



**Area Representative Monument of the Month
June 2019**

Carn Brea

SW 6860 4080



Few people realise that the perhaps the most important archaeological site in the county (or perhaps further afield) can be explored on the slopes and summits of Carn Brea hill. Approximately six thousand years ago a series of massive stone walls were constructed to encircle the central and eastern tors of the hill and a double set of ramparts was erected across the slopes, linking the two and enclosing the area between them.

Excavations in 1970-1973 clearly demonstrated that these ramparts, reminiscent of the causewayed camps of lowland England, were Early Neolithic in date (between 4,000 and 3,500 BC) and led the excavator, Roger Mercer, to coin an entirely new name, "Tor Enclosure", to describe this previously unknown and unlooked for site type; subsequently four other similar sites have been identified in Cornwall with several more possible sites awaiting further investigation.

Traces of the ramparts are still visible as low spread stony banks, especially in areas where the vegetation has been kept low, for instance, along some of the footpaths. Also visible on the hill are Bronze Age hut circles, a medieval castle as well as extensive mining remains.

For more information see: http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/a2m/neolithic/tor_enclosure/carn%20brea/carn_brea.htm