

Close to the Edge: Excavations of Five Cornish Coastal Barrows



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Edited by
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Aerial photograph of Godrevy headland from the east (© Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, flight F68-072.)

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Godrevy Barrow

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Summary

This monograph reports upon the recent excavation of five Early Bronze Age barrows which were undertaken by Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Three of the five sites are located close to the coast and two are located in an elevated inland ridge with sea views. All the sites which are reported on within this monograph are complex monuments which reveal episodes of remodelling and reuse, stretching from the first half of the second millennium BC into the Iron Age, with one site producing evidence for activity in the Roman period. A notable feature of the investigated barrows is the range of practices associated with them. Interestingly, only one of the barrows seems to have had a primary function as a place of burial, with others containing only token amounts of human bone, or none at all.

Despite being broadly comparable monuments with similar radiocarbon determinations, there are also major differences in both form and intensity of activity between the barrows, and there are significant contrasts in practices associated with them.

The volume presents the results from each of the excavated barrows. A final synthetic section then reviews some of the major themes which have emerged from the excavations.