

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Brixham, Torbay	National Grid Reference: SX 9466 5657	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Berry Head Lighthouse, Brixham, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Scheduled Monument Consent no: S00207780	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-368030	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1575	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 09/09/2019	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>A watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in September 2019 on works associated with the provision of new down connector earths as part of lightning protection system for the Berry Head Lighthouse, Brixham, Devon (SX 9466 5657). The site (Fig. 1) is located inside an Iron Age promontory fort. In addition, a general scatter of Bronze Age and Romano-British material is present throughout the headland. By the 18th century Berry Head became the site of substantial fortification. This began with the establishment of cannon and howitzer batteries in 1779-80 to protect the anchorage of Torquay and was followed by the construction of two garrisoned redoubts (Fort No. 3 on the headland and Fort No. 1 further to the south) between 1795 and 1807 and built in response to the outbreak of war with France in 1793. A scheduled monument the work was required by Historic England (HE) and the Torquay Council's Senior Historic Environment Officer (SHEO).</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the excavation of trenches for the provision of new down connector earths (Fig. 2, Pls. 1-2). The work involved the excavation of a trench approximately 26.5m long, 0.3m wide and c. 0.2m deep. Due to the high level of the underlying limestone bedrock the trench was very shallow and entirely contained within the surrounding modern aggregate.</p> <p>No deposits, features or dating evidence indicative of archaeological activity were found. The lack of pottery and other artefacts from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that the site is archaeologically sterile.</p> <p>Project archive and OASIS entry</p> <p>Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:

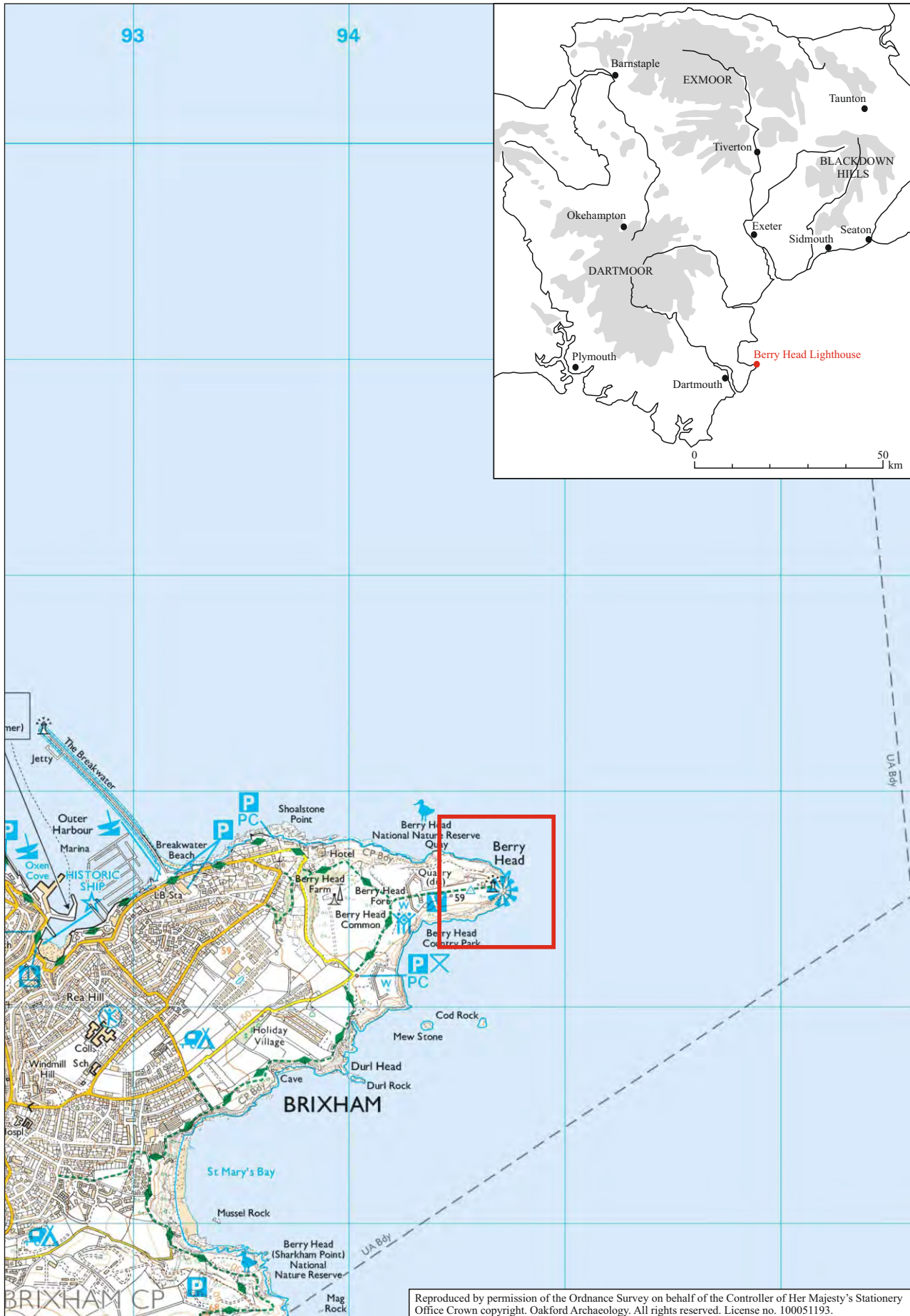


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Pl. 1 General view of Berry Head Lighthouse showing extent of trenching. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 Close-up showing depth of trenching. 1m scale. Looking southwest.