

Unlocking Our Coastal Heritage Wind Hill



The 'Unlocking Our Coastal Heritage' project, led by the South West Coast Path Team aims to improve the visitor experience along the South West Coast Path as part of a Sustainable Rural Tourism theme. Countisbury Castle (also known as Wind Hill) is an Iron Age promontory fort, which dominates the

eastern side of the Lyn Gorge and the steep sea cliffs overlooking Lynmouth Bay. It made use of the natural steep defences on three sides of the promontory formed by the precipitous sea cliffs overlooking Lynmouth Bay to the north and the deep valleys of the East Lyn River to the south. This natural defensive circuit was completed by a high earthwork rampart and ditch which crosses the narrow neck of land extending from the sea cliff on the north, to the steep slopes of the East Lyn Valley on the south. It is a Scheduled Monument which is owned by the National Trust. The South West Coast Path crosses through the northern tip of the earthwork rampart.

Historical research of Wind Hill was also presented as part of the project. It showed that precise information about the ownership, occupancy, land use and topography of the site was only available from 1839, when the Countisbury tithe map and apportionment were surveyed. A published list of tenements and acreages in 1790 and 1835 made it possible to take the story back a further half-century.