

Stowe's Hill, Linkinhorne, Cornwall  
Condition Survey





# Stowe's Hill, Linkinhorne, Cornwall Condition Survey

<b>Client</b>	Historic England
<b>Report Number</b>	2020R073
<b>Date</b>	20/10/20
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Report author</b>	James Gossip
<b>Approved by</b>	Andy Jones
<b>Project number</b>	147004
<b>Site code</b>	n/a
<b>Data location</b>	<a href="#">\\CAU\Archive\Sites\Stowe's Hill Condition Survey 147004</a>
<b>OASIS online reference</b>	cornwall2-405903

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

## **Cornwall Archaeological Unit**

Cornwall Council

Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY

Tel: (01872) 323603

Email: [enquiries@cau.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cau.org.uk)

Web: [www.cau.org.uk](http://www.cau.org.uk)

## **Acknowledgements**

This study was commissioned by Historic England and carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was James Gossip.

Aerial survey was carried out by 3DeepAerial. Ground survey was undertaken by James Gossip assisted by Antony Angove.

Thanks to Area Representatives from Cornwall Archaeological Society and Time Seekers who participated in the volunteer survey training and engagement day. Special thanks to Iain Rowe for his expert knowledge on Stowe's Hill and to Roz Knight and Chris Coldwell (AONB) for leading volunteer groups on the training day.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Cornwall Archaeological Unit and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## **Freedom of Information Act**

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.



Cornwall Archaeological Unit is a Registered Organisation with the  
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

## **© Cornwall Council 2020**

No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the publisher.

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Project background	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1.1	Aims and objectives	6
<b>4</b>	<b>Extents</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Designation	7
<b>6</b>	<b>Archaeological/Historical Background</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1	Historic mapping and documentation	9
6.2	Aerial photo comparison	13
6.3	Chronological summary	15
6.3.1	Neolithic ( <i>circa</i> 3000 BC)	15
6.3.2	Bronze Age ( <i>circa</i> 2500 - 1000 BC)	15
6.3.3	Medieval (AD 410-1540)	15
6.3.4	Post-medieval (AD 1540-1900)	15
6.4	Description of Stowe's Hill	15
<b>7</b>	<b>Survey</b>	<b>16</b>
7.1	Drone survey	16
7.2	Marked up plan and notes on condition	18
7.3	Desire Lines	47
<b>8</b>	<b>Volunteer Engagement</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Enhanced Interpretation</b>	<b>51</b>
9.1	Information panel	51
9.1.1	Suggested panel content	51
9.1.2	Position	51
9.2	Online information	52
9.3	Augmented reality	52
<b>10</b>	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<b>53</b>
10.1	Vegetation	53
10.2	Natural collapse of the ramparts and footfall	53
10.3	Vandalism/Heritage Crime	53
<b>11</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>53</b>
11.1	Primary sources (in chronological order)	53
11.2	Publications	54
11.3	Websites	55
<b>12</b>	<b>Appendix 1 Drone Survey, selected images</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Appendix 2 Recording and Monitoring form</b>	<b>65</b>

## List of Figures

- Fig 1 Location map showing the southern area of Bodmin Moor, Stowe's Hill highlighted © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Cornwall Council (100049047).
- Fig 2 Stowe's Hill, extent of condition survey shown in pink. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Cornwall Council (100049047).
- Fig 3 Stone stacks on the ramparts of the southern enclosure, 2017 (photo Stuart Dow).
- Fig 4 Stone stacks on the ramparts of the southern enclosure, 2017 (photo Stuart Dow).
- Fig 5 Stone stacks on the ramparts of the southern enclosure, 2017 (photo Stuart Dow).
- Fig 6 Extent of scheduled monument area (SM No 1012352). © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Cornwall Council (100049047).
- Fig 7 The Cheesewring as depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map for the parish of Linkinhorne © Cornwall Record Office, Cornwall Council, 2019.
- Fig 8 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880 showing the southern enclosure and the stony western slopes of the northern enclosure.  
© and database right "Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd" (All rights reserved 2019).
- Fig 9 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907 showing the southern enclosure, definition of the western rampart of the northern enclosure and slight enlargement of Cheesewring quarry. © and database right "Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd" (All rights reserved 2019).
- Fig 10 Boundary stone marking the extent of the Witheybrook Mine sett (MCO58249).
- Fig 11 A composite image showing aerial imagery from 1946, 1988, 2000 and the 2020 orthographic image.  
1946 RAF, © English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, © Imagery copyright Getmapping PLC. [www.getmapping.com](http://www.getmapping.com)
- Fig 12 Drone survey – orthographic view.
- Fig 13 Stowe's Hill condition survey, recorded features.
- Fig 14 Feature 1 – orthostats, southern tip of southern enclosure.
- Fig 15 Feature 2 - orthostats, on quarry edge.
- Fig 16 Feature 3 – reed growth in southern enclosure.
- Fig 17 Feature 4 – facing stones, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 18 Feature 5 – eastern rampart, southern enclosure, facing north.
- Fig 19 Feature 5 - eastern rampart, southern enclosure, facing south.
- Fig 20 Feature 6 – quarry or shelter, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 21 Feature 7 – exposed wall core, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 22 Feature 8 – shelter/hut, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 23 Feature 9 - shelter/hut, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 24 Feature 10 - shelter/hut, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 25 Feature 11 – possible exposed wall core, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.

- Fig 26 Feature 12 – facing slab or possible exposed wall core, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 27 Feature 13 – facing stones, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 28 Feature 14 – outcrop slab with 'Merriment Holes'.
- Fig 29 Feature 15 – facing stone facing north, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 30 Feature 16 – tumble from rampart face, north-east corner, southern enclosure.
- Fig 31 Feature 17 – exposed wall core, northern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 32 Feature 18 – exposed wall core boulder, northern rampart, southern enclosure.
- Fig 33 Feature 19 – unfinished cider press, split.
- Fig 34 Feature 20 - collapsed western rampart southern enclosure showing tree growing from rampart, facing north.
- Fig 35 Feature 21 - collapsed western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing south.
- Fig 36 Feature 22 - western rampart southern enclosure showing boulder facing stones, facing west.
- Fig 37 Feature 23 – collapsed stone stack.
- Fig 38 Feature 24 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing west.
- Fig 39 Feature 25 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing south west.
- Fig 40 Feature 26 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing west.
- Fig 41 Feature 27 - line of stones east of rampart facing stones, possibly part of earlier rampart phase or foundation.
- Fig 42 Feature 28 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing south towards the Cheesewring.
- Fig 43 Feature 29 – stacked stones under slab, northern enclosure.
- Fig 44 Feature 30 – northern enclosure, tumble of small stones on the outer face of the rampart.
- Fig 45 Feature 31 - northern enclosure, area of exposed wall core comprising irregularly coursed stone, northern end of enclosure.
- Fig 46 Feature 32 - Well preserved ring cairn or possible roundhouse with internal face lined with orthostats, northern enclosure.
- Fig 47 Feature 32 – Looking along the wall of the ring cairn or possible roundhouse.
- Fig 48 Feature 33 – northern enclosure, shelter or hut built into the rampart at its north-western corner.
- Fig 49 Feature 34 - northern enclosure, possible shelter or hut built into the rampart at its north-western corner, facing north.
- Fig 50 Feature 35 – northern enclosure, mutilated cairn MCO 4589.
- Fig 51 Feature 36 - northern enclosure, kerbed cairn MCO 4588.
- Fig 52 Feature 37 - northern enclosure, hut platform with partially visible stone kerb.
- Fig 53 Feature 38 - northern enclosure, hut platform with partially visible stone kerb.

- Fig 54 Feature 39 - northern enclosure, denuded rampart at north-eastern extent of enclosure.
- Fig 55 Feature 40 - northern enclosure, west hollow way entrance into enclosure. Bracken growth on north side.
- Fig 56 Feature 41 - northern enclosure, extensive bracken growth obscuring eastern rampart.
- Fig 57 Feature 42 - northern enclosure, stones displaced from base of smaller enclosure rampart.
- Fig 58 Feature 43 - broken stones thrown from the high ramparts of the small enclosure into the larger enclosure.
- Fig 59 Feature 45 - southern enclosure, small ring of displaced stones.
- Fig 60 Feature 46 - extensive reed growth on the western side of the small enclosure.
- Fig 61 Desire lines from the southern enclosure across the northern enclosure.
- Fig 62 Common route across rampart, shaded, showing reduced height of rampart as a result of dislodged stones.
- Fig 63 Feature 46 - extensive reed growth on the western side of the small enclosure.
- Fig 64 Feature 46 - extensive reed growth on the western side of the small enclosure.
- Fig 65 Volunteer training day.
- Fig 66 view of Stowe's Pound facing north-west.
- Fig 67 view of Stowe's Pound facing south.
- Fig 68 view of Stowe's Pound facing north-east.
- Fig 69 cairns and hut platforms at the northern end of the northern enclosure.
- Fig 70 denuded rampart at the northern end of the northern enclosure.
- Fig 71 well preserved ring cairn or roundhouse, northern enclosure.
- Fig 72 southern enclosure rampart, facing south.
- Fig 73 southern enclosure rampart.
- Fig 74 southern enclosure rampart, facing east, ramparts built against natural outcrops.
- Fig 75 northern enclosure, hut platforms.
- Fig 76 northern enclosure, hut platforms.
- Fig 77 northern enclosure, hut platforms.
- Fig 78 northern enclosure, hut platforms.
- Fig 79 southern enclosure rampart, clearly defined facing stones.
- Fig 80 Southern enclosure rampart, clearly defined facing stones.
- Fig 81 southern point of southern enclosure rampart showing line of orthostats.
- Fig 82 A view of Stowe's Pound from the east.
- Fig 83 The Cheesewring.

## **Abbreviations**

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HE	Historic England



HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey

# **1 Summary**

Historic England commissioned Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) to undertake a comprehensive record of the current condition of Stowe's Hill, Linkinhorne, Cornwall, (Scheduled Monument number 1012352), incorporating Volunteer Engagement, Damage Recording and Enhanced Interpretation. The site comprises an enclosed hilltop settlement (Neolithic tor enclosure) with associated field systems, building platforms, roundhouses, cairns and transhumance huts. The site is listed on the Heritage at Risk register.

A significant issue in recent years has been the construction of stone stacks, or 'Fairy Castles' using stones taken from the ramparts, particularly in the southern enclosure. Although this type of vandalism is unlikely to be malicious in intent, it is classed as a heritage crime and these actions, whether carried out wilfully or not, affect the significance of the monument.

The project seeks to make a record of the current condition and preservation of the site, in the light of recent vandalism and to further engage with established volunteer groups in recording damage and dismantling stone stacks. It is the intention that providing new information, interpretation and education will help to prevent further vandalism.



Fig 1 Location map showing the southern area of Bodmin Moor, Stowe's Hill highlighted © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Cornwall Council (100049047).



Fig 2 Stowe's Hill, extent of condition survey shown in pink. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Cornwall Council (100049047).

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Project background

This report has been commissioned by Historic England in order to produce a comprehensive record of prehistoric and later remains on Stowe's Hill, Linkinhorne, Cornwall, a large, earlier prehistoric hillfort or 'tor enclosure', centred on NGR SX 25720 72732. The site contains numerous house platforms and at least two funerary cairns. It is believed that the southern enclosure, comprising larger rampart walls, was later re-used to form a medieval stock pound (HER). The site is an extensive Scheduled Monument (number 1012352, Fig 6) and is listed on the Heritage at Risk register.

In recent years the walls of the enclosures have suffered from vandalism, mostly in the form of the construction of stone stacks, or 'Fairy Castles' (Figs 3-5). Sections of original rampart face and core are being robbed-out to create these stacks, and the shifting of collapsed or loosened stones reveals more *in situ* rampart which is then accessible to further robbing. The project focusses on providing a record of condition and form of the main enclosures and internal features with an emphasis on volunteer engagement, damage recording and enhanced interpretation by means of signage and newer technological solutions. It is envisaged that through enhanced interpretation and education visitors will be deterred from vandalism in the future.

The site is one of a number of Heritage at Risk sites included in a Monument Management Scheme through Historic England (HE) and the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Monumental Improvement project, currently in its development stage. Volunteers from Cornwall Archaeological Society and Bodmin Moor Time Seekers continue to play an active role in safeguarding the site.



Fig 3 Stone stacks on the ramparts of the southern enclosure, 2017 (photo Stuart Dow).



*Fig 4 Stone stacks on the ramparts of the southern enclosure, 2017 (photo Stuart Dow).*



*Fig 5 Stone stacks on the ramparts of the southern enclosure, 2017 (photo Stuart Dow).*

### **3 Methodology**

The methodology has been set out by the 'Brief to Record the Preservation, Condition, and Form of the Main Enclosures and Internal Features on Stowe's Hill, Linkinhorne, Cornwall, Incorporating Volunteer Engagement, Damage Recording and Enhanced

Interpretation' prepared by Dan Bashford, Heritage at Risk Project Officer, Historic England, dated 14/11/19.

The work comprises three phases:

- **Phase 1:** Aerial photographic survey, 3D model and historic summary;
- **Phase 2:** A fully illustrated report with plans and images highlighting condition and areas of damage and an assessment of the methods for enhanced interpretation of the site. CAU will work alongside the volunteer groups to refine the strategy for recording and dismantling stone stacks;
- **Phase 3:** A repeat aerial survey in 2021 for comparison with the original survey.

This report brings together the results of phase 1 and phase 2 of the project.

### 3.1.1 Aims and objectives

The primary aims of this study are to:

- Comprehensively record the current condition of the site and its structures within the agreed study area, with an emphasis on the enclosure walls and ramparts;
- assess the impacts of the recent vandalism;
- assess the evidence for ongoing vandalism;
- engage with volunteer groups with an ongoing interest in the site;
- develop the means for enhanced interpretation with the objective of informing and educating the public of the importance of the site and thereby help to prevent further vandalism.

## 4 Extents

The survey covers all structures within the area highlighted on Fig 2. Features/structures have been captured close-up and both video and stills record internal and external space. The aerial photographic survey was carried out by 3DeepAerial who carried out low-level aerial photography and video of the structures within the enclosures, including wall faces, and areas of exposed core.

Survey work comprised:

- Vertical and oblique still photography.
- An overall vertical view of the site taken at maximum permitted height above ground level.
- Multiple oblique views of the site and surrounding landscape context looking.
- approximately north, north-east, east, south-east, south, south-west, west and north-west across the site at an intermediate height.
- The production of a 3D model of the enclosures themselves, and also including the internal area of the enclosures especially the internal house platforms using Structure from Motion.
- Low-level aerial photography and video enhanced by ground photography if required.

The phase 1 photographic and video UAV and ground section-by section photographic survey includes all stone ramparts, walls and internal structures of the monument (see Fig 2). The Phase 3 survey will undertake the same work for comparison in 2021.

## **5 Location**

Stowe's Hill is a prominent granite ridge reaching 378m above sea level situated in open moorland just north of the village of Minions, set within an area of Bodmin Moor which constitutes an extensive ceremonial landscape. This includes stone circles, rows, standing stones, barrows and cairns and forms one of the richest and best preserved prehistoric landscapes in the country. The ridge is a prominent skyline feature from The Hurlers, three stone circles lying 1km to the south, and Rillaton Barrow, source of the famous 'Gold Cup' is sited 600m further along the ridge towards Minions. The hill looks down on Rillaton Moor and Witheybrook Marsh to the south and west, the upper reaches of the River Lynher to the east and on the skyline beyond can be seen distant views of Dartmoor. At its southern tip the hill has been eaten into by the workings of the 19th century Cheesewring Quarry and the surrounding landscape is peppered with the lodeback pits and other workings resulting from what was extensive 19th century mining activity.

The summit of the hill is encircled by two walled ramparts and numerous outworks, forming one of the largest and best preserved examples of an Early Neolithic tor enclosure in Cornwall.

### **5.1 Designation**

Stowe's Hill is part of an extensive Scheduled Monument area (Fig 6) defined as 'earlier prehistoric hillfort, two cairns, medieval pound and adjacent prehistoric field systems, hut circles and transhumance huts on Stowe's Hill' (SM number 1012352) and sits within the Cornwall AONB.

The site is listed on the Heritage at Risk register.



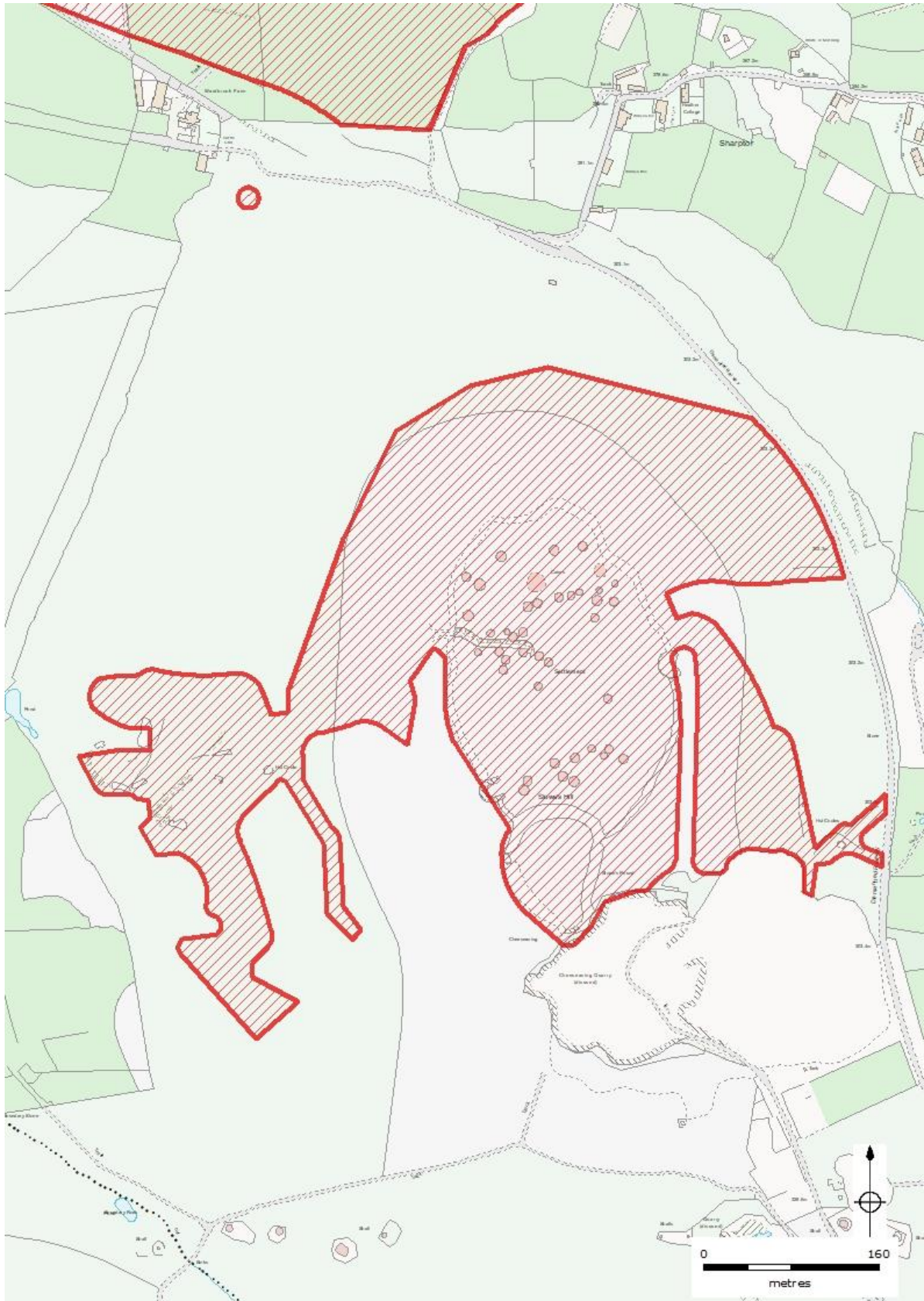


Fig 6 Extent of scheduled monument area (SM No 1012352). © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Cornwall Council (100049047).

## 6 Archaeological/Historical Background

Preparation of material for the historic summary was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) guidance on undertaking desk-based assessment (CIfA 2017).

This section presents a summary of the historical development of the study area, provides detail of the heritage assets that have been identified and reports on previous work in the study area.

### Sources

During the desk-based assessment historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and study area and the structures and features that were likely to survive. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER); via the publicly accessible Heritage Gateway.
- The National Heritage List for England (a searchable database of designated heritage assets, excluding conservation areas).
- GIS data accessible to CAU.
- Publicly accessible LiDAR imagery.
- Early maps, records, and photographs (see Section 11.1).
- Published histories (see Section 11.2).

### 6.1 Historic mapping and documentation

The only pre-19th century records for Stowe's Hill refer solely to the Cheesewring, the natural rock formation standing just outside the southern enclosure. The rocks are first depicted by John Norden in 1584 and were again noted by Carew in 1603 (Norden 1584; Carew 1969). There are no earlier references, although the place-name 'Stowe's Pound' suggests that it was re-used as an animal pound in the medieval period. According to Lake, "the ancient pound of the Manor of Rillaton comprises about an acre of level ground once evidently surrounded by a strong stone hedge" (Polsue 1867-72, 132). Lake is undoubtedly referring to the smaller enclosure on the summit. Fletcher refers to medieval documentation of the use of the upper enclosure as a pound, but does not state his source (Fletcher 1989, 76).

The 1840 Tithe Map for Linkinhorne shows an empty landscape on Stowe's Hill, depicting only the 'Cheese Wring' (Fig 7) and to the south-east buildings and lode back pits associated with the combined setts of Stowe's Mine and Wheal Jenkin (HER number 14007), operating in 1824. Stowe's was abandoned in 1844 but was probably taken up again in 1870 as phoenix united.

By 1880 (First edition Ordnance Survey, Fig 8) extensive quarrying into the south face of the hill is shown. The first lease for the quarrying of granite on Stowe's Hill was granted to Trethewey, Clogg and Co by the Duchy of Cornwall in 1845 with operations expanded as Cheesewring Granite Co Ltd, with the construction of the Kilmar tramway in 1858, when production reached 11,274 tons. The company was acquired by John Freeman and Co in 1863 and a new lease was granted in 1868 allowing further expansion.

The quarry provided granite for Westminster Bridge, Tower Bridge and the Thames Embankment, and more locally produced the stone setts for the Liskeard and Caradon Railway and its northern extension, the Kilmar Tramway. The historic mapping shows us that as early as 1880 the quarry had carved a huge gouge into the southern edge of Stowe's Hill and appeared to threaten the stability of the Cheesewring, the natural rock

formation and famous landmark perched precariously above the quarry. It was later described at length by writers such as Wilkie Collins and it was voices such as his that helped galvanise local protest to save the natural rock formation from demolition by quarrying (HER).

The 1880 First Edition Ordnance Survey (Fig 8) also depicts the smaller southern hilltop enclosure for the first time, with the stone ramparts of its distinctive pear-drop shape clearly marked with the 'Cheesewring' just outside the enclosure to the south-west. The stone strewn western slopes of the larger northern are depicted, shown curving around to the north-east but there is nothing mapped to indicate an understanding of the site as a fully enclosed plateau at this point. A dense area of stone marked inside the north-western arc of the enclosure corresponds approximately with the position of the cairn (HER number 1417.10, MCO4588) later surveyed by Ordnance Survey and RCHME. The 1906-08 Second Edition Ordnance Survey is essentially a copy of the earlier map but shows definition of the western rampart of the northern enclosure and further quarry expansion, excavating into the southern tip of the smaller enclosure and almost certainly destroying the southernmost tip of the ramparts (Fig 9).

The available historic mapping thus shows that early observers noted only the smaller primary enclosure on the summit, being described by Crawford in 1929 as a 'camp with a rampart of stone' but 'no sign of hut circles within'. Stowe's Pound became a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the 1950s thanks to the work of the celebrated historian and archaeologist Dorothy Dudley who dedicated most of her working life to the historic monuments of Cornwall. The Ordnance Survey in the 1970s surveyed the two enclosures, identifying thirty nine hut platforms within the northern enclosure. The first detailed description was not carried out until the 1980s, when survey was carried out by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England, using a combination of aerial mapping and ground survey (at a scale of 1:10000; Johnson and Rose 1994).

The Historic Environment Record for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly list a number of record entries for Stowe's Hill. At the northern end of the larger hilltop enclosure of Stowe's Pound are two cairns (Monument ID MCO4588 and MCO4589) mapped by the Ordnance Survey and RCHME (Fletcher 1989; Johnson and Rose 1994). A third, identified as a roundhouse, may actually be a ring cairn. The western cairn (MCO4588) at SX 25769 72735 is described by Fletcher as a large and prominent turf covered cairn 1.4m high and composed of boulders. Though disturbed and mutilated it appears to have been flat topped with a central tump and has a stone kerb. To the east at SX 25826 72746 the cairn (MCO4589) is more mutilated and less well defined, standing approximately 1.3m high with a flat top but with a ring of upright stones around its depressed centre. Both cairns were Scheduled in October 1992.

A small quarry or stone-splitting pit MCO38841 is recorded to the south of cairn MCO4589 at SX 25775 72702, surveyed by RCHME in the 1980s. This is in fact one of many clusters of stones within the enclosure where splitting by drilling (tar and feather) is visible, suggesting work by quarrymen post-1800 (Johnson and Rose 1994). To the south of this where the hollow trackway curves from the western entrance around to the south at SX 26777 72668 is a rectangular granite sett marker (Fig 10), now fallen (MCO58249). The Inscription reads WB 3 and is believed to indicate one of four boundary stones marking the extent of the Witherbrook Mine sett (HER).

A small trial quarry MCO38840 is cut into the eastern side of the enclosure through the stone rampart at SX 25889 72662, measuring approximately 20m x 15m, probably 19th century in date (Sharpe 1989).

In the smaller southern enclosure at SX 25829 72497 is a small flat topped tor MCO58255. The flat rock is covered in a large number of 19th century drilled 'Merriment Holes', packed with gunpowder and set off for sound and display at times of celebration (HER).

The Cheesewring itself at SX 25780 72400 stands prominently just outside the southern tip of the smaller enclosure just above the quarry face.



Fig 7 The Cheesewring as depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map for the parish of Linkinhorne  
© Cornwall Record Office, Cornwall Council, 2019.



Fig 8 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880 showing the southern enclosure and the stony western slopes of the northern enclosure.

© and database right "Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd" (All rights reserved 2019).

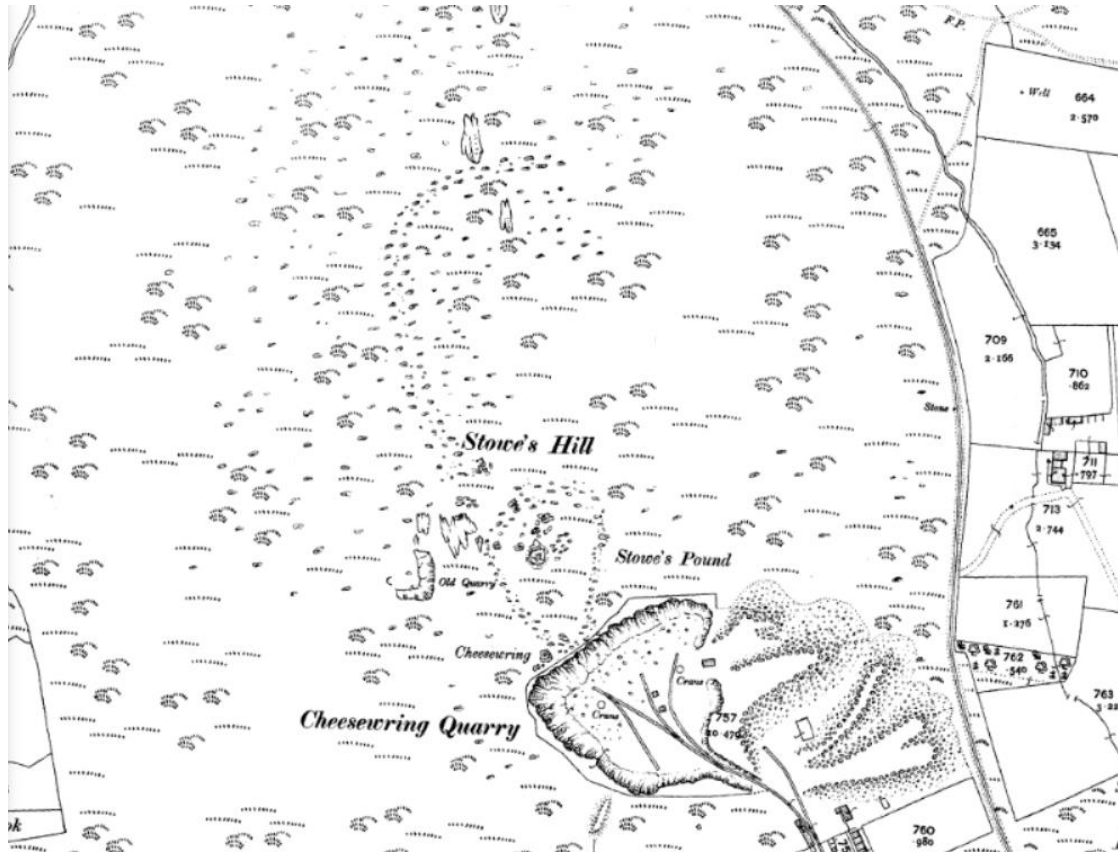


Fig 9 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907 showing the southern enclosure, definition of the western rampart of the northern enclosure and slight enlargement of Cheesewring quarry. © and database right "Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd" (All rights reserved 2019).



*Fig 10 Boundary stone marking the extent of the Witheybrook Mine sett (MCO58249).*

## **6.2 Aerial photo comparison**

The 1946 aerial photo appears to show the site with less vegetation than today, probably due to a more intensive grazing regime. The northern extents of the northern enclosure seem to be more intact and the eastern walls are more visible, suggesting less bracken cover. The hut platforms in the northern enclosure can be seen very clearly. Comparison with the 1988 aerial photo shows that little has changed over much of the site, but in the northern enclosure the southern section of the eastern rampart is much harder to make out (Fig 11). Hut platforms too are less well defined, suggesting an increase in vegetation. There is little change in the later aerial photographs taken in 2000, 2005 and 2016 or in the orthographic drone image from 2020. These all show similar amounts of vegetation but in general, little overall change to the surviving ramparts. The 2016 aerial photo seems to show the central north-south desire line through the northern enclosure for the first time.

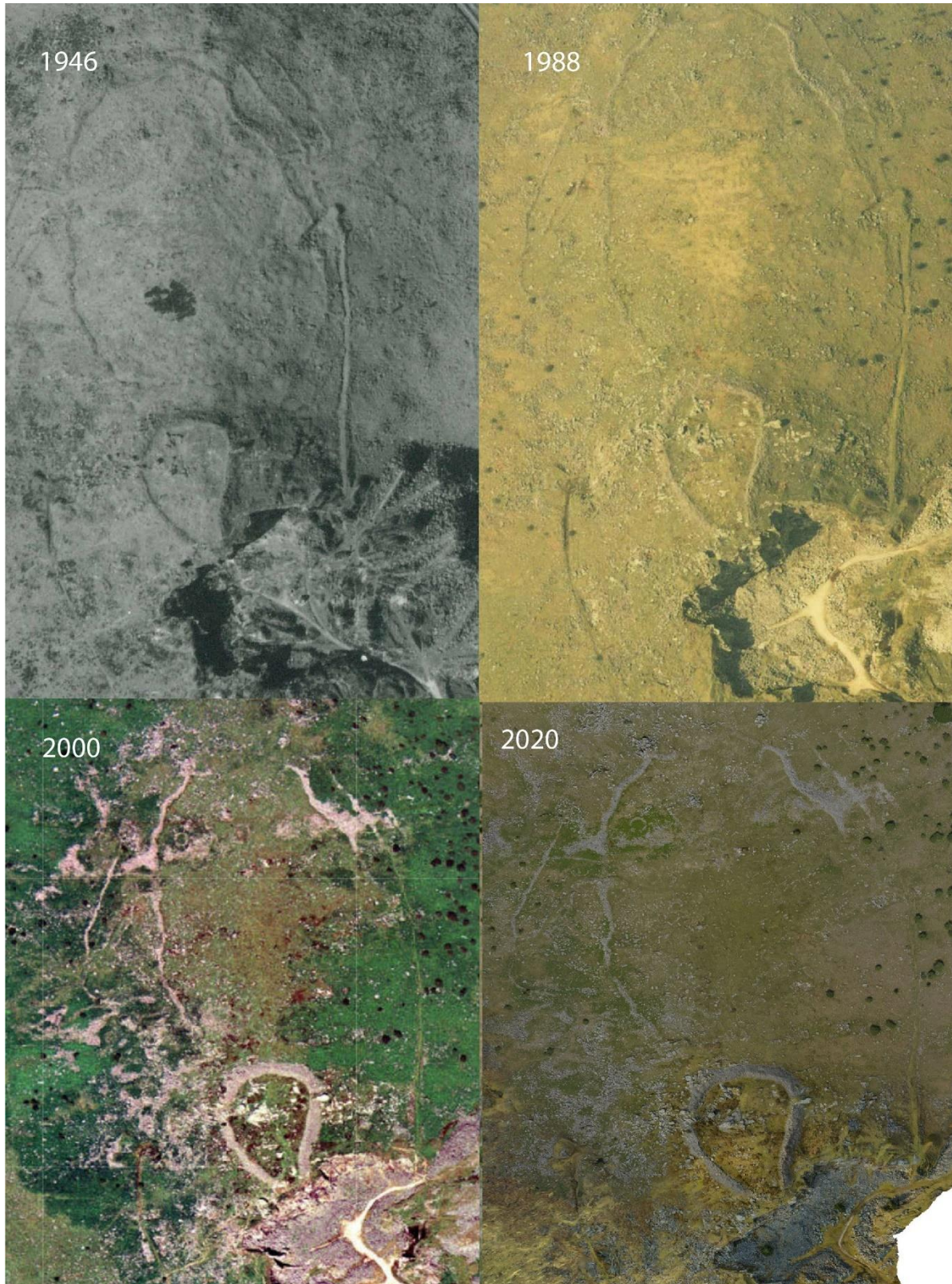


Fig 11 A composite image showing aerial imagery from 1946, 1988, 2000 and the 2020 orthographic image.

1946 RAF, © English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, © Imagery copyright Getmapping PLC. [www.getmapping.com](http://www.getmapping.com)

## 6.3 Chronological summary

### 6.3.1 Neolithic (*circa* 3000 BC)

- Neolithic tor enclosure, contemporary with Carn Brea, Helman Tor, Roughtor and others

### 6.3.2 Bronze Age (*circa* 2500 - 1000 BC)

- Possibly further enclosure
- Hut stance settlement (although these may be Neolithic)
- Burial cairns

### 6.3.3 Medieval (AD 410-1540)

- Use of the smaller enclosure as a livestock pound
- Possibly stone quarrying and splitting, continuing until the 19th century

### 6.3.4 Post-medieval (AD 1540-1900)

- Cheesewring quarry, stone splitting and quarrying

## 6.4 Description of Stowe's Hill

The 'pear-shaped' primary enclosure (Stowe's Pound) surrounds the southernmost (and highest) part of the hill and its tors, with the famous Cheesewring rock-formation standing just outside the south-western edge of the rampart. The rampart walls of this smaller enclosure remain impressive, standing up to around 5m in height externally and 1.6-2m internally and as much as 12m wide in places, enclosing an area of around 1 hectare. An entrance is visible on the south-east and there is a possible blocked entrance on the north-east. The ramparts comprise exposed, weather-bleached stones, with roughly coursed stonework surviving in places and at its southern edge pointed orthostats (slabs) face the rampart, perched above the cutting of the 19th century quarry. Exposed rocks and tors are incorporated into the defensive walling around its perimeter, particularly on the north-western side. As mentioned above, one of these rocks, a projecting slab-like tor rock on the eastern side of the southern enclosure is peppered with shallow holes, 'Merriment Holes' created by quarrymen in the 19th century.

Attached to the southern enclosure rampart is a far larger stone-walled enclosure stretching to the north and encircling the remainder of the plateau, hugging the upper slopes of the hill. The rampart wall lies at a lower level and surrounds an area of approximately 5 hectares (12 ½ acres) and although the walls are noticeably slighter, with an external height of around 1.5m, an internal height of 1m and ranging between 5 and 10 metres in width, with irregular coursing survives in places where the original wall faces are exposed. On the north and north-eastern sides of the large enclosure are traces of at least two roughly concentric outer banks, with other visible outworks flanking the hillslopes to east and west. A complex entrance can be made out on the east side, flanked by funnel-shaped stony banks, leading towards the settlement. Banks on the western side form an annexed enclosure adjacent to a well-defined hollowed trackway running upslope towards an entrance through the rampart on this side but there is no obvious entrance connecting the smaller and larger enclosures. The relationship between the two enclosures is uncertain and there remains no confirmed chronology for the development of the site. The more southern sections of the larger enclosure rampart walls on both sides of the hill are obscured by stone-splitting debris ('clitter') and dumps from quarrying, the hill dropping away steeply to the surrounding moorland. Much of the eastern slopes, in particular the rampart walls of the larger enclosure, are obscured by bracken.

Within the large enclosure at least 110 level platforms have been identified, approximately 10m in diameter and cleared of stones, interpreted as the stances for houses (Johnson and Rose 1994). These hut platforms appear to be arranged in two groups to the north and south, perhaps clustered around the entranceways and likely to



be contemporary with the construction of the ramparts. At the northern end of the larger enclosure are the two derelict stony cairns described above. Recent work by geologist Calum Beeson has indicated that the two cairns are sited directly on the line of a mineral lode bisecting the granite, a factor that may have been an influence when the site was selected by the Bronze Age barrow builders (Calum Beeson, pers comm). Anecdotally one of the cairns incorporated a cist which contained a Trevisker pottery urn with 100 flint spearheads, arrowheads and a dagger; although there are no surviving records of this excavation and the account cannot be confirmed (HER). If correct, it would make a very unusual find in Cornwall. A third large circular site, initially identified as a roundhouse by the RCHME survey, may in fact more probably be interpreted as a ring cairn, given its size and location at the western end of a group of cairns (see above).

The site remains unexcavated, but comparison with the excavated settlements such as Helman Tor and Carn Brea suggests an Early Neolithic date (Jones and Quinnell 2011) and may have been first occupied during the 4th-3rd millennium BC, possibly as a local tribal centre and place of ceremony, trade and social gathering. The continued significance of the hilltop settlement is evidenced by at least two cairns dating to the Early Bronze Age, indicating that Stowe's Pound survived as a focus for communities occupying the area over millennia and highlighting its role in the organisation of the surrounding landscape during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages.

## **7 Survey**

### **7.1 Drone survey**

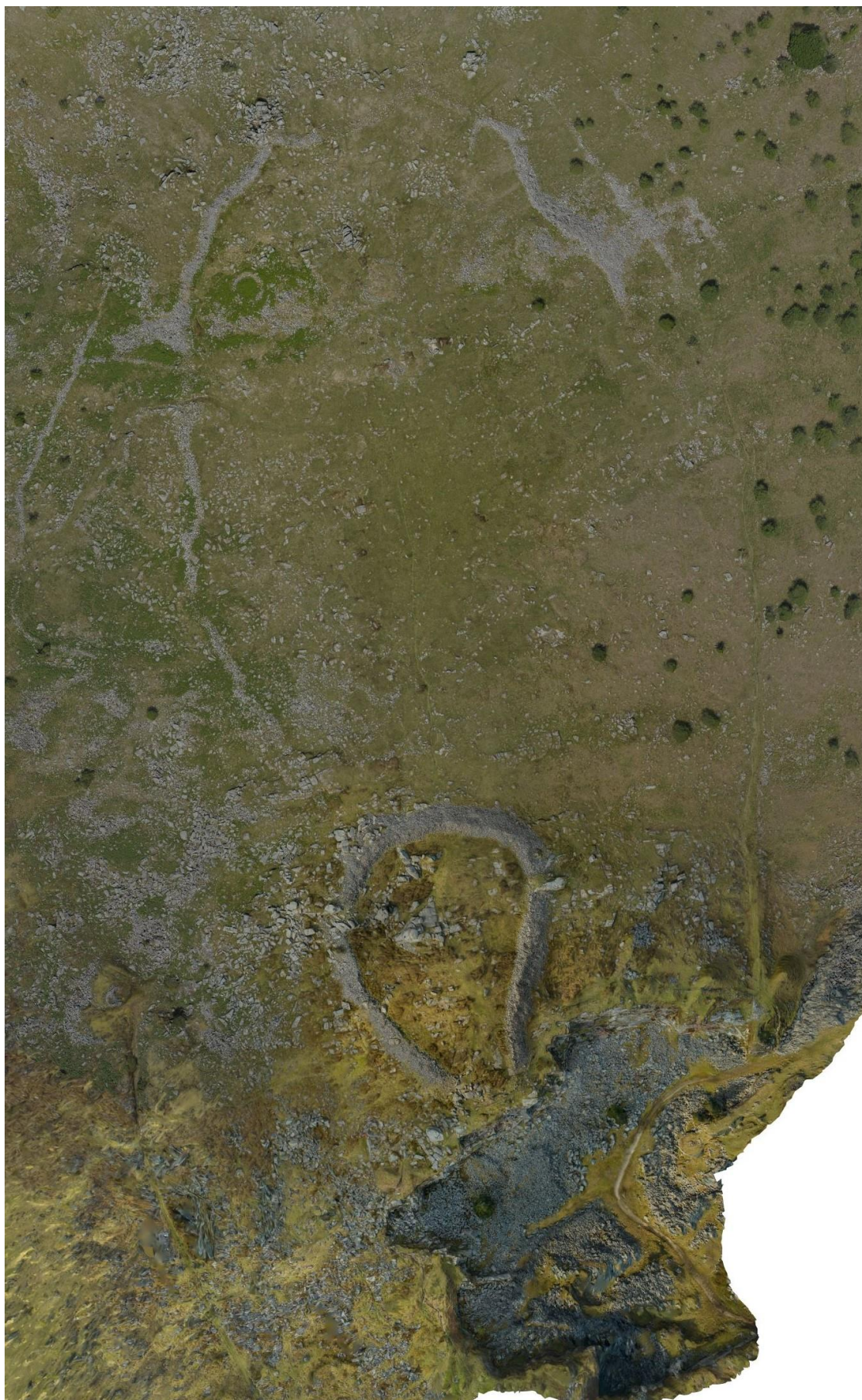
The UAV (drone) survey captured stills, video, orthographic and oblique images of Stowe's Hill.

Low-level aerial, wall top, and wall face photographic survey was undertaken and a 3D model of the site was produced including the internal area, its component structures (house platforms, etc) and structures using Structure from Motion. The drone pilot was briefed by the CAU project officer prior to the drone recording.

The orthographic and oblique drone imagery gives a clear image of the current condition of the Stowe's Hill enclosures, internal features, areas of collapse, exposed wall core and rampart facing stones. Comparison between these images and those of the follow-up survey (2010) will reveal changes that have occurred in that interval. A selection of oblique and orthographic images is reproduced in Appendix 1 of this report.

The 3D model is viewable at this link <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/Stowe's-hill-site-mobile-4afddeb101ca4f5d91bd06d427bd01aa> .

Using the orthographic imagery (Fig 12) captured by the drone a new simplified survey was created in order to mark up with notable features, areas of vulnerability etc (Fig 13).



*Fig 12 Drone survey – orthographic view.*

## 7.2 Marked up plan and notes on condition

The site was inspected by walkover survey to identify key areas of interest and record these on base plan. These included exposed *in-situ* wall faces and core, historic tumble, areas particularly at risk from vandalism, areas of greatest damage and other areas of interest.

Only one small stone stack was recorded during the site visit and minimal additional areas of disturbance. This included an area where stones had been gathered and arranged in an oval shape on the ground and evidence of stones being thrown from the smaller enclosure rampart down into the larger enclosure. Drone stills, video, 3D model and orthographic images were used in conjunction with ground photos in order to illustrate key features/areas of interest, marked on Figure 13.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current condition</b>
<b>Southern Enclosure</b>		
1	Orthostatic boulders on the southern edge of the smaller southern enclosure, just inside the fence line. A prominent feature, presumed to be facing stones to a rampart now removed.	Stable. Relatively high footfall.
2	Orthostats perhaps indicating outer edge facing stones or part of rampart core, close to the edge of the quarry and on the outside of the fence line.	Stable.
3	Areas of reed growth within the smaller enclosure.	Ground stable, not boggy.
4	Facing stones along the inside edge of the rampart at its south-eastern end.	Stable and earth-fast, visible.
5	Top of the rampart south-eastern end.	All stones are loose and easily mobile. No evidence of recent vandalism, but stones do move when the ramparts are walked on. There is evidence that many visitors do this.
6	Remains of hut or shelter built into the top of the southern enclosure rampart, eastern side.	Stones very loose and unstable.
7	A large boulder, possibly part of rampart core, eastern side.	Boulder earth-fast, surrounded by loose stone.
8	Well-preserved remains of oval hut or shelter built into the top of the southern enclosure rampart, eastern side. Coursed stone walling on western side, orthostats form the south-eastern curved wall.	A long stone has been toppled into the centre of the structure, presumably from nearby. All stones making up the structure and those surrounding are very loose.
9	Coursed stone forming the west wall of site 8 shelter or hut.	
10	Orthostats forming the south-eastern wall of site 8 shelter or hut and showing dumped stone.	

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current condition</b>
11	Possibly buried facing stone covered by rampart tumble.	All stones very unstable surrounding the facing stone.
12	Facing stone, inside edge of enclosure rampart, east side.	Evidence of recent tumble of stone into the interior of the enclosure. Possible collapsed stone stack
13	Facing stones along the inside edge of the rampart on its eastern side to the west of large outcropping boulder (14).	Stable and earth-fast, visible
14	Large outcrop 'slab', covered with 'Merriment' or 'Midsummer' holes.	Stable
15	Leaning boulder, probable facing stone, inside edge of rampart, north-east side. Rampart falls away steeply on eastern side.	Very unstable stone either side of boulder with an accumulation of stones collapsed into interior of enclosure on the north-west side of the stone.
16	Tumble of stone along inside face of rampart, north-east corner.	Moss covered, no recent movement.
17	Coursed stone wall 0.70m high indicating exposed rampart core, inside face of rampart north side of enclosure.	Stones are unstable and could be damaged by climbing. Close to the most often used access point into the northern enclosure.
18	Large boulder: possibly rampart core visible on inner face of rampart north side of enclosure. May have become visible after tumble of smaller stones.	Surrounding stones very unstable.
19	Broken granite cider press inside enclosure adjacent to natural outcrop stack – probably an unfinished piece, later split by drilling.	Stable.
20	Western rampart south of outcrop. Hawthorn growing from outside edge.	Unstable stone. Tree not causing any visible damage.
21	Western rampart, collapsed inner face, outside tumbled down slope making the rampart low but wide at this point.	Loose, unstable stones.
22	Orthostatic facing stones along the inside edge of the rampart, western side of enclosure.	Facing stones stable, loose surrounding material.
23	Small stack of stones, probably a collapsed stone stack at base of outcrop.	Currently left in place.
24	Orthostatic facing stones along the inside edge of the rampart, western side of enclosure.	Facing stones stable, loose rampart material on western side of facing stones.
25	Orthostatic facing stones along the inside edge of the rampart, many leaning westwards into the rampart core, western	Facing stones stable, loose rampart material on western side of facing

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current condition</b>
	side of enclosure.	stones.
26	Orthostatic facing stones along the inside edge of the rampart, western side of enclosure.	Facing stones stable, loose surrounding material.
27	Line of stones east of rampart facing stones, possibly part of earlier rampart phase or foundation.	Stable. Extensive reed growth to east.
28	'curb' or large boulder orthostats at southern end of western rampart. Common access point for visitors.	Large earth-fast stones, stable. No footfall disturbance.
<b>Northern enclosure</b>		
29	Loose stones placed under projecting slab at base of outside edge of rampart. Not propping stone slab.	Loose stones collected from rampart and grouped under slab. Left in place.
30	Tumble of small stones on the outer face of the rampart, spilling between large boulders and natural outcrop.	Unstable stones, easily displaced by climbing.
31	Area of exposed wall core comprising irregularly coursed stone, visible on inside face of rampart, northern end of enclosure.	Stones loose and unstable. Easily displaced.
32	Well preserved ring cairn or possible roundhouse with internal face lined with orthostats, entrance to the south-west. 8m internal diameter with walls 1.5m wide.	Walls relatively clear but interior overgrown with bracken, dying back at time of survey.
33	Shelter or hut built into the rampart at its north-western corner, comprising stacked, semi-coursed walls, approximately 2m x 1.5m and 0.5m high. Surrounding rampart denuded/robbed.	Very fragile and unstable, easily displaced stones.
34	Possible shelter or hut built into the rampart at its north-western corner, comprising walls one or two stones high, approximately 2m x 1.5m and 0.3m high. Surrounding rampart denuded/robbed.	Very fragile and unstable, easily displaced stones.
35	Mutilated/robbed cairn MCO 4589. Slight bracken growth.	Stable.
36	Kerbed cairn MCO 4588, grass covered slopes.	Stable.
37	Hut platform with partially visible stone kerb. Grass, grazed.	Stable.
38	Hut platform with partially visible stone kerb. Grass, grazed.	Stable.
39	Denuded rampart at northern extent of enclosure.	Stable.
40	West hollow way entrance into enclosure. Bracken growth on north side.	Stable.
41	Extensive bracken growth obscuring eastern rampart on the slopes as it runs southwards towards the southern enclosure.	Obscured by vegetation.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current condition</b>
42	Stones displaced from base of southern enclosure rampart.	Easily displaced.
43	Fractured stones thrown from the high ramparts of the southern enclosure into the larger enclosure.	Scatters of stone indicate this is a fairly common practice.
Additional records		
44	A small fairy castle at the base of the rampart of the southern enclosure.	Dismantled and stones placed on rampart adjacent. No indication where the stones had derived from.
45	A circle of stones built from rampart stones, close to the base of the rampart of the southern enclosure.	Dismantled and stones placed on rampart adjacent. No indication where the stones had derived from.
46	Bracken growth at the north-western end of the northern enclosure.	Obscures features such as site 32 and outer walls.

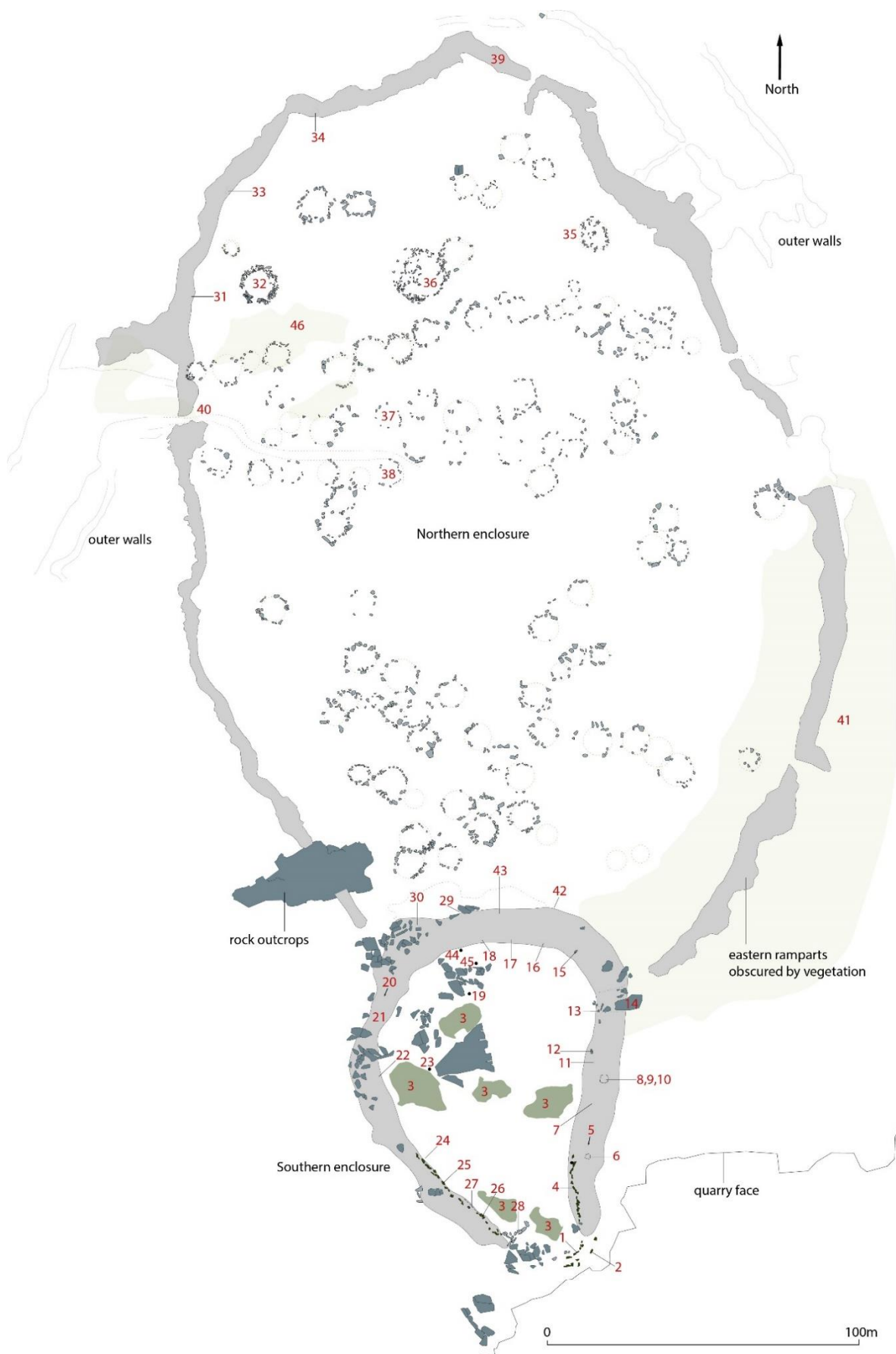


Fig 13 Stowe's Hill condition survey, recorded features.



Fig 14 Feature 1 – orthostats, southern tip of southern enclosure.



Fig 15 Feature 2 - orthostats, on quarry edge.





Fig 16 Feature 3 – reed growth in southern enclosure.



Fig 17 Feature 4 – facing stones, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 18 Feature 5 – eastern rampart, southern enclosure, facing north.



Fig 19 Feature 5 - eastern rampart, southern enclosure, facing south.



Fig 20 Feature 6 – quarry or shelter, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 21 Feature 7 – exposed wall core, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 22 Feature 8 – shelter/hut, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 23 Feature 9 - shelter/hut, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 24 Feature 10 - shelter/hut, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 25 Feature 11 - possible exposed wall core, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 26 Feature 12 – facing slab or possible exposed wall core, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 27 Feature 13 – facing stones, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 28 Feature 14 – outcrop slab with 'Merriment Holes'.



Fig 29 Feature 15 – facing stone facing north, eastern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 30 Feature 16 – tumble from rampart face, north-east corner, southern enclosure.



Fig 31 Feature 17 – exposed wall core, northern rampart, southern enclosure.





Fig 32 Feature 18 – exposed wall core boulder, northern rampart, southern enclosure.



Fig 33 Feature 19 – unfinished cider press, split.



*Fig 34 Feature 20 - collapsed western rampart southern enclosure showing tree growing from rampart, facing north.*



*Fig 35 Feature 21 - collapsed western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing south.*



Fig 36 Feature 22 - western rampart southern enclosure showing boulder facing stones, facing west.



Fig 37 Feature 23 - collapsed stone stack.



Fig 38 Feature 24 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing west.



Fig 39 Feature 25 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing south west.



*Fig 40 Feature 26 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing west.*



*Fig 41 Feature 27 - line of stones east of rampart facing stones, possibly part of earlier rampart phase or foundation.*



*Fig 42 Feature 28 - western rampart southern enclosure showing facing stones, facing south towards the Cheesewring.*



*Fig 43 Feature 29 - stacked stones under slab, northern enclosure.*



*Fig 44 Feature 30 – northern enclosure, tumble of small stones on the outer face of the rampart.*



*Fig 45 Feature 31 - northern enclosure, area of exposed wall core comprising irregularly coursed stone, northern end of enclosure.*



Fig 46 Feature 32 - Well preserved ring cairn or possible roundhouse with internal face lined with orthostats, northern enclosure.



Fig 47 Feature 32 - Looking along the wall of the ring cairn or possible roundhouse.





*Fig 48 Feature 33 – northern enclosure, shelter or hut built into the rampart at its north-western corner.*



*Fig 49 Feature 34 - northern enclosure, possible shelter or hut built into the rampart at its north-western corner, facing north.*



Fig 50 Feature 35 – northern enclosure, mutilated cairn MCO 4589.



Fig 51 Feature 36 - northern enclosure, kerbed cairn MCO 4588.



Fig 52 Feature 37 - northern enclosure, hut platform with partially visible stone kerb.



Fig 53 Feature 38 - northern enclosure, hut platform with partially visible stone kerb.



*Fig 54 Feature 39 - northern enclosure, denuded rampart at north-eastern extent of enclosure.*



*Fig 55 Feature 40 - northern enclosure, west hollow way entrance into enclosure. Bracken growth on north side.*



*Fig 56 Feature 41 - northern enclosure, extensive bracken growth obscuring eastern rampart.*



*Fig 57 Feature 42 - northern enclosure, stones displaced from base of smaller enclosure rampart.*



*Fig 58 Feature 43 – broken stones thrown from the high ramparts of the small enclosure into the larger enclosure.*



Fig 59 Feature 45 - southern enclosure, small ring of displaced stones.



Fig 60 Feature 46 - extensive reed growth on the western side of the small enclosure.

### 7.3 Desire Lines

The orthographic aerial imagery shows low impact desire lines leading through both enclosures. Two worn paths run from the southern enclosure extending into the centre and around the eastern internal perimeter along the base of the rampart (Fig 61). Within the enclosure most visitors are drawn to the large rocky outcrops. For those visitors wishing to explore the northern enclosure a section of rampart in the centre of the northern stretch is most often used, to join the desire line extending south to north across the enclosure. This splits in two with desire lines running parallel as far as the central area where they partly fade out or connect with the hollow trackway leading through the western entrance. An additional worn path runs around the base of the eastern wall to the enclosure entrance on its eastern side.

No erosion is apparent on any of the desire lines and they are fully grassed over. There appears to be no significant damage caused by the desire lines. However, the rampart section most frequently crossed shows a marked deterioration (Fig 62). This area should be focussed on for comparison following the 2021 drone survey.



Fig 61 Desire lines from the southern enclosure across the northern enclosure.





*Fig 62 Common route across rampart, shaded, showing reduced height of rampart as a result of dislodged stones.*

## **8 Volunteer Engagement**

Members of Cornwall Archaeological Society have a longstanding involvement and interest in Stowe's Hill and how to tackle the problem of 'heritage vandalism'. Similarly, the Bodmin Moor Time Seekers group has also drawn the problem of 'Fairy Castles' to the attention of Historic England, culminating in extensive media coverage in 2017. A vandalism recording sheet devised by Historic England has been used to good effect by volunteers and it was seen as an important element of the project to draw on the experience and understanding that the volunteers have of the site. Since the well-publicised vandalism reached its height in 2017 the practice of stone-stacking has declined, no doubt a direct result of a high level of commitment by Historic England and the involvement of these volunteer groups.

The input of volunteers and community heritage groups is key to the long term success of projects such as this, and as part of the Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvement Project and in order to galvanise volunteer support and further develop a methodology for action, a survey and awareness training day was organised. volunteers from Cornwall Archaeology Society (Area Reps) and Time Seekers joined CAU, supported by AONB. It was the intention of the training day to convey the key messages of the project and the importance of the continued involvement of informed volunteers. Groups were divided into three groups of 6 with all participants observing social distancing rules in place due to the Covid 19 pandemic which was ongoing at the time of the survey.

Participants received an introduction to the archaeology and history of Stowe's Hill and the more recent problem of heritage vandalism, represented principally by the dismantling of sections for stone stacking. Discussion on the best ways to tackle this problem was invited on the day and following the event participants were asked to share their views and thoughts on how instances of vandalism might be better recorded and how visitors might be dissuaded from building stone stacks.

Volunteers received training in basic site survey as a way of enhancing their existing recording skills. Training included measured sketch survey and photographic survey, with volunteers encouraged to look at elements of the site in detail and how to record the optimum information (dimensions, location etc). Volunteers were shown how to take photographs to include a scale and an information board, containing information relevant to a written record and/or plan. Photographs were numbered and marked on plans. Using long tapes (30m) volunteers were taught how to measure and annotate sketch plans, using prepared base maps of the site.

Participants were all issued with the Monumental Improvement booklet '*Monumental Improvement in the Cornwall AONB, Introduction to archaeological field survey*', a comprehensive guide to archaeological survey techniques already used for other projects within the scope of Monumental Improvement. Whilst this guide goes into detail about a wide variety of survey skills and techniques available to the archaeologist it also covers the importance of more basic observation and detailed sketch recording, accessible to all volunteer participants with no need for expensive equipment or training.

Feedback was received from the training day along with ideas on how to adapt the existing recording sheet '*Recording, Dismantling and Reporting Stone Stacks at Stowe's Pound, Linkinhorne*'. Comments were few and most participants who had used the Historic England recording sheet saw little to change. A slightly modified version based on the recent input from volunteers is included as Appendix 2, incorporating a larger gridded site plan and information on using the What3Words app to identify the location of any recorded vandalism.



Fig 63 Feature 46 - extensive reed growth on the western side of the small enclosure.



Fig 64 Feature 46 - extensive reed growth on the western side of the small enclosure.



Fig 65 Volunteer training day.

## 9 Enhanced Interpretation

The site is a Scheduled Monument is listed on the Heritage at Risk Register and sits within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is part of a rich multi-period prehistoric landscape featuring enclosures, field systems, barrows/cairns, stone circles, stone alignments and an important medieval and post-medieval industrial landscape. The Stowe's Pound enclosures are thought to originate in the Neolithic period and as such is the earliest visible archaeological site in the landscape. There are parallels with other tor enclosures on Bodmin Moor (e.g., Helman Tor and Roughtor) and beyond (Carn Brea).

It is thought that the issue of vandalism and stone stacking could be addressed by measures that seek to enhance the interpretation of the site and provide information to visitors on its designated status.

This could be achieved with a combination of on-site interpretation and virtual access.

All outputs could include an explanation of the project, results of the surveys and what they hope to achieve. It will emphasise the importance of the project as a management tool and reinforce the idea that the vulnerabilities of the site are being addressed by Historic England.

### 9.1 Information panel

An informal survey of visitors suggests that some form of onsite interpretation would be welcomed by many. The nearest information panels are in the Hurlers car park and South Phoenix engine house and many of those accessing the hilltop enclosures are unaware of the archaeological value, or protected status of the site.

#### 9.1.1 Suggested panel content

- Brief description of the site, monument type and chronology,
- Brief description of the archaeological wealth of the area and how the landscape changed over time,
- A note on the fragility of the ramparts and the inclusion of the site on the Heritage at Risk register,
- Aerial images collected by the drone survey,
- A map featuring the archaeology of the surrounding landscape,
- A note on the Scheduled Monument and that damage is in breach of the law as set out by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979,
- QR code, linking the visitor to more detailed online information (see below Augmented Reality),
- A contact name/number at Historic England for reporting damage.

#### 9.1.2 Position

The site benefits from being uncluttered by signage and the sensitive nature of the site needs consideration when siting an information panel.

Most visitors enter the site from the paths leading from the south-west either past the quarry or meandering over the granite-strewn slopes to reach the Cheesewring. From here they can walk directly into the smaller southern enclosure. An information panel sited inside the southern enclosure but far enough away from the Cheesewring and the ramparts not to obscure views could relate visitors directly to the surrounding site.

The location of an information board would need to be in an area of stable ground and one thought to be least archaeologically sensitive. Thought would need to be given to potential erosion that could be caused by concentrated footfall at an information panel.

An alternative would be to site information specific to Stowe's Pound in the two Minions car parks, alongside existing panels. QR codes embedded on an information panel could direct the visitor to more detailed web-based information (see below).

## 9.2 Online information

A key result of the condition survey has been the production of the material achieved by drone capture – the aerial stills, video and 3D model. This has provided an insight into the overall form and layout of the monument, its current condition and state of repair, and detail on features such as the ramparts, house stances and other features not available to visitors on the ground. It provides a record of vegetation cover and degree of erosion by footfall. This visual, digital information is ideally suited to presentation online.

A major advantage of an online approach to providing detailed information online is that it eliminates or reduces the need for physical on-site interpretation boards. The 3D model lodged on Sketchfab (<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/Stowe's-hill-site-mobile-4afddeb101ca4f5d91bd06d427bd01aa>) can provide a wider audience with accessibility to the site by providing the means to investigate the features of the whole hilltop in detail. A link to the model can be easily shared or embedded in websites and social media and could be included in a dedicated page of the Cornwall AONB website. This could include historic information, its place in the wider context of Cornwall's archaeology and notes on current condition. This information will help readers understand the value and fragility of the historic assets and its designated status, including reference to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 with a clear explanation of why any sort of vandalism, including the building of stone stack is both damaging to the site and in breach of the law.

## 9.3 Augmented reality

In addition to standard web-based information, a more advanced technological approach could be developed to provide the visitor with an enhanced level of interpretation and which could be used for long-term management of the monument.

Online accessibility of data has the potential to be extended to a more imaginative approach, reducing the need for physical signage and allowing access for those with reduced ability. Using the available data (3D model, aerial video, archaeological/historical assessment) an accessible online 'virtual tour' of Stowe's Pound could be created, promoting and encouraging visitors to explore the area, acting as the most detailed resource available and as an ongoing record of the site. Users can learn about the archaeological background of the site select specific features they want to see in detail. It is possible to provide such systems as an online 'web-app' viewed through a web browser on a desktop PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Alternatively, the system could be integrated with the AONB website, embedded within an existing page or running as a separate mini-site.

An augmented reality system could provide the user with immersive 360° aerial views derived from the 3D photogrammetry model showing the site within the wider landscape. Interactive on-screen 'buttons' could allow the user to navigate into low altitude or ground based 3D or orthographic views showing the ramparts, orthostats, house platforms, cairns etc up close and in detail. These 'buttons' could also act as interactive 'hotspots' to display additional information such as archive images, video, historical information and expert interviews. Historical reconstructions could be created enabling the user to view a representation of the site from different stages in its history (Neolithic, Bronze Age) in 360°.

QR codes embedded with specific signage, whether on site or within the car parks could be used as a way for the visitors to access the mobile version of the virtual tour when on-site. This would also act as promotion for the project and virtual online visitor guide, without the need for large physical panels containing text/images.

## 10 Conclusions and Recommendations

The condition survey has highlighted several key themes and vulnerabilities.

### 10.1 Vegetation

Largely, vegetation presents no serious issues at Stowe's Pound. Stands of reed, principally in the southern enclosure, are not unduly boggy and are not eroding in any way. However, bracken growth obscures areas of the eastern and western slopes of the northern enclosure and a large portion in its north-west corner, making it difficult to define the large ring cairn or possible roundhouse. The rhizome root systems of the bracken are likely to be causing disturbance to underlying deposits and on the western slopes the bracken growth obscures most of the rampart. If possible, control measures should be put in place to reduce bracken cover, which may be achievable by aerial spraying.

Small scale sheep grazing in the northern enclosure seems to be helping to maintain low grass growth over much of the site.

### 10.2 Natural collapse of the ramparts and footfall

The ramparts of the southern enclosure comprise largely loose, stones, many of a size that can be easily dislodged. 2020 is likely to have seen the largest number of visitors to Stowe's Pound for some time. Despite this, footfall appears to cause very little damage and not all visitors are compelled to climb due to the unstable nature of the stones. However, it is clear that any movement across the ramparts has the potential to dislodge stones and foot traffic will continue to dislodge stones over time. The most frequently used route across the ramparts of the southern enclosure mid-way along its northern edge (Fig 62) where it is clear that stones have been dislodged. The conclusion is that although access at this point does not appear to be an immediate concern it should be monitored. Comparison of the 2020 and 2021 aerial surveys will indicate whether any disturbance has occurred at this point.

The fragility of the ramparts should be highlighted in on-site and online information.

### 10.3 Vandalism/Heritage Crime

This comprises actions which, although carried out unwilfully, affect the significance of the monument. At Stowe's Pound this has been represented by the removal of stones from the ramparts.

Ongoing monitoring by Cornwall Archaeological Society and Time Seekers suggests that the practice of building stone stacks has decreased significantly since 2017. The survey found very little evidence of stone stack building but did see instances of fairly small scale disturbance to the ramparts. Any disturbance should continue to be recorded by these groups using the Historic England *pro-forma* (Appendix 2).

Any physical or online interpretation material should include a reference to the problem of heritage vandalism in whatever form and specifically to the building of stone stacks.

## 11 References

### 11.1 Primary sources (in chronological order)

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1840. Parish of Linkinhorne (licensed digital copy at CRO).

Ordnance Survey, c1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU).

Ordnance Survey, c1907. 25 Inch Map Second Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU).

Ordnance Survey, MasterMap Topography.

Aerial photo 1946 (RAF).

Aerial photo 1988 (Cornwall County Council).

Aerial photo 1995 (Cornwall County Council).

Aerial photo 2000 (Cornwall County Council).

Aerial photo 2005 (Cornwall Council)..

Aerial photo 2016 (Cornwall Council)

All mapping © Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey 100049047

## 11.2 Publications

English Heritage, 2011, Heritage at Risk Register 2011 South West

English Heritage, 2012, Heritage at Risk Register 2012 South West

English Heritage, 2014, Heritage at Risk Register 2014 South West

English Heritage, 2008. Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance. Swindon: English Heritage

Carew, R, 1969, *The Survey of Cornwall 1602, 203*

Norden, J, 1584, *Topographical and Historical Description of Cornwall*

CIfA, 2017. *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*, CIfA, Reading

Cornwall County Council, 1996. *Cornwall landscape assessment 1994*. A report prepared by Landscape Design Associates and Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Fletcher, M, 1989 Stowe's Pound. In Dowden, M, MacKay, D, & Topping, P, (eds.), *From Cornwall to Caithness. Some Aspects of British Field Archaeology, Papers Presented to Norman V Quinnell*, Oxford: British Archaeological Reports British Series 209. 71-78.

Herring, P, 1998. *Cornwall's Historic Landscape: presenting a method of historic landscape character assessment*. Truro (Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall County Council and English Heritage)

Historic England, 2017. *The Setting of Heritage Assets. Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3* (Second Edition)

Johnson, N and Rose, P, 1994. *Bodmin Moor. an Archaeological Survey. Volume I: The Human Landscape to c. 1800* (London: English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, 1994. English Heritage Archaeological Report no. 24).

Jones, A M and Quinnell, H, 2011. The Neolithic and Bronze Age in Cornwall, c4000 cal BC to c1000 cal BC: an overview of recent developments. *Cornish Archaeol* **50**, 2011, 197-229

Padel, O J, 1985. *Cornish Place-Name Elements*. Nottingham: English Place-Name Society

Polsue, J (Editor), 1867-72, *Lake's Parochial History of Cornwall, VOL 3, 132*

Ravenhill, W L D & Padel, O J, 1991. Joel Gascoyne's Map of the County of Cornwall (Facsimile reproduced by Devon and Cornwall Record Society Vol. 34)

Ravenhill, W L D, 1972. John Norden's Manuscript Maps of Cornwall and its Nine Hundreds (Facsimile reproduced by University of Exeter)

RCHM, 1980s, 1:2500 Air Photo Transcript, SX 2572

Sharpe, A, 1989, *The Minions Survey* (Cornwall Council)

### **11.3 Websites**

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> (Online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings)

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk> (Historic England Heritage at Risk Register)

<https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/> (Cornwall Council interactive map)



## 12 Appendix 1 Drone Survey, selected images



*Fig 66 view of Stowe's Pound facing north-west.*



*Fig 67 view of Stowe's Pound facing south.*



*Fig 68 view of Stowe's Pound facing north-east.*



*Fig 69 cairns and hut platforms at the northern end of the northern enclosure.*



*Fig 70 denuded rampart at the northern end of the northern enclosure.*



*Fig 71 well preserved ring cairn or roundhouse, northern enclosure.*



*Fig 72 southern enclosure rampart, facing south.*



*Fig 73 southern enclosure rampart.*



*Fig 74 southern enclosure rampart, facing east, ramparts built against natural outcrops.*



*Fig 75 northern enclosure, hut platforms.*



*Fig 76 northern enclosure, hut platforms.*



*Fig 77 northern enclosure, hut platforms.*



*Fig 78 northern enclosure, hut platforms.*



*Fig 79 southern enclosure rampart, clearly defined facing stones.*



*Fig 80 Southern enclosure rampart, clearly defined facing stones.*



*Fig 81 southern point of southern enclosure rampart showing line of orthostats.*





*Fig 82 A view of Stowe's Pound from the east.*



*Fig 83 The Cheesewring.*

## **13 Appendix 2 Recording and Monitoring form**

### **Recording, Dismantling and Reporting Stone Stacks at Stowe's Pound, Linkinhorne, Cornwall**

The erection of stone stacks damages the Scheduled Monument, confuses the archaeological record and is a criminal offence under Section 28 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The proposed works to record, dismantle and report these stacks has been agreed under Section 17 of the same Act, and the movement of the stones for this purpose, by the people thereby authorised, is not an offence under the Act.

Stacks should only be dismantled if it is safe to do so, if not, this should be reported to Historic England ASAP.

#### **Recording**

1. Please let HE know as soon as possible that new stacks have appeared. So that an incident number might be raised with the Police. Contact details of the HE contact below.
2. Using the gridded maps or aerial photographs provided, please plot as accurately as possible the location of the stack(s). Alternatively, if the What3Words app is available, give the three word reference for the location. What3Words allocates every 3m square in the world with three unique reference words (available in the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Android devices).
3. Photograph the stack(s) cross referencing to the plan (ie: Stack A, B etc)
4. Please describe the size and form of the stack (ie: single stack stones or more like a pyramid etc), the rough height and approximate amount of stones. This might help us to identify a certain individual's style etc.
5. Look around the surrounding area and see if you can identify where the stones have come from – have any new sections of wall face or wall core been revealed or damaged? Please record this if they have been on the map / aerial photograph and take a record photograph.

#### **Dismantling**

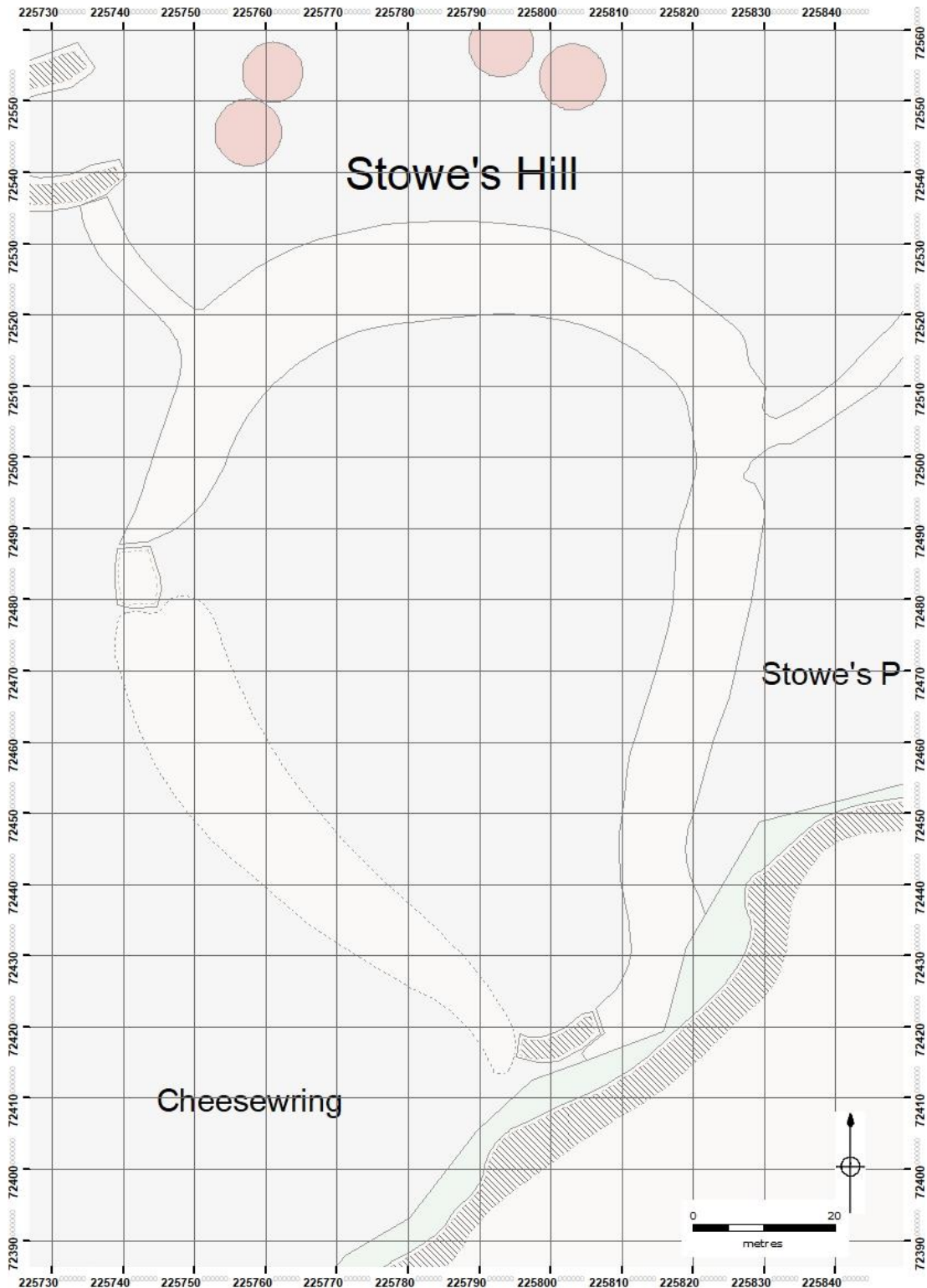
6. Only dismantle the stacks if it is safe to do so.
7. Where possible dismantle from the top down, and if you can identify roughly where the stones have come from please try to replace them. If any areas of original wall face or core have been revealed, please try to cover these first. It is recognised that there is sometimes no evidence where the stones have come from.
8. Please photograph the site of the stack and immediate area once it has been dismantled.

#### **Reporting**

9. Please scan the annotated plan / aerial photograph, recording notes and any other notes and send to [daniel.bashford@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:daniel.bashford@historicengland.org.uk) or send to:

Dan Bashford  
Historic England  
29, Queen Square  
Bristol  
BS1 4ND

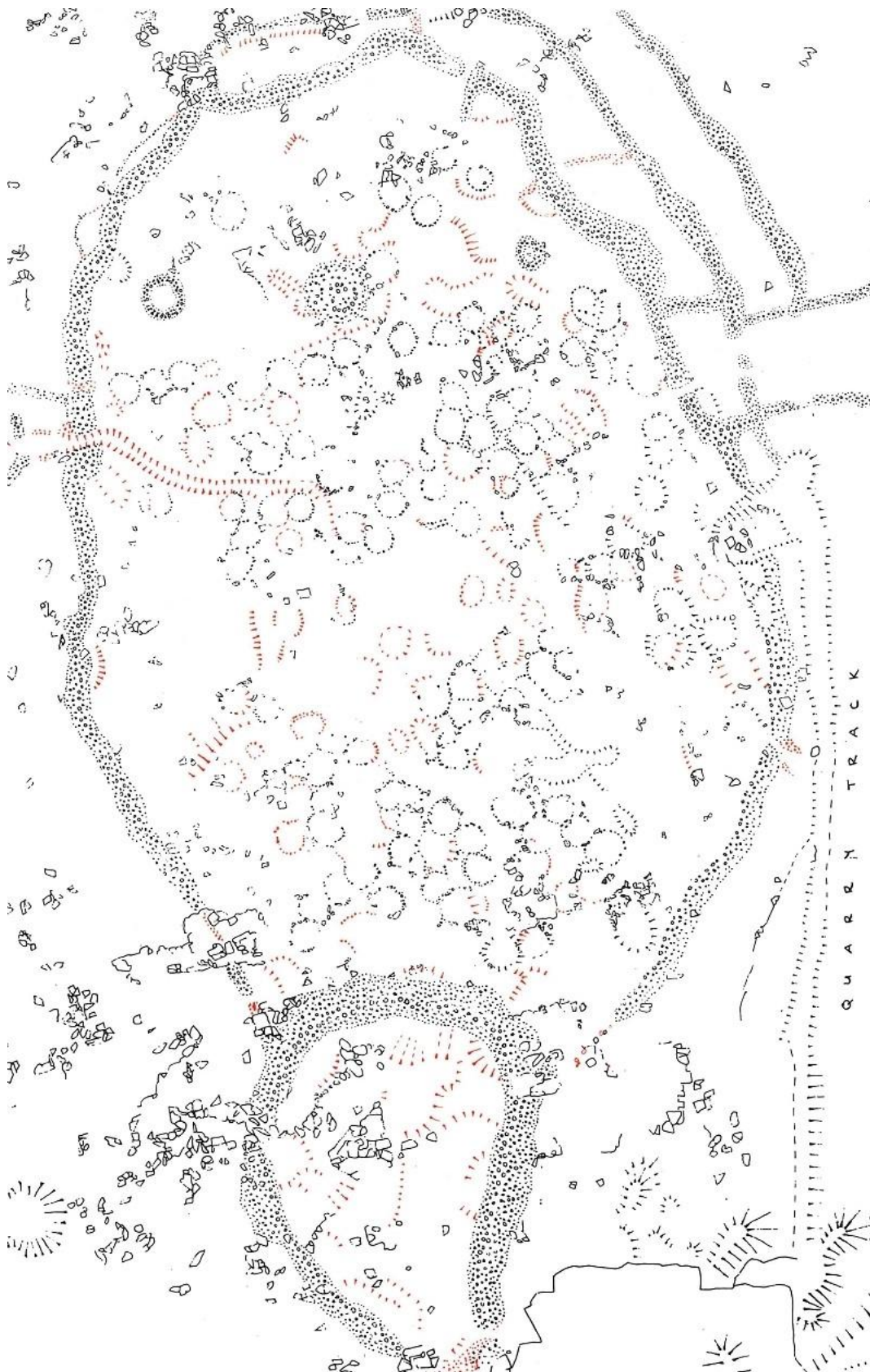
10. Should you have any queries or require any clarification of the above please contact Dan via the e-mail address above or 'phone 07824103102. Or if Dan is not available, please call the HE Bristol office on 0117 9751308, and ask to speak to a member of the Heritage at Risk team.



Stowe's Hill southern enclosure with national grid reference overlay.



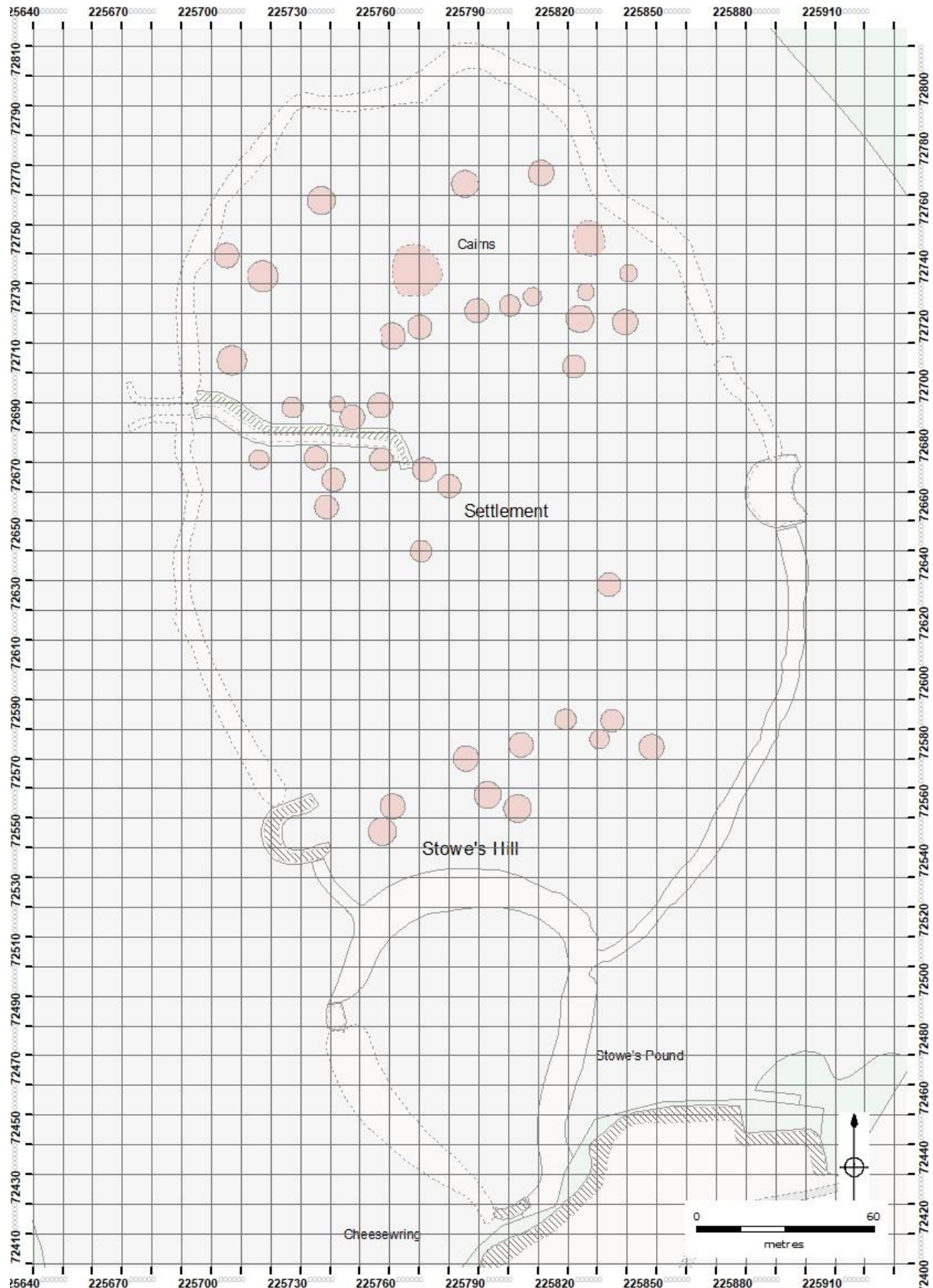
Stowe's Hill southern enclosure aerial photo 2016.



Detailed survey 1980s.



*Orthographic mapping by drone, 2020.*



North and south enclosures at Stowe's Hill





## **Cornwall Archaeological Unit**

Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro,  
Cornwall  
TR1 3AY



(01872) 323603  
[enquiries@cau.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cau.org.uk)  
[www.cau.org.uk](http://www.cau.org.uk)

