

Windbury Head Camp

An Iron Age hillfort slumping into the sea



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

Coastal erosion

Second World War farming

Prehistoric outer rampart or medieval field boundary?

Hilltop rampart

South-eastern entrance

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



Hilltop rampart

The rampart at Windbury Head Camp encloses a semi-circular area on the peak of the hill. The rampart has a slight bank, but it is made more prominent by the way in which the hillslope has been dug into, forming a terrace. The cuts into the side of the hill can be seen where these cuts have been made in teams which have not met each other during the construction of the rampart. Perhaps this rampart was never quite completed.

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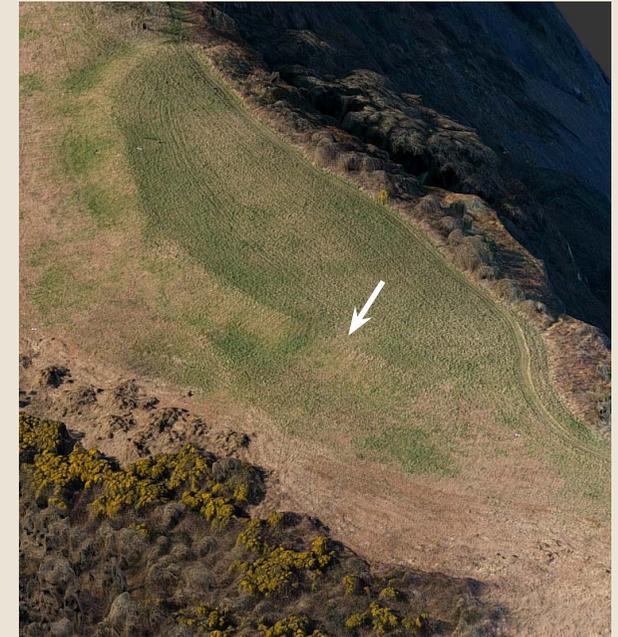
Prehistoric outer rampart or medieval field boundary?

The course of a field boundary to the south of the hillfort shows some evidence of having earlier origins, perhaps having been a second hillfort rampart before being modified during the medieval period to function as field boundaries. As you pass through the gate at the north-east of the site, on the route of the South West Coast Path, you'll see part of the boundary to the south.

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South-eastern entrance



A slight gap in the south-east of the rampart forms the only surviving prehistoric entrance to the interior of the hillfort. The ground has been levelled forming a platform on approach to it from the south-east. Any other entrances to this rampart have been lost to coastal erosion.

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Second World War farming

The land within the interior of the hillfort is more level in the north-east than the remainder of the site. It is local knowledge that this part of the site was ploughed during the Second World War, providing potatoes for the village and beyond. This would have been very useful in wartime, but it is likely that this process resulted in the loss of some earthworks, and any buried archaeology in the area.

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Coastal erosion



While the full extent of what has been lost over the cliff edge is uncertain, the land which has slumped down the cliff side would once have been part of the hilltop and part of the interior of the hillfort.

Creating the 3D model of Windbury Head Camp

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 Windbury Head Camp on the North Devon Coast AONB website

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