

Results of an archaeological watching brief at Bratton Camp Hillfort, Wiltshire:

Scheduled Monument 1013393

NGR ST90189 51628

Prepared by:
Royston Clark

On behalf of:
English Heritage

Document No: ACW1209/1/0

Date: June 2019



AC archaeology

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BRATTON CAMP HILLFORT (SCHEDULED MONUMENT 1013399; CENTRED ON ST 90189 51628)

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology at Bratton Camp on 3 and 4 June 2019. The monitoring was carried out on behalf of English Heritage, in conjunction with the removal of existing, and insertion of new, fence posts within the area of Bratton Camp Iron Age hillfort, a scheduled monument (List Entry No: 1013399). Apart from the hillfort itself, the designated area includes a series of Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows and a complex of substantial sunken trackways that are probably of medieval or later date.

The replacement of six fence posts was monitored (see Fig. 1 for approximate locations). Five of the posts were replaced along a sunken trackway that in part appears to follow the ditch of the eastern rampart of the hillfort (see Plate 1 for general view of site work). One post (Post 1) was positioned within the interior of the hillfort on ground approximately 20m south-west from the rampart bank and located on the south-eastern side of the Port Way. This is a road that crosses through the interior of the monument.

2. RESULTS

Although it was possible to remove the original fence posts and insert new ones, in some cases it was necessary to dig new holes for the replacement posts. Spoil was scanned for displaced artefacts.

Fence Post 1

This was positioned within the hillfort adjacent to the Port Way and involved digging a post-pit next to an existing fence post. This was dug to a depth of 0.75m. Apart from turf, the excavated material consisted of topsoil mixed with chalk fragments. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Fence Post 2

This replaced an existing fence post on the corner between the Port Way and the trackway that extends along the eastern outer perimeter of the hillfort. Topsoil and chalk fragments were encountered to a depth of 0.75m (see Plate 2 for detail of post hole). Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Fence Post 3

This replacement post was excavated on the north-western side of the sunken trackway that appears to follow the bottom of the rampart ditch of the hillfort. Topsoil and chalk fragments were encountered to a depth of 0.75m. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Fence Post 4

This involved digging a new post-pit next to an existing fence post on the north-western side of the trackway. Once the turf was removed solid chalk bedrock was excavated to a depth of 0.65m. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Fence Post 5

This involved digging a new post-pit next to an existing fence-post on the south-eastern side of the trackway, close to where the track turns to the south-west to cross Bratton Down. Chalk bedrock with large fissures was recorded immediately below the turf to a depth of 0.65m. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Fence Post 6

One of the fence posts that form a stile for a footpath crossing the trackway was removed and the post-pit excavated to a depth of 0.70m. Below approximately 0.20m of top-soil, solid chalk bedrock was encountered. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

3. COMMENT

No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief.



Plate 1. General view of work



Plate 2. Excavated post-pit (Post 4)

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

www.acarchaeology.co.uk