

Berry Cliff Camp, Branscombe, East Devon

SY 1884 8821

Results of archaeological recording

Prepared by
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On behalf of
the South West Coast Path Team

Document No: ACD449/2/0

Date: January 2013




AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Branscombe, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 1884 8821	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Berry Cliff Camp, Branscombe: Results of archaeological recording		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: RAMM	
OASIS ID: 140524	Museum Accession no: Reference Number 12/26	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD449	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19 October 2012	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p><i>Introduction (Figs 1 and 2)</i> Archaeological recording was carried out at Berry Cliff Camp prior to consolidation of the South West Coast Path (SWCP), where it runs through the site. The camp is an Iron Age hillfort that is designated as a Scheduled Monument (No. 29637). The repair works to the SWCP form part of "Unlocking Our Coastal Heritage" project to conserve, enhance and interpret some 40 sites along the coast path. At Berry Cliff Camp the archaeological investigations comprised two elements: a geophysical survey of the camp and surrounding fields by Substrata (report forthcoming), and recording of exposed archaeological deposits along the SWCP prior to consolidation of the path. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AC archaeology (James 2012).</p> <p><i>Results (Fig. 3)</i> Consolidation works were carried out at the western end of the hillfort where the SCWP passes through the western defences of the camp. At this location visitors are channelled through a kissing gate. Here the defences comprise inner (eastern) and outer (western) ramparts separated by a silted-up ditch. There is no evidence for a second ditch on the outside of the outer rampart. The ramparts (and nearby coastal cliff edge) are covered in dense vegetation, which in part prohibited detailed survey. The SCWP forms a gap through the vegetation, and is consequently fairly narrow, being between 0.60m and 1m wide.</p> <p>On the path the topsoil has largely been eroded leaving patches of grey-brown waterlogged mud. The erosion has exposed 'subsoil' deposits of pale yellow and yellow-brown clay with flint inclusions, which was particularly visible where the path crossed the ramparts. Where the path crossed the inner rampart a line of three large flint blocks, measuring between 150-300mm long, were exposed (Plates 1 and 2). Their position appears to be within the centre of the rampart, and they are likely to form part of the core material. Another line of three, smaller stones, measuring between 100-150m long, were exposed within the outer rampart, and again represent core material (Plates 3 and 4). No finds were recovered.</p> <p><i>Comments</i> The survey identified that the defences on the eastern side of the hillfort do not continue to the south of the SWCP (as depicted on current Ordnance Survey mapping), and that the area has suffered localised cliff falls in the recent past. Limited areas of the core of both the inner and outer ramparts had been exposed through erosion on the SWCP and were recorded. These deposits comprised redeposited subsoil with flints, which corresponds with the observations made during a RCHME earthwork survey of the camp in 1989 (Pastscape monument number 448903).</p> <p><i>Source Consulted</i> James, T., 2012 <i>The South West Coast Path 'Unlocking our Coastal Heritage Project: Berry Cliff Camp, Branscombe, East Devon, (Centred on SY 1884 8821), Scheduled Monument No. 29637, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring</i>, AC archaeology document no. ACD449/1/0</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Will Smith, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 11 January 2013



 Scheduled Monuments

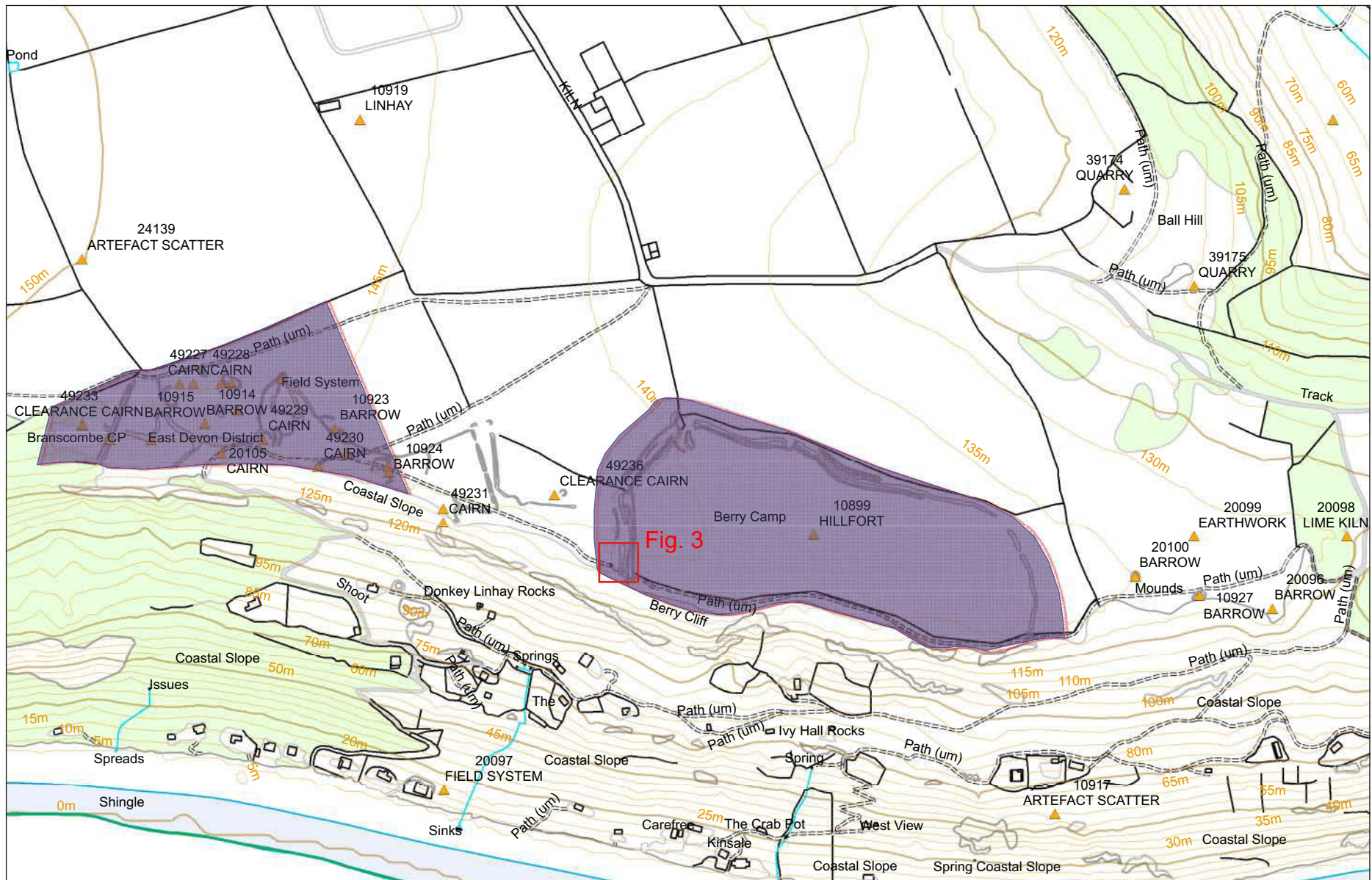
PROJECT


Berry Cliff Camp, Branscombe, East Devon

TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site





 Scheduled Monuments



PROJECT
Berry Cliff Camp, Branscombe, East Devon

TITLE
Fig. 2: Location of observations



Plate 1: Inner rampart, large flint nodules exposed in SWCP, viewed from the west. 1m scale.



Plate 2: Inner rampart, large flint nodules exposed in SWCP, viewed from the west. 1m scale.



Plate 3: SWCP looking towards kissing gate showing inner rampart (in vegetation to left), ditch and eroded outer rampart in foreground, viewed from the west-northwest. 1m scale.



Plate 4: Outer rampart, large flint nodules exposed in SWCP, viewed from the southeast. 1m scale.

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