

Hampshire Aggregate Resource Assessment: Aerial Photography Enhancement (5783 MAIN)

Project End Statement

This project comprised an archaeological survey of the New Forest and North West Solent coastal plain based on a review of all available aerial photographs and Environment Agency LiDAR data. It was carried out between March 2009 and January 2010 by the Cornwall Council Historic Environment Projects Team and was funded through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The project was carried out to current standards adopted by the National Mapping Programme and the results of the project were disseminated by means of a Final Report containing a general discussion of the character, diversity and distribution of archaeological sites visible on aerial photographs and recommendations for future research.

During the project 793 previously unrecognised archaeological features were identified, almost trebling the number of known sites in the project area. The main outcomes of the mapping are:

- A large number of twentieth century military and defensive sites were mapped and recorded, particularly in coastal areas and on Beaulieu Heath.
- The mapping extended the known distribution of Bronze Age barrows beyond the heathland areas, along the Beaulieu River and reaching almost as far as the coast.
- Later prehistoric sites were not numerous, but some significant examples were recorded, including an enclosure complex near Lymington. Although enclosure complexes of this kind are characteristic of the chalklands, few are known from the non-chalk areas of Hampshire.
- A number of coastal and maritime sites, mainly from the post medieval period, were recorded; of particular note are potential fish traps at Needs Ore Point, at the mouth of the Beaulieu River.

Data resulting from the survey will be incorporated into the National Monuments Record, Hampshire County Council's Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record and the New Forest National Park Authority GIS system. The project has provided enhanced baseline data essential for the development of effective management strategies in respect of the historic environment of the area.

The project will contribute towards the ongoing work of the relevant local authorities. Most notably it will feed into future management initiatives and plans of the New Forest National Park Authority, New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council. On a regional level it will interface with the Solent Thames Historic Environment Research Framework. The results of the current project also provide a data source for the currently ongoing South East area Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment.

