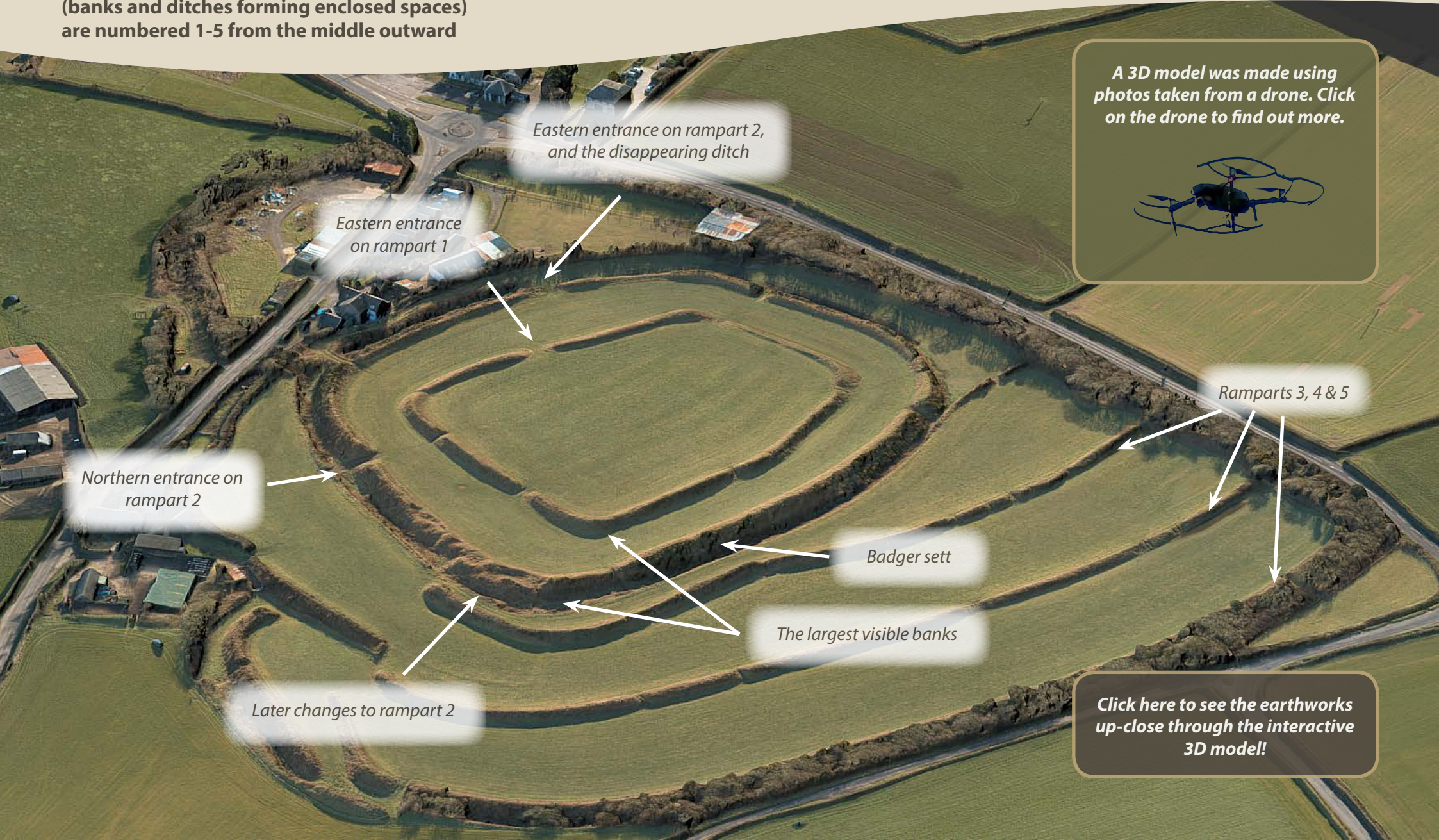
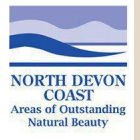


Clovelly Dykes hillfort – ramparts 1 & 2

A large Iron Age hillfort with views across the coast, and possible later re-use. Ramparts (banks and ditches forming enclosed spaces) are numbered 1-5 from the middle outward



Eastern entrance on rampart 2, and the disappearing ditch

Eastern entrance on rampart 1

Northern entrance on rampart 2

Later changes to rampart 2

Badger sett

The largest visible banks

Ramparts 3, 4 & 5

A 3D model was made using photos taken from a drone. Click on the drone to find out more.



Click here to see the earthworks up-close through the interactive 3D model!

Eastern entrance on rampart 1



*T*his gap in rampart 1 is thought to have been made in the prehistoric period. There are also a small number of other gaps in the rampart, although these are more likely to be medieval or later in date. Some are so narrow that they can only be the result of erosion from people and livestock moving across the site.

back to ramparts 1 & 2 ↗

The largest visible banks

*T*he largest of the banks at Clovelly Dykes hillfort are on its north-western side, on rampart 2. It is most likely these banks which are visible from Windbury Hill to the west, where there is another coastal hillfort. These banks are probably also visible from the sea on a clear day.

back to ramparts 1 & 2 ↗



Northern entrance on rampart 2

This does not appear on historic maps, but it does show some typical characteristics of a prehistoric hillfort entrance. Perhaps a small entrance here was not historically mapped, and was later made larger to fit farming vehicles through it.

back to ramparts 1 & 2 ↶



Eastern entrance on rampart 2, and the disappearing ditch



Like rampart 1, rampart 2 has an entrance on its eastern side. The interesting difference with this entrance is that the rampart ditch ends as would be expected on one side of it, but does not carry on after the entrance gap. What does this mean? Perhaps this shows that this part of the rampart was changed during the Roman period, or that something changed in the construction of this rampart in the prehistoric period.

back to ramparts 1 & 2 ↶

Later changes to rampart 2

There are some unusual differences in the bank and ditch in the north-west area of rampart 2. Here, there appears to have been some removal of earth from the bank, and the ditch seems to have been made wider. If the bank contained stone, it may have been taken to build nearby buildings. It is also possible that the earth was moved to help construct the nearby medieval field boundaries.

back to ramparts 1 & 2 ↗



Badger sett



There are many things which can damage ancient monuments over time. Animals can be one, and at Clovelly Dykes hillfort, we can see a large badger sett on rampart 2. This is so large, that it is visible on the inside and outside of the rampart.

back to ramparts 1 & 2 ↗

Clovelly Dykes hillfort – ramparts 3, 4 & 5

Ramparts (banks and ditches forming enclosed spaces) are numbered 1-5 from the middle outward



Field boundaries or hillfort rampart?

Southern entrance to rampart 5?

Geophysics results

Linear ramparts

Eroded gaps

Entrance to the site

Cropmark field boundary

Field boundaries or hillfort rampart?

The linear banks on the east side of the B237 curve in a form which might suggest they are related to the hillfort. But are these banks part of the hillfort, or were they constructed in the medieval period or later, as field boundaries? Or perhaps they originated as part of the hillfort, and were later changed to be better for keeping livestock? This site raises many interesting questions.

back to ramparts 3, 4 & 5 ↪



Entrance to the site



It is not unusual for hillforts to have a complex entrance route. There are some earthworks which show that there has been some effort made in the construction of the outer rampart to guide the route of entry through a narrow gap in the north-west, where there is a separate

back to ramparts 3, 4 & 5 ↪

Cropmark field boundary

Historic maps show that the site has changed a little over the past 100 years or so. These changes included the addition and removal of some field boundaries, including one between ramparts 3 and 4. In the right conditions, the position of this field boundary can still be seen as a cropmark. This cropmark is seen on the ground where the buried remnants of the old boundary have changed how the grass on the surface grows compared to the area around it.

back to ramparts 3, 4 & 5 ↪



Linear ramparts

The layout of Clovelly Dykes hillfort isn't typical of this type of monument. Ramparts 3 and 4 do not enclose any land themselves, although they do divide the land on the downward slope on the west of the site. These may have been added to the site during a different phase of use to when ramparts 1, 2 and 5 were constructed, with a focus on containing livestock rather than marking the location of a settlement or defensive enclosure. Ramparts 3 and 4 are very different in character to the other ramparts – they do not appear to be ditched, and the banks are comparatively low, but are effective due to the natural slope here.

back to ramparts 3, 4 & 5 ↷



Eroded gaps



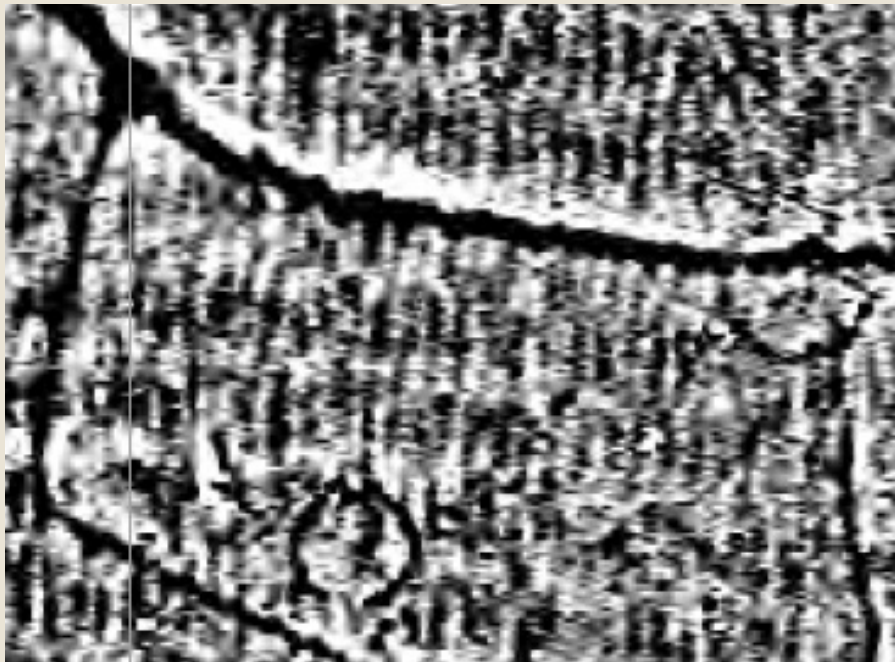
There are a number of gaps in the ramparts which are a result of the movement of people, animals, and vehicles across the site, such as these on ramparts 3 and 4. Over time, the routes across the ramparts have been worn away.

back to ramparts 3, 4 & 5 ↷

Geophysics results

Geophysics to the south of the hillfort has shown some possible buried features which could be related to the use of the hillfort. These features included a possible linear feature which could have been part of a rampart, and circular features which can sometimes show the location of a buried Iron Age house.

back to ramparts 3, 4 & 5 ↗



Southern entrance to rampart 5?



What is hidden beneath the trees in the south of the hillfort? Historic maps show that there may be an original entrance gap in the 5th rampart here, although this part of the site isn't currently accessible to see this entrance.

back to ramparts 3, 4 & 5 ↗

Creating the 3D model of Clovelly Dykes hillfort

The 3D model was produced from a series of high quality aerial photographs taken by drone above the site. The drone was flown in a grid patten, taking a large number of high quality photographs, each overlapping the one before it. This method can survey over large areas in relatively short time-frames when compared with surveys which can be undertaken on foot. The images are processed to produce 3D models.

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[Click here to find out more about Clovelly Dykes hillfort on the North Devon Coast AONB website](#)

[Click here to see the earthworks up-close through the interactive 3D model](#)

