





A

B'

B

315150
723750

315350
723750

A'

B

A

315150
723650

+

B'

A

N

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Description

A topographic survey of the hillfort at Deuchny Wood (NGR: NO 15266 23679, NMRS: NO12SE 3) was undertaken on 5th and 6th February 2016 as part of the Tay Landscape Partnership. The site was recorded using differential a Trimble R6 GPS, a Trimble S6 robotic total station and plane table survey.

The fort occupies the summit of a long low rise which is steep sided to the north and south with more gentle slopes to the east and west. Two lower terraces lie to the west on the same ridge as the fort. The fort now lies in a clearing but has been previously forested and the felling and removal of timber have severely affected the earthworks. The fort itself comprises a grassed over rampart that can be traced around the eastern end of the summit and encloses an area of 0.14 Ha. The rampart is preserved only in the east where it runs along the crest of the knoll and is up to 7m in thickness and surviving 0.4m high.

An entrance lies in the east, indicated by a gap 2.4m wide in the surviving stretch of rampart. On either side of the entrance passage are a number of large stones that may be in-situ facing stones of the rampart. An area of protruding bedrock on the outer edge of the northern rampart terminal appears to have been quarried and terraced. A number of large stones lie on continuation of the line of the entrance however they do not form a coherent structure and may be tumble from the rampart. At the bottom of the slope below the entrance there is a short stretch of ditch measuring 7m in width and 0.5m in depth. Lying outside of this ditch is a counterscarp bank up to 4m wide and 0.3m high.

The interior of the fort is rocky and uneven with bedrock protruding through the surface at a number of points. No evidence for internal structures is present although these may be masked by the general uneven ground surface.

On the upper of the western terraces there is a double line of stones, which may be the remnants of a second western entrance. Boog-Watson (1923) reports two lines of stones curving across this middle terrace which may have been further ramparts at the west of the hillfort. The whole hillfort appears to have been in a better state of preservation at the time of Boog-Watson's survey with the rampart forming an almost continuous line around along the edge of the plateau.

Condition

The defensive works of the fort are generally denuded and have been heavily affected by former forestry operations. The current condition of the monument can be considered stable, and no immediate threat to its future survival was apparent.

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The project was undertaken with the kind permission of the landowner, Forestry Commission Scotland, to whom thanks are due. The archaeological works were part of the Tay Landscape Partnership.

Plates

From top:

*Panorama facing SW from
Deuchny Wood Hillfort.*

*Panorama facing NW
from Deuchny Wood
Hillfort.*



Plates

Clockwise from top-left:

*Volunteers surveying
Deuchny Wood Fort.*

*Plane table survey of the
entrance at the east of the
fort.*

*General view of Deuchny
Wood Hillfort, from W.*

*View of entrance passage,
from SW.*



Plates

Clockwise from top-left:

Possible cut bedrock forming outer face of rampart, from SE.

Entrance passage from hillfort interior, from NW.

Outer ditch and counterscarp below entrance, from N.

Large stone below entrance passage, from E.



Plates

Clockwise from top-left:

View of west end of Deuchny wood hillfort looking over middle terrace, from E.



View of slight remains of rampart on northern side of Deuchny Wood Hillfort, From NW..



View of southern slopes of the hill of Deuchny Wood Hillfort, from SE.



View of interior of Deuchny Wood Hillfort, from E.



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Illustration: J.Humble

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