

Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Stratton, Bude, North Cornwall	National Grid Reference: SS 24484 06781	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring of fence post removal at East Leigh Berrys, East Leigh Farm.		Photo attached: No
Museum Accession no: NA	Recipient museum: NA	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA 6557	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15.09.2009	
<p>Description of works</p> <p>Monitoring and recording was undertaken during the removal of a post and wire fence from the NE side of East Leigh Berrys, a Scheduled Monument (Cornwall 483), comprising a probable unfinished motte with two baileys. The archaeological work was required as a condition of the grant of Scheduled Monument Consent for the removal of the fence. The site lies immediately below the 100m contour and occupies a slight natural terrace near the head of a small tributary of the river Neet, overlooking the village of Stratton approximately 1.5km to the west. The land is currently under pasture.</p> <p>A total of 46 wooden and three concrete posts were removed from the NE bailey between SS24348 06881 and SS24550 06732.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The wooden posts were between 85mm and 110mm in diameter and penetrated to a depth of between 300mm and 400mm. Of the three 150mm square concrete posts, only that at the SE side of the gateway in the centre of the bailey came out with the concrete packing. This resulted in a c.750mm deep and 400mm wide post pit that could be investigated.</p> <p>The soil profile showed up to 260mm of pale brownish-grey silty clay loam topsoil above the natural substrate of stiff, yellow clay, somewhat gleyed and ironshot, with occasional small subangular slate fragments.</p> <p>The smaller postholes were examined where possible, and indicated that this profile was broadly continuous both inside and outside of the monument.</p> <p>Special attention was paid at the intersection of the fenceline with the earthworks without any useful insight; the postholes had not penetrated below the ploughsoil, and neither the upper fills of the ditches, nor any possible rampart material, were exposed. No finds of any period were recovered.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The posts were removed with very little disturbance to the fabric of the monument. The only posthole of sufficient size to enable detailed examination was located broadly</p>		

central to the NE bailey, and showed that here, topsoil lay directly on the top of the natural clay, with no construction or occupation horizons either present or implied. Whether these were ever present, or have been removed by agricultural activity since the abandonment of the earthworks remains unclear.

Details of this project have been uploaded to the OASIS data base under the ID No. *exeterar1-65254*

Recorder:
Paul Pearce
Exeter Archaeology

Date sent to HER:
06.09.2009

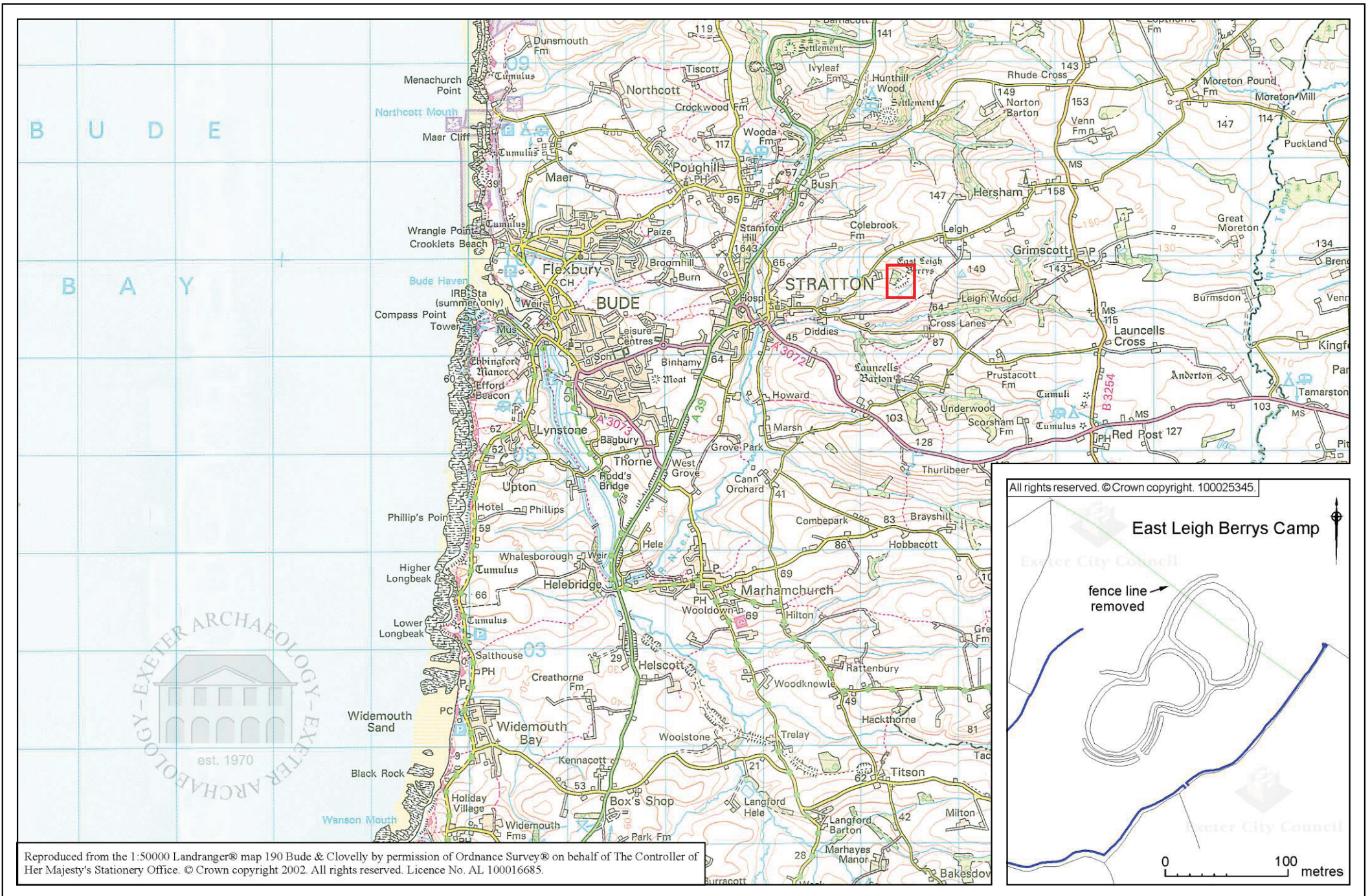


Fig. 1 Location of site.