

Sample paragraph from Chapter 3, p.72

The disappearance of hedges and the arrival of open strip fields may also have been the direct impetus for the system of transhumance, as stock was moved away from the growing crops in summer. At this period at least 30% of Cornwall was unenclosed rough land, held in common. This was a valuable resource, supplying furze and ferns for heating and bedding, turf (peat) for fuel, berries and wild animals for food and, first and foremost, summer grazing for domestic animals. Small huts on the uplands served as summer residences for a member of the household, with just enough room for a bed and storage space for cheese and butter. Often situated in groups of up to ten, these housed 'probably a young, unmarried woman' who would go with the family's cattle and sheep at the beginning of May, returning at the end of October, times of the festivals of Beltane and Samhain. The evidence for this practice of transhumance was written onto the landscape in the shape of the placename havos - with the element *hav* meaning summer.