



The Importance of Somerset's Traditional Fingerposts



Devon



Dorset

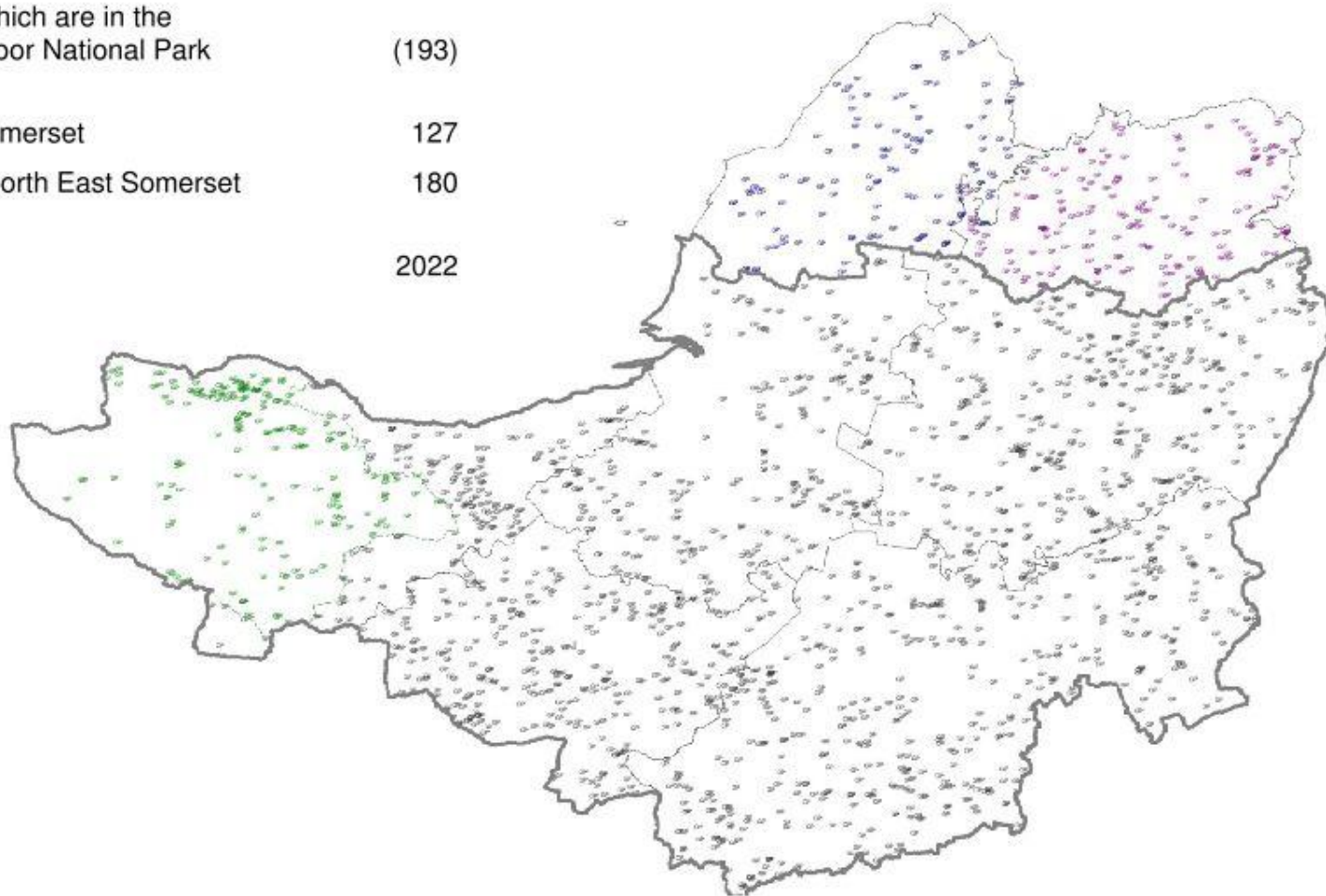


Cornwall



Somerset

Somerset	1715
Of which are in the Exmoor National Park	(193)
North Somerset	127
Bath & North East Somerset	180
TOTAL	2022



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Estimates distribution of Somerset fingerposts using the 'GP' (Guide Post) annotation in the Ordnance Survey



Minehead
United
Trust
milestone
on the
A396 at
Quarme
Wood



Bathpool 1890, by Harrier Frier.
Source MH Jones (2002). *Harry Frier's Taunton*

18 June 1880
Direction Posts

The Surveyor produced estimate from James Wensley of Mark for supplying Direction Posts at £2 - 15 - 0 each. Ordered to stand over until the next meeting to enable the Surveyor to ascertain the amount for which they were originally erected

21 July 1880
Direction Posts

The Surveyor produced Wensley's Contract to supply Direction Posts in the District for £1 - 9 - 0 per post in the year 1870, Also a Tender dated 14 June last in which he offered to supply them at £2 - 10 - 0 per post but this sum being considered excessive the Surveyor was directed to obtain fresh estimates by the next meeting

20 Aug 1880
Direction Posts

The Surveyor produced estimate from Albert Day for the supply of Direction Posts at £2 per Post with two Arms and 5/- for every extra Arm and he was directed to obtain further Tenders from Bristol and other places for 20 Posts and Arms

17 Sept 1880
Direction Posts

The Tender of Albert Day for the supply of Posts at £1 - 10 - 0 per post and 5/- each for arms was declared accepted and It was resolved that the Surveyor order Ten at that price

Transcript from Axbridge Highway Board
Minute Book 1887 – 1883
SRO D/R/ax 32/1/4, Researcher Brian Murless

granted a licence to the Clutton rural district council to erect a direction post at West Harptree.

46. Grants.
The Committee made the following grants under Standing Order No 104:-

AXBRIDGE.	Waterman's Bow bridge	...	£48 : 0 : 0
BATH.	Repairs to Industrial School buildings	...	10 : 0 : 0
CLUTTON.	Direction post at West Harptree		6 : 0 : 0
LANGPORT.	Further repairs to Hurlepool bridge	...	12 : 14 : 0
"	Repairs to Westport bridge	...	30 : 0 : 0
TAUNTON.	Altering danger notices on Cothelstone Hill	...	0 : 13 : 8
WINCANTON.	Direction post, Milborne port	...	3 : 15 : 6

44. The County Surveyor reported that he had ordered the following repairs and works under Standing Order No 40:-

BRIDGWATER.	Two new oak posts for direction posts at Ashcott	...	2 : 2 : 6
FROME.	Repairs to Flintford County bridge		0 : 19 : 6
"	Egford	"	0 : 9 : 6
SHEPTON MALLET.	Arthurs	"	0 : 16 : 0
WELLS.	Heath Rhine	"	0 : 16 : 0
WILLITON.	Blue Anchor sea defences		1 : 6 : 3

4
And B
Frederick Benjamin
Chairman.

SCC Works Committee Minute Book 10th
December 1906 to 14th December 1908
SRO C/S/1/19



Hardington Moor

HB & H Petter Foundry,
Yeovil



Tyning's gate, Mendip Hills

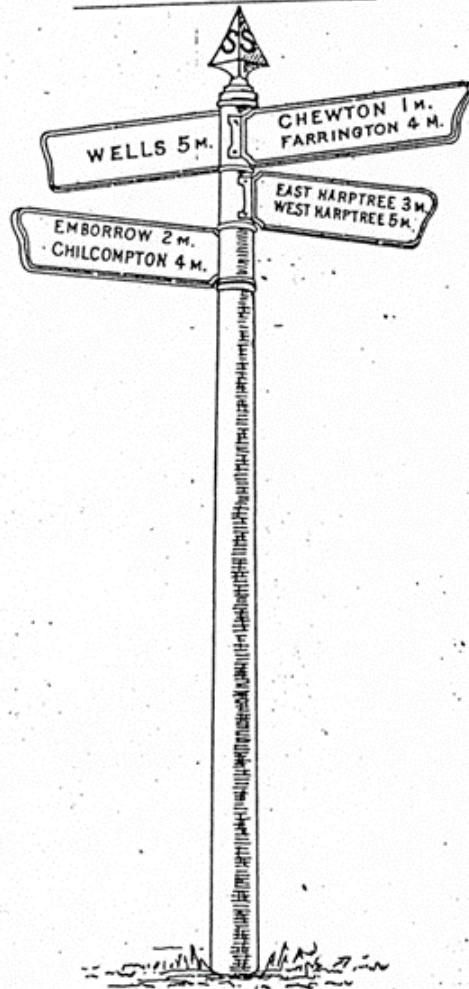
Possible Albert Day Foundry,
Mark



Wiltown, Blackdown Hill
(Devon)

Bishop Bros. Foundry,
Wellington

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL.



Direction posts are to be placed in a position as clearly visible as possible from each approaching road.
To be kept painted white with black letters.
Arms to be lettered on both sides and placed, as far as possible on different levels.
Letters to be not less than 3 inches in depth where possible.
The distance to be stated in miles, and, if necessary, quarters of miles, thus—Bath $3\frac{1}{4}$ M.
Scale drawings may be obtained on application to the County Surveyor.



Left: Drawing of the 1907 'uniform pattern' fingerpost from the SCC Works Committee Minutes 1907.

Above: A late 19th fingerpost at Berrow. Photographed in 1980 before being lost. Image courtesy of B. Murless.



W & F Wills of Bridgwater fingerpost at Pedwell
Image courtesy of The Wills Collection



Castle Cary



Godney



Curry Mallet



Trull



Horton



Somerton



Blagdon Hill



Sheldon foundry of Wells
Trull



Westhay



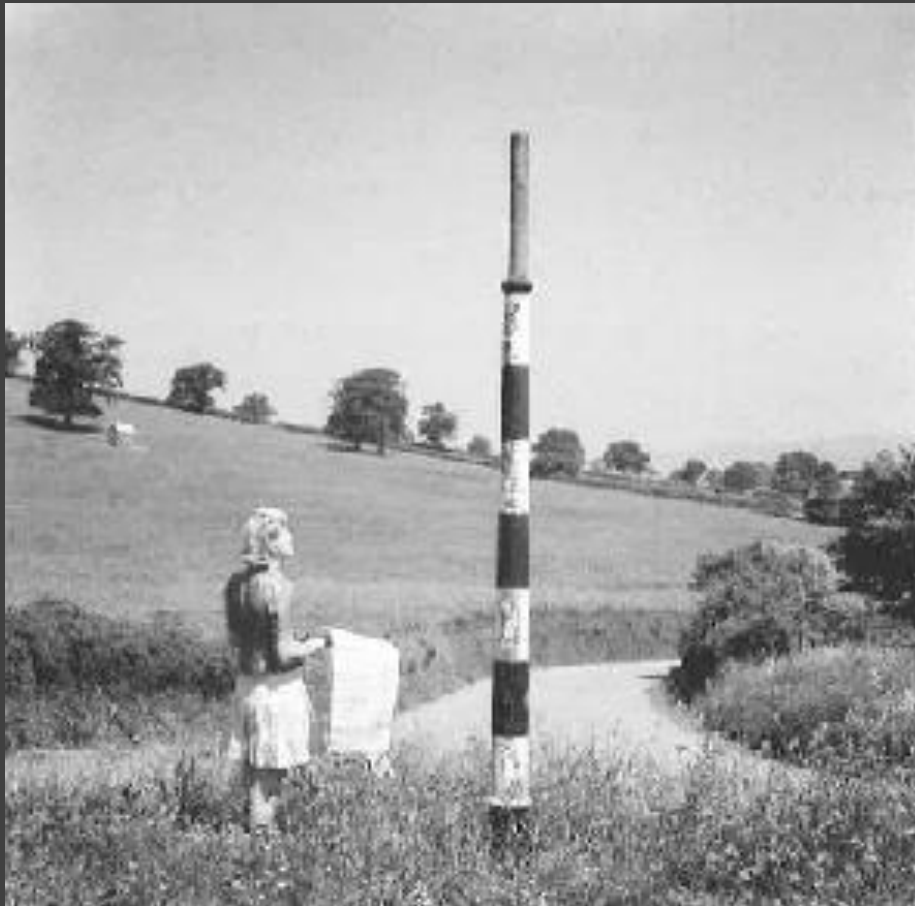
Sheldon foundry of Wells
Heath House



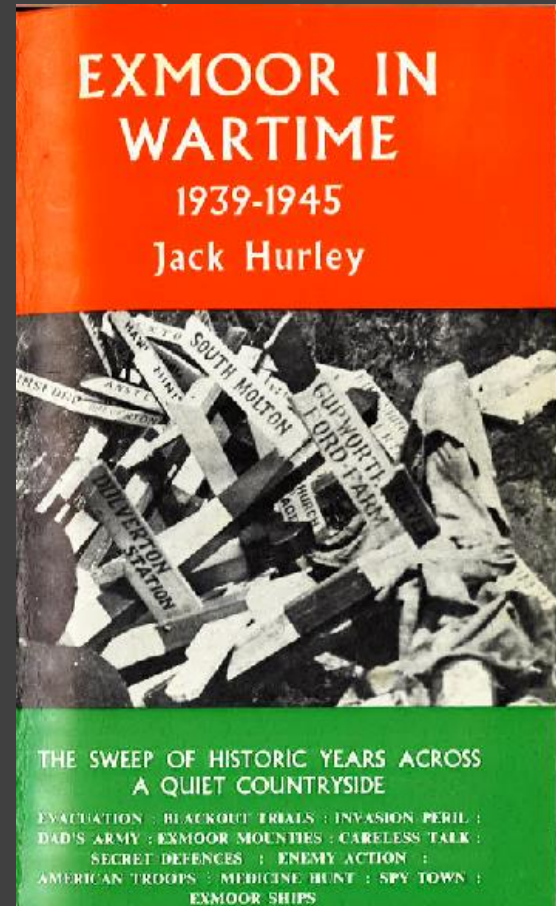
Wells



Late Richard Bowditch of the Dulcote Quarry foundry in 2011



Source: F Hebditch (2005). *Somerset in the Second World War*.



Source: j Huley (1978). *Exmoor in wartime 1938-1945*.



Trull



- History of the Sheldon pattern fingerposts
- War time treatment
- Further unusual fingerposts



South Petherton



Yeovil depot



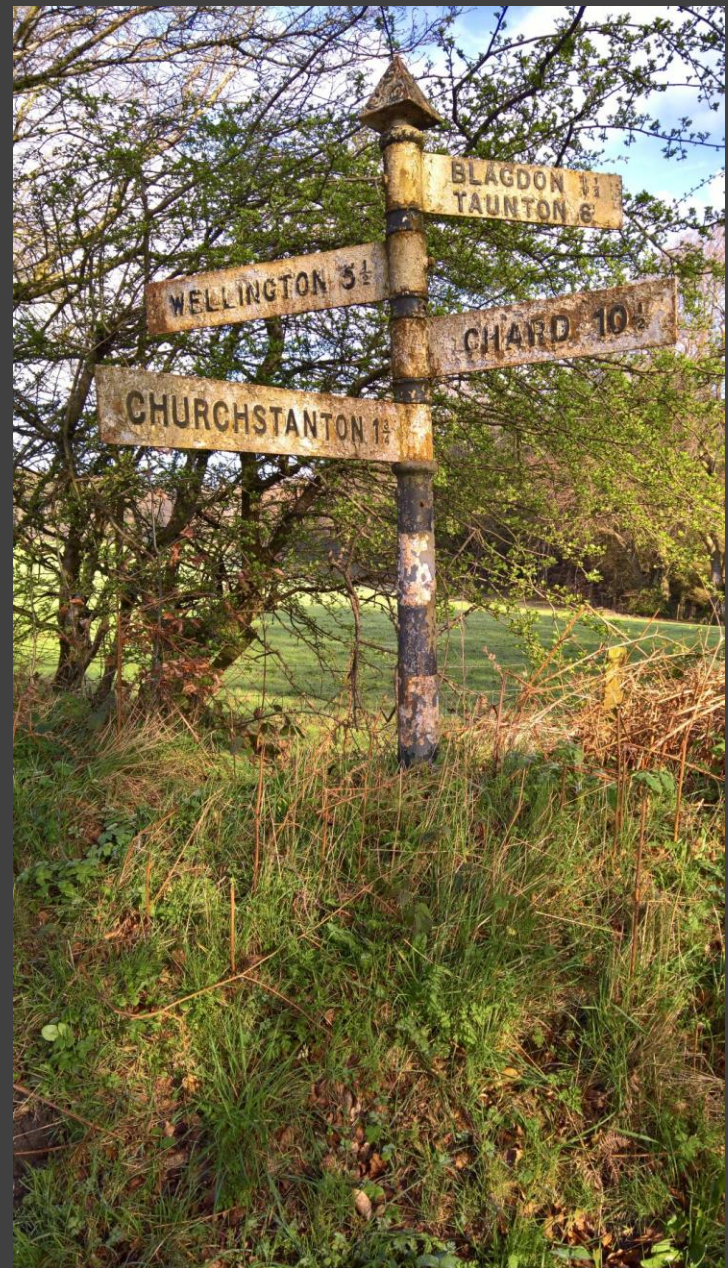
Meare Green



Chipley



Forches Corner



Bit further along!



Buckland Hill - 5th March 2017



2nd April 2017