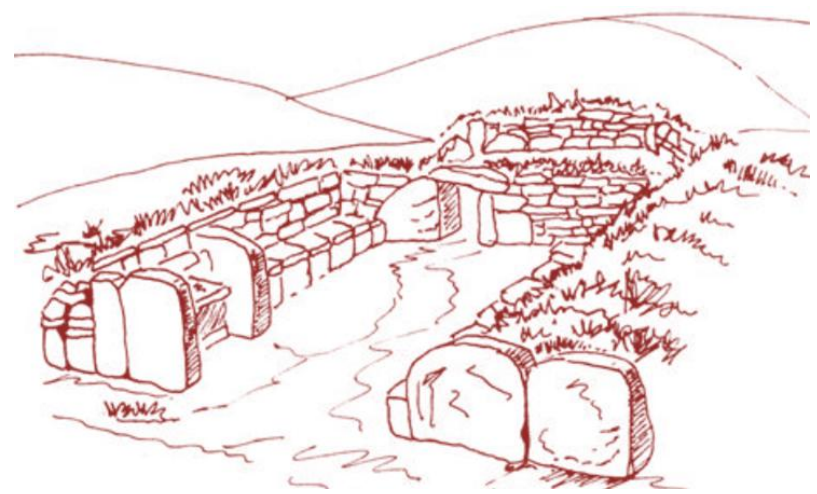# Settlement

The western half of North Hill parish forms part of Bodmin Moor, the highest and wildest area in Cornwall. The rest is formed from the rolling hills and sheltered valleys of the Rivers Lynher and Inny.

In prehistoric times the nomadic peoples cleared the moor of its native deciduous forest by systematic burning and felling.

From about 1800 BC to 500 BC the moorland area was settled by Bronze Age man. The first permanent homes, hut circles with nearby irregular fields, were built on the exposed moor where the land was less fertile but was a safer place than the lower slopes of uncleared woodland where wild animals lived.
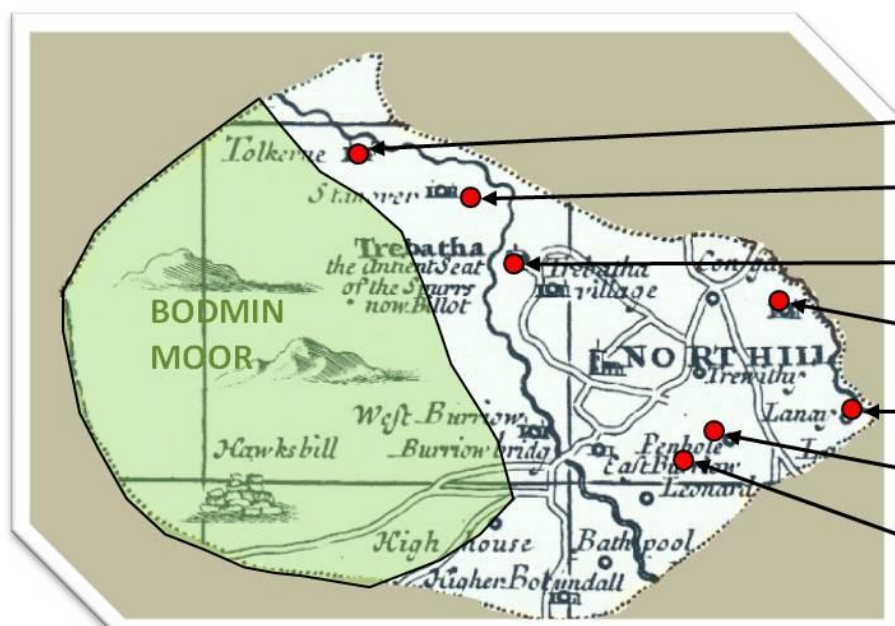
The Celts arrived around 500 BC. Over time their improved agricultural methods and clearance of the woodlands on the lower slopes enabled the growth of villages of about ten buildings, each building housing a family.

Stone remains of a building at Trewortha hamlet on Twelve Men's Moor

By the time of the Saxons' arrival in the 9th century there were established settlements in the valleys and the moorland was largely unpopulated.
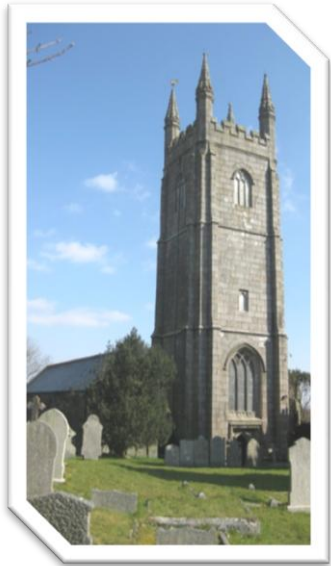
The seven most important Saxon settlements in the area were recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086.

Settlement	Occupier
Tolcarne	Ermenald
Treveniel	*Information lost*
Trebartha	Thurstan the sheriff
Illand	Robert, Count of Mortain
Trefrize	Reginald, Earl of Cornwall
Penhole	Wulfsige or Wulfsi
Landreyne	Reginald, Earl of Cornwall

Settlement

North Hill village grew up around the parish church of Saint Torney which towers over the village from its standpoint on the hill overlooking the River Lynher. The Norman font was probably once in an earlier church on the same site. The earliest known rector was Ralph de Ilstintone. He was appointed on the 6th February 1260 AD and had previously been the priest at Lawhitton, near Launceston. The record states that the position at Saint Torney was void suggesting earlier rectors whose names have been lost in the mists of time.

Who St Torney was is also unknown but he may be the Saint Erney to whom a church is dedicated 15 miles south of North Hill along the River Lynher.

The Duchy of Cornwall, which still holds lands in the parish to this day, was created in 1337 by Edward III for his son, later known as the Black Prince. Other landowners came and went. The Trebartha family, the Spoure family and the Rodd family all held sway in the parish at one time. Launceston Priory held the rights to farm on Twelve Men's Moor until the monastery was dissolved in 1539. During the Civil War (1642 – 46) North Hill parish, like most of Cornwall, was staunchly Royalist.

Throughout its history the people of North Hill parish had depended upon three main economic activities - farming, mining and quarrying. Agricultural and mining techniques developed during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Settlements increased in size and number as people moved to live where they could get work. At the same time religious freedoms allowed Wesleyans and Bible Christians to practice their beliefs. Following the success of non-conformist circuits within the parish which met in people's homes, the groups built their own places of worship. Wesleyan Methodist chapels were built in North Hill Village, Coad's Green and Bathpool. The Bible Christians had chapels at Middlewood and Congdon's Shop.

Before 1826 when the first Methodist chapel in Coad's Green was erected, there were few houses, although some of the outlying farms were of great age. This is now a thriving community.