



Tantalising glimpses of the history of Ramsey Island have been revealed.

# Air survey uncovers Ramsey's rich history

A NEW airborne laser survey of RSPB Ramsey Island has revealed a hidden archaeological landscape thought to date back 4,500 years to the Bronze Age.

The airborne laser survey was commissioned by archaeologists from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as part of the new European-funded Ireland-Wales CHERISH project investigating climate change and coastal heritage.

The data captured has enabled the creation of a highly detailed 3D model of Ramsey Island for the first time.

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The new survey has revealed exciting sites such as Bronze Age round barrows, a prehistoric coastal promontory fort, the possible site of a lost chapel and a multitude of ancient field systems.

These discoveries are forcing archaeologists to change their interpretation of how humans would have interacted with Ramsey Island during the last 4,000-5,000 years.

The highly detailed airborne laser scanning flown by Bluesky International LTD in February 2017 provides a unique and unparalleled view of the whole island at a resolution of 25cm.

Previous surveys carried out during the mid-1990s by archaeologists Heather and Terry James for the RSPB recorded prehistoric cairns and field systems on the island's two summits of Carn Ysgubor and Carn Llundain.

The CHERISH team has expanded on this work using computer aided mapping, along with digitised historical aerial imagery.

From this, archaeologists have now furthered the understanding of how the prehistoric and medieval agricultural landscape may have appeared.

Dan Hunt, CHERISH archaeologist at the Royal Commission, said: "We have added a wealth of new archaeological sites to the story of Ramsey Island, using an incredible 3D dataset which has presented us with a stunning view of the island in enormous detail."

"We look forward to investigating these discoveries further."