



# **Viaduct Hill, Hayle, Cornwall**

## **Archaeological Desk-based Assessment**



**Cornwall Archaeological Unit**

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<b>Client</b>	<b>Kier Living</b>
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## **Acknowledgements**

This study was commissioned by Kier Living and carried out by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was Colin Buck.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Cornwall Archaeological Unit and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## **Freedom of Information Act**

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Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

## **Cover illustration**

A 2005 Cornwall Council aerial photograph of the development area showing the football pitches, pasture and modern development in the Copperhouse area of Hayle.

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## Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey

## **1 Summary**

The Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Keir Living to provide an archaeological desk-based assessment for land at Viaduct Hill, Hayle. The development area currently comprises pasture and football pitches. The desk-based assessment was undertaken in advance of a planning application for a new housing development. This report ascertains the likely archaeological implications of the development.

The development area is located on a historically rural site that appears not to contain sites of historic interest. However the proximity to prehistoric sites may mean that such evidence survives below the surface and may be impacted by the proposed development. Further archaeological work, such as a geophysical survey, may be required to inform or mitigate these impacts.

An additional fieldwork based impact assessment is recommended to identify and clarify the character of Trevassack and the likelihood and severity of setting impacts on the development site and surrounding heritage assets.

Following the undertaking of more detailed assessment and geophysical survey it is likely that further stages of archaeological recording will be required. These might include an archaeological watching brief and/or excavation depending on the significance of the features which are uncovered.

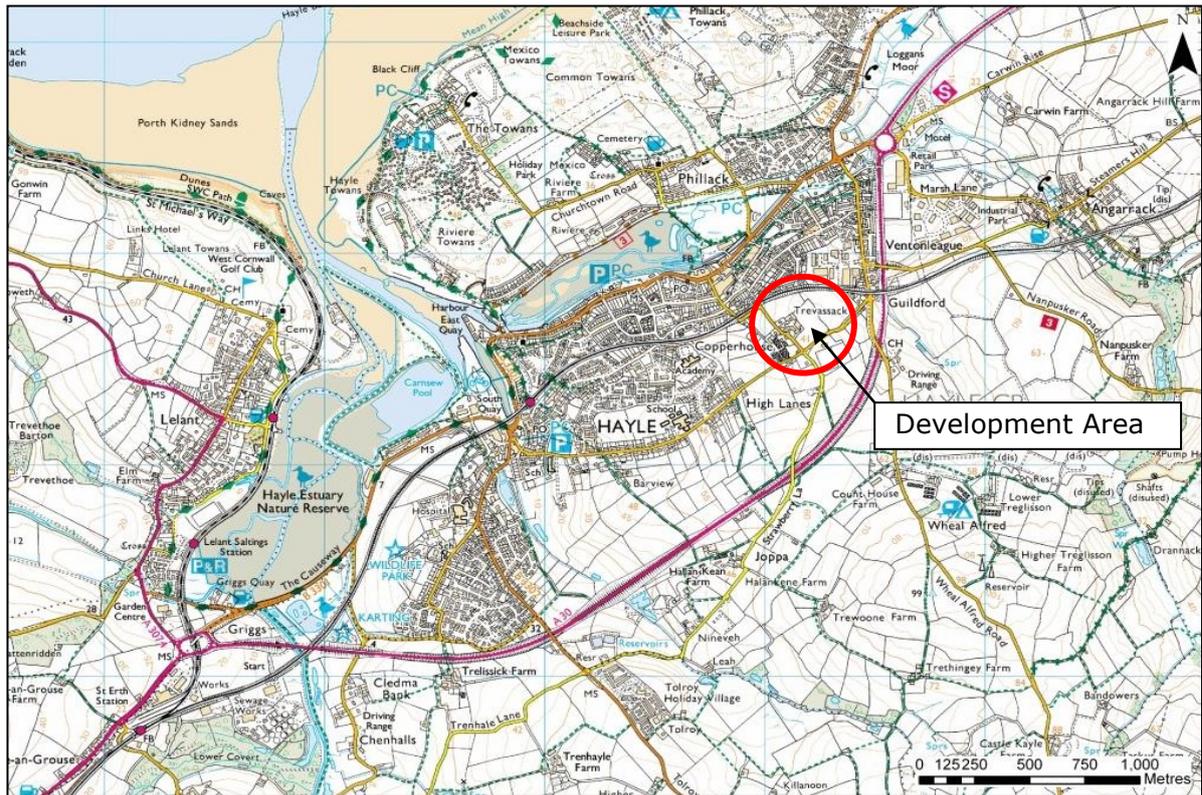


Figure 1: Location of the development area in relation to Hayle.



Figure 2: The location of the development area, highlighted by the red outline.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Project background

The Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Kier Living to provide an archaeological desk-based assessment for land at Viaduct Hill, Hayle (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The development area currently comprises pasture and football pitches. The archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken in advance of a planning application for housing in order to ascertain the likely archaeological implications of the development.

### 2.2 Aims

The aim of the project was to gain a better understanding of the history of the site.

The site specific aims were:

- To research historic maps, records and other reports pertaining to the site.
- To extract site specific information from historic maps, records and reports to create a written history of the site.
- Where possible determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological and historic assets identified.
- To highlight archaeological and historic assets likely to be affected by the scheme.
- To disseminate the results appropriately.

Given the topographical setting of the development area, it has the potential to contain important buried archaeological sites. The key objective of the archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an opportunity to better understand the character and potential of this area by highlighting archaeological and historic assets potentially affected by the development including potential buried archaeological remains.

### 2.3 Methods

All recording work was undertaken according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. Staff followed the *CIfA Code of Conduct and Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

#### 2.3.1 Desk-based assessment

Historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and its surroundings, and the structures and features recorded within the site boundaries. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Published sources available in the Cornwall and Scilly HER.
- Historic maps including:
  - Norden's Map of Cornwall (printed in 1728 but mapped *circa* 1600)
  - Joel Gascoyne's map of Cornwall (1699)
  - Thomas Martyn's map of Cornwall (1748)
  - OS 1 inch survey (*circa* 1803)
  - Phillack Tithe Map (*circa* 1840)
  - 1st and 2nd Editions of the OS 25 inch maps (*circa* 1880 and *circa* 1907).
- Modern maps.
- National Mapping Programme transcripts from aerial photographs.
- Other aerial photographs in the Cornwall and Scilly HER.

- Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping.
- Cornwall and Scilly Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR).
- Information held as GIS themes as part of the Cornwall and Scilly HER.

The historical and landscape context of the site was also considered during this stage of the assessment in order to establish the nature of the heritage assets which are located within the area surrounding the proposed development.

### **2.3.2 Creation of site archive and report**

To include:

- A detailed site description (from desk based resources).
- Completion of the English Heritage/ADS OASIS online archive index.
- Collation of paperwork pertaining to the project.
- An archive report outlining the project results (this report).

## **3 Location and setting**

The development area is located at approximately 40m OD at OS grid reference SW 57212 37683 (Figure 1). Hayle is approximately 32km west of Truro and the development area located approximately 1km from the centre of the town on its south eastern periphery. Topographically the development area is situated on a slight north facing slope near the crest of the hill overlooking east Hayle, Phillack and the adjacent Towans. The site consists of pasture at the northern end and southwestern corner, with the remainder having been converted to football pitches. Historic Landscape Characterisation designates the site as Farmland: Medieval, which forms part of Cornwall's agricultural heartland with farming recorded before the 17<sup>th</sup> century and with field patterns distinct from the straight-sided fields of later enclosure. This character type has prehistoric or medieval origins and has the potential to contain buried prehistoric monuments and other archaeological remains.

## **4 Designations**

### **4.1 National**

There are no nationally designated heritage assets within the development site.

### **4.2 Regional/county**

There are no regionally designated heritage assets within the development site.

### **4.3 Local**

There are no heritage assets of local importance recorded by the HER within the development site.

## **5 Historical background**

Isolated findspots and enclosures characterise the prehistoric remains in and around the modern town of Hayle. The findspots include a Mesolithic flint scatter at Phillack and a Bronze Age ceramic vessel and copper alloy socketed axe head in Hayle. An apparently prehistoric cemetery consisting of several graves, although there were no remains other than teeth, was found and recorded within a private garden at Phillack Churchtown in the 19th century (Crofts 1906). In addition, a Neolithic stone axe head and the site of a possible Bronze Age barrow have been identified adjacent to the proposed development site at Trevassack (Figure 10).

The Iron Age remains in the wider area are more substantial, consisting of the Scheduled Monuments of Carnsew hillfort, west of the site, Castle Kayle to the southeast, and Trevarnon Round to the northeast. Carnsew is a small multivallate hillfort with an entrance to the northwest and formerly significant ramparts. It

overlooks and protects the Hayle estuary to the north. Subsequent farming, the construction of the railway cutting and the setting out of parkland has destroyed large parts of the ramparts and internal space. Castle Kayle is an Iron Age to Romano-British round located on a northeast facing slope overlooking a tributary of the River Hayle. Approximately 60m in diameter, the ramparts partially survive to a height of 2m though the interior is now occupied by a farm. Trevarnon Round is a sub-rectangular earthwork with some of the enclosing banks and traces of the ditches still visible. It probably dates to the Romano-British period though limited exploration has revealed post-medieval debris and copper waste in the interior.

In the medieval period Hayle and surrounding areas are most likely to have been included within the holdings of the Domesday manor of Connerton. This exceptionally large and wealthy manor was held directly by the King and included thirty villagers and twenty smallholders, a mill and 300 sheep amongst other livestock (Thorn and Thorn 1979).

Throughout the medieval period the area would have been occupied by small dispersed farming settlements. Furthest north, approximately 1km from the study area, Phillack was one of the earliest and largest and the Church of St Felicitas, a Grade II\* Listed Building, has a Norman altar, 12th century font and 15th century tower though the remainder of the church was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Trevassack, immediately west of, and closest to, the development area, is a Cornish name indicating a farmstead first recorded in 1284 as 'Trevasek' whilst Guildford, to the east, is first recorded as 'Guldeford' in 1335. Bodriggy, to the northwest, was first recorded in 1181 whilst further west at Trelissick the medieval manor house has survived, though was much altered in the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries for the Paynter family, and is now a Grade II\* Listed Building. Similarly Penpol, a Cornish name meaning 'head of creek' which was first recorded in 1259, has a surviving house dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century which was formerly owned by the Godolphins and Robartes, principal families in Cornwall, and more latterly, the Millet family who played a notable role in the industrial development of Hayle (Padel 1985, 182).

The settlement of Hayle only developed in the post-medieval period and this growth was derived from the industrial activities associated with the river estuary. According to Padel (1988, 95) in 1813 only one dwelling, called 'Heyl,' is recorded close to the causeway of the present town. Industrial activities are recorded as beginning in 1721 when a copper smelting house was erected in the area of Copperhouse Creek. This was taken over by the Cornish Copper Company who moved to Hayle in 1758 to smelt copper and was followed by the foundation by John, a blacksmith, of Harvey's Foundry in 1779 (Noall 1984, 39-42). These two companies were regularly in conflict, particularly when Harvey's began supplying additional goods for mines and the Cornish Copper Company became Copperhouse Foundry in 1819. The foundry industry encouraged other trades as copper was exported to Wales for smelting and coal imports and other maritime trades operated from the expanding docks. These activities are set against an economic boom in mining and heavy industry and are associated with rapid technological progress. This is typified by the early partnership of Harvey's with Richard Trevithick on steam locomotion development and by the high quantity of large detached villas built around Hayle, of which many survive and are Grade II Listed Buildings. This was followed by the diversification of the foundries, and in particular Harvey's into rope-making, grocery provision, coal merchanting and machine repairing. Copperhouse Foundry provided housing for their workforce and is thus responsible for many of the terraces in the northeast part of Hayle. Harvey's, however, sourced their workforce from surrounding villages, although there are associated terraces of housing, but many of the villas built at this time belonged to their more highly paid staff or family members (Buck and Smith 2005, 14).

In contrast the areas south and east of the town have remained relatively rural and influenced by mining activities. Guildford developed into a post medieval mining village with small holdings and is shown on the Tithe Map built around a cross roads.

Trevassack includes two rows of houses dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century though at least one row may be part of an earlier range of agricultural buildings relating to Trevassack Manor farm yard. Similarly, to the south and east of Trevassack the 19<sup>th</sup> century OS maps show houses and outbuildings that were part of Wheal Alfred Mine, which were gradually abandoned following the closure of the mine in the 1870s. On the road south of Trevassack is a milestone, now a Listed Building (Figure 11). Its form and location suggest it is a marker on the former main road from Mitchell to Hayle, superseded in 1839 by the Redruth to Hayle Turnpike. It probably dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, though some sources put it as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and represents one of the earliest main road routes to and from Hayle (Cahill and CAU 2000, 31, 38, 47, 61).

The maps of the area show a remarkable progression and detail the development of the town; from the earliest, Gascoyne's 1699 (Figure 3) and Norden's 17<sup>th</sup> century maps showing only Phillack, the river and the small isolated 'medieval' settlements, to Martyn's 1748 map (Figure 4) that includes Trevassack along with the 1809 OS map (Figure 5), to the Tithe and later OS maps (Figure 6 and 9); all reveal the growth of the industrial and domestic areas. These also demonstrate the area's wealth with large villas and an increase in social amenities. Of note are the addition of the railway, initially built in 1837 and extended throughout the later 19<sup>th</sup> century (Buck and Smith 2005; 11), which transformed industry and communication, and the creation of The Downes, now a Registered Park and Garden. This was built as a combined house and garden scheme for William John Rawlings, an antiquarian, c1880 on undeveloped land to designs by Edmund and John Dando Sedding. The house was purchased in 1901 by Frances Ellis and was extended for use as St Theresa's Convent, founded in 1913.

The 1840 Tithe Map and Apportionment for Phillack Parish illustrate dense development around the industries along the river bank and minimal housing around Copperhouse but open farmland around Trevassack and Bodriggy (Figure 6). The proposed development area consisted of four land parcels, the two largest similar to today's layout with two smaller parcels along the western boundary. All were owned by the lessees of the Cornish Copper Company (CCCo). Parcel 1018, Summerhouse Field was occupied by John Higgens and parcel 1029, Park Melee was occupied by Thomas Jones. The smaller parcels, 1027 and 1028, were meadows occupied by John Thomas and John Clay. The plots of Trevassack, described as houses, gardens and meadows were also owned by the CCCo and occupied by at least five individuals.

The 1875 and 1907 OS maps are very similar, indicative of the collapse of the mining industry which prevented further growth, and do not show any significant changes to the proposed development area with the exception of the railway bordering the north of the site (Figure 7 and Figure 8). The Guildford Viaduct to the east was built in timber in 1850 by the West Cornwall Railway and rebuilt in stone in 1886 by the Great Western Railway.

Following the decline of the mining industry and the closure of the foundries in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the remaining Hayle industries also deteriorated. However, the dockyard, ship breaking yard and explosives works continued in operation through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, much supported by the requirements of both world wars. Hayle was quite well defended to protect these with a World War II anti-aircraft battery of four guns, a minefield outside the estuary and other defensive installations such as pillboxes and road blocks (Defence of Britain Archive). By 1932 the southern half of the proposed development area has been labelled on the OS map as 'football field' and more buildings and glass houses are depicted on the west side of Trevassack (Figure 9). Modern aerial photographs record the site, in the field immediately east of the proposed development area, where two World War Two bombs left craters 8m in diameter. Although modern housing has infilled areas north of the railway and to the west at High Lanes, Trevassack has remained rural with pasture and the football club on the proposed development site. It is still largely surrounded by arable land though the A30 road by-passes Hayle less than a kilometre to the south (Figure 12).

## **6 Results of desk-based assessment**

The desk-based assessment has indicated that the proposed development site does not contain known heritage assets within its boundaries.

However, this assessment has highlighted a large number of highly significant heritage assets within wider environs of the site (Figure 10 and Figure 11). These range from the earliest prehistoric occupation evidence of flint tools, Bronze Age barrows and enclosures through to remains associated with the industrial revolution and modern wartime defences. In addition to the extant heritage assets, the setting of the site requires consideration. The rural landscape remaining between the A30 road and the southern periphery of Hayle is a significant part of the setting of the smaller settlements located within this area, such as Trevassack, and more generally of Hayle and its approaches.

## **7 Discussion**

It is possible that as yet unknown and unrecorded subsurface archaeology, particularly given the prehistoric evidence in the wider surrounding area, and the topographical location, may well survive. Should sub-surface archaeology exist within the development area the impacts are likely to be direct, physical and irreversible and could be considered at least moderately negative depending on the extent, survival and importance of any artefacts and features. A geophysical survey prior to commencement of development may help to clarify this potential and help inform decisions on further archaeological requirements.

The medieval origins and post-medieval agricultural activities of Trevassack form a key part of the area's character, whilst the surviving rural landscape surrounding Trevassack is a significant part of its setting. Although it is on the periphery of industrialised and suburban Hayle, this growth is to a large extent historic and also forms part of the setting of Trevassack. In addition, the elevated location of the proposed development and the likelihood of good viewpoints of the site in its rural and historic setting mean there may be impacts on the historic landscape character of the area. Further assessment to clarify the character of Trevassack and the nearby built environment would help determine the impact of the development on the historic landscape character and setting..

The heritage assets identified in the desk based assessment above are not within the proposed development area and will not be physically impacted upon by the proposed development. However, it is likely that at least a minor negative setting or visual impact may be experienced by some or all of these heritage assets as a result of the proposed development, particularly those which form part of the rural hinterland of Hayle north of the A30 road or those in closer proximity (Figure 10 and 11; Cahill and CAU 2000, 69, 76; Rose and Bayfield 1993, 5). Further assessment may help to clarify the occurrence, nature and severity of such impacts.

## **8 Recommendations**

Given the potential for subsurface archaeological remains to survive, it is likely that further stages of archaeological assessment and mitigation may be required to inform a planning decision, or as a planning condition prior to the commencement, or in conjunction with, any permitted development.

Any further archaeological recording will need to be agreed with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment, Cornwall Council). It is, however, likely to include one or more of the following elements:

- A geophysical survey is undertaken prior to any development taking place on the site of the proposed housing development, to further investigate this potential and inform or allow the mitigation of the impacts of the proposed development.

- A Historic Landscape character and impact assessment is undertaken to assess the likelihood and severity of impacts from the proposed development, and on the surrounding heritage assets.
- Other archaeological works such as an evaluation, a watching brief or excavation are considered in response to the results of a geophysical survey and assessment and implemented, or recommended by the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment, Cornwall Council).

## 9 References

### 9.1 Primary sources

Joel Gascoyne's 1699 Map of Cornwall

Martyn's 1748 Map of Cornwall

Ordnance Survey, 1809, 1 inch mapping First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, c1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, c1907. 25 Inch Map Second Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, c1930. 25 Inch Map Third Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, 2007. Mastermap Digital Mapping

Tithe Map c1840 and Apportionment, c1840. Parish of Phillack (digital copy available from CRO)

### 9.2 Publications

Buck, C. and Smith, J. 1995, *Hayle Town Survey and Historic Audit*. Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

Cahill, N. and CAU, 2000, *Hayle Historical Assessment, Cornwall and Inventory*. Cornwall Archaeological Unit report for English Heritage

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Padel, O.J. 1985, *Cornish Place-name Elements*, Penzance

Padel, O.J. 1988, *Cornish place-names*, Penzance

Rose, P. and Bayfield, T. 1993, *Archaeological sites within the A30 corridor at Hayle, Connor Downs and Polyphant*. Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Truro

Thorn, C. and Thorn, F. (eds.) 1979, *Domesday Book*, 10: Cornwall, Chichester

### 9.3 Websites

<http://www.cornish-mining.org.uk> Cornish World Heritage Site

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/> Defence of Britain Archive

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/> English Heritage designation information

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications> English Heritage guidance

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> English Heritage's online database of Sites and Monuments Records and Listed Buildings.

<http://whc.unesco.org/> World Heritage Site information

## 10 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146463**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY.

English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-202921



Figure 3: Gascoyne's 1699 Map of Cornwall showing Phillack, Bodrigny and Guildford but not Hayle, which developed later.



Figure 4: Martyn's 1748 map depicting Trevassack, Guildford and Bodrigny before the industrialisation of the Hayle estuary.



Figure 5: The c1803 OS map showing the rural Trevassack alongside the still undeveloped Hayle estuary.

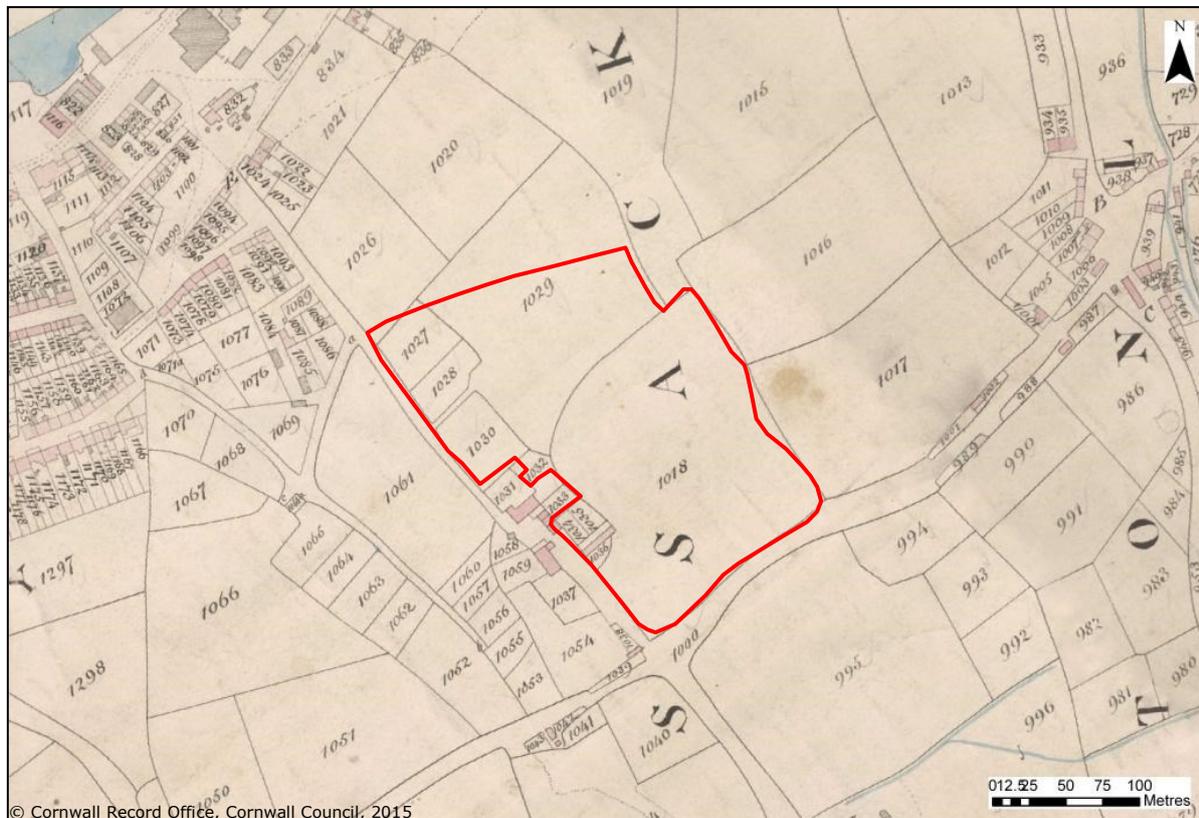


Figure 6: The 1840 Tithe Map for Phillack parish showing the small rural settlements and the development of terraced housing at Copperhouse. The overlaid red outline is the approximate position of the development area taken from modern mapping.

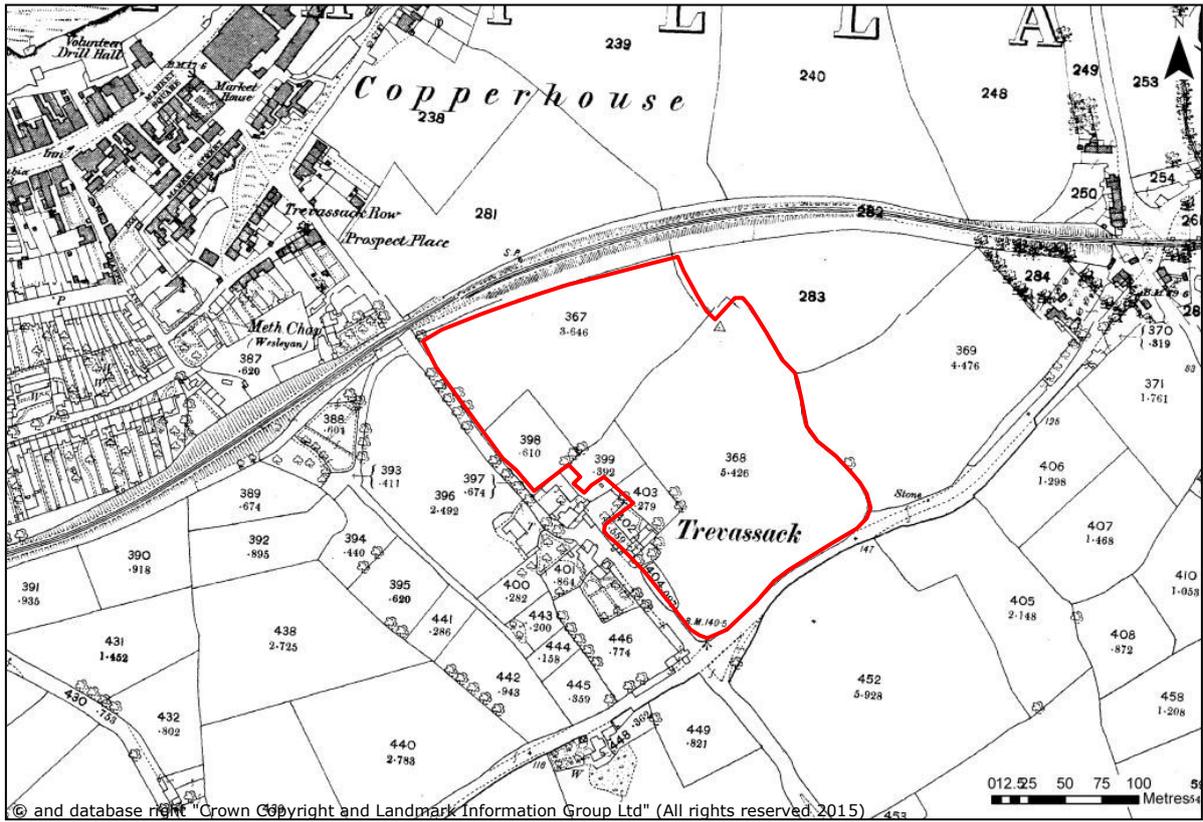


Figure 7: The 1875 OS map highlighting the rural landscape and more developed areas of Copperhouse now divided by the railway. The overlaid red outline shows the approximate development area.

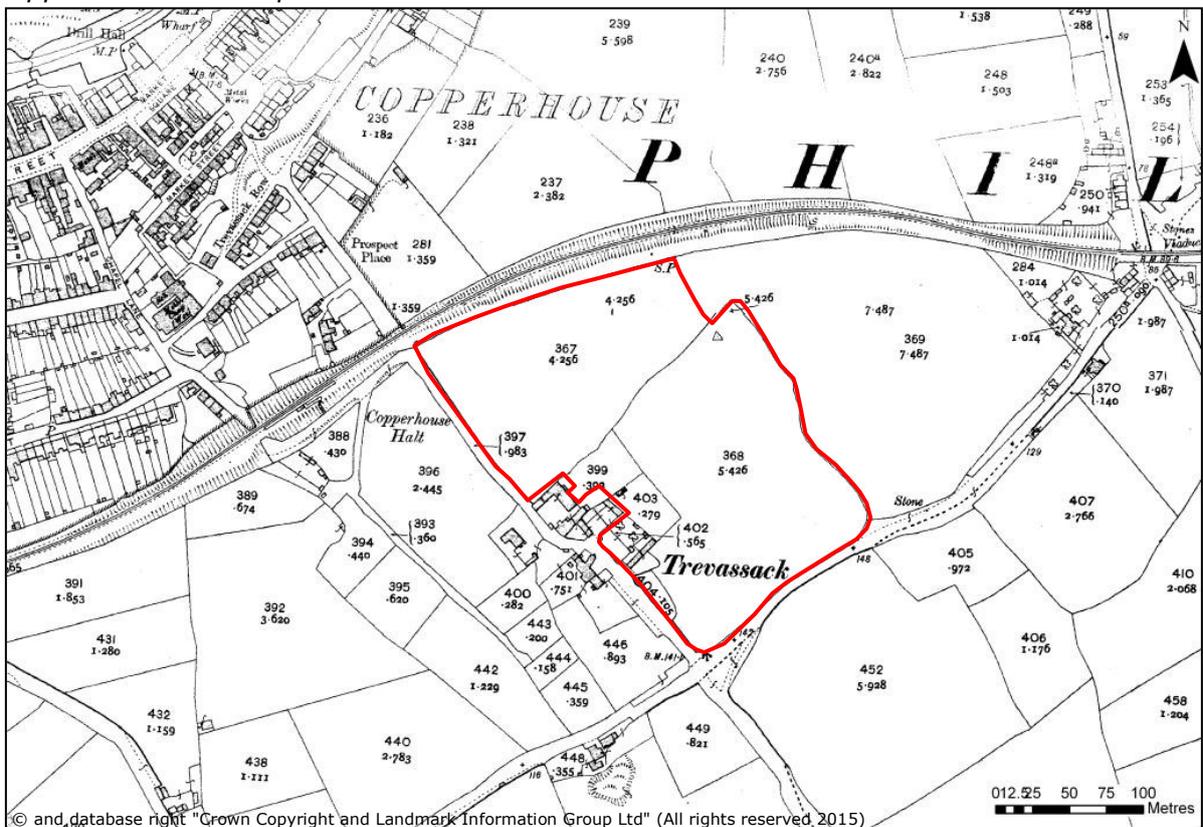


Figure 8: The 1907 OS map which shows minimal changes to field boundaries and to the rural site location from the 1875 map above.

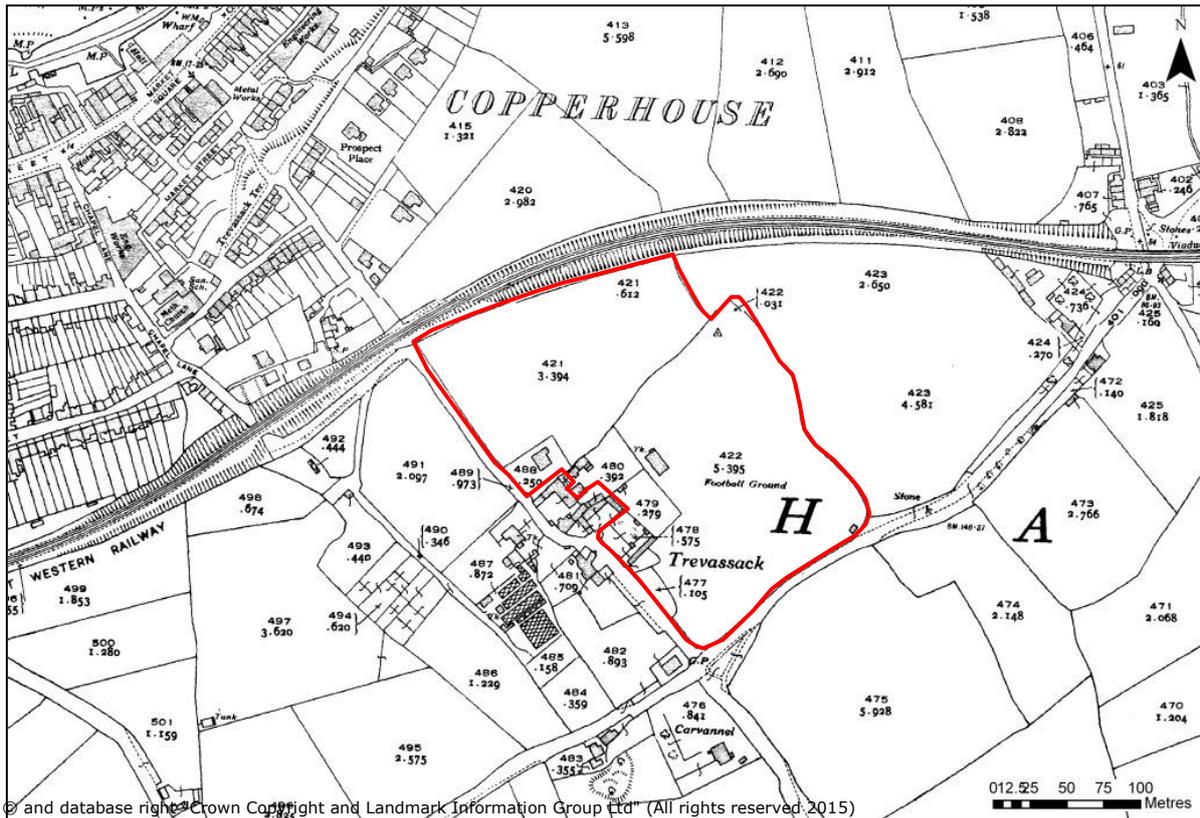


Figure 9: The 1932 OS map showing a still relatively rural landscape but with the expansion of Trevassack to the west.

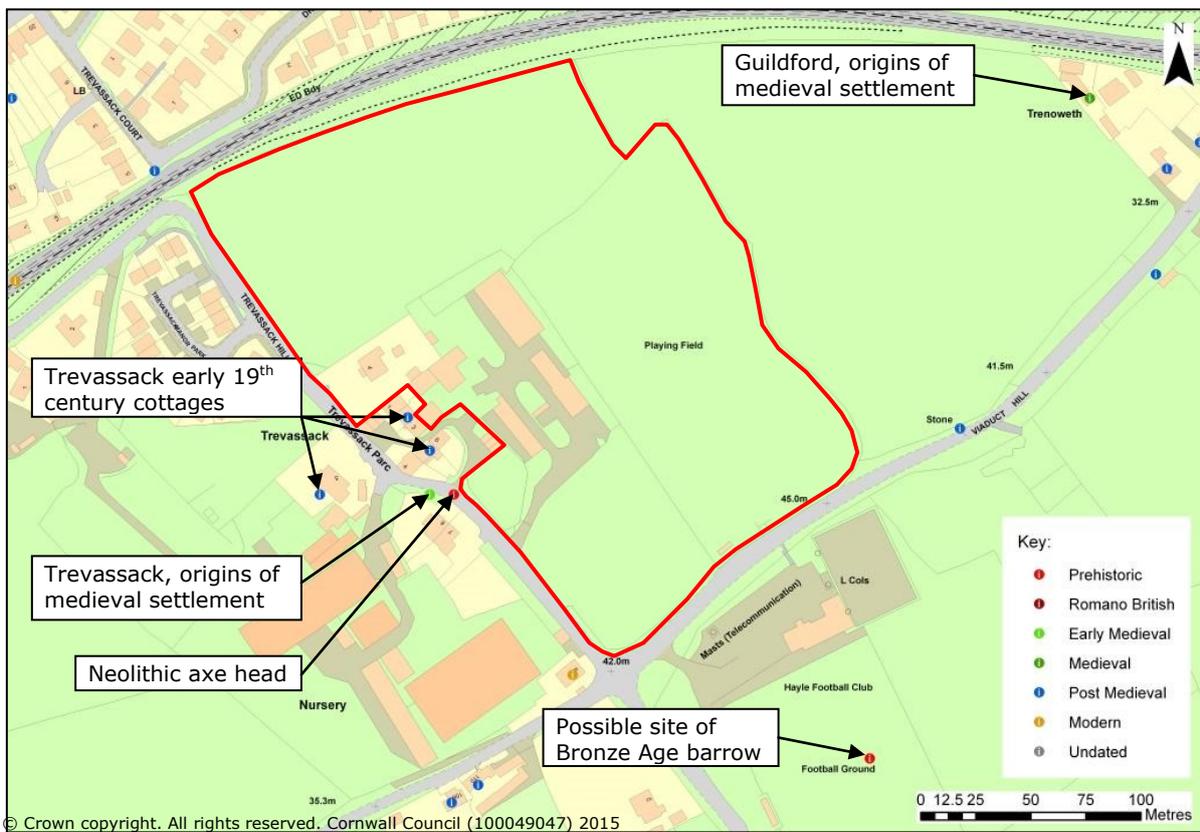


Figure 10: A modern map showing the undesignated monuments adjacent to the development site documented on the HER.

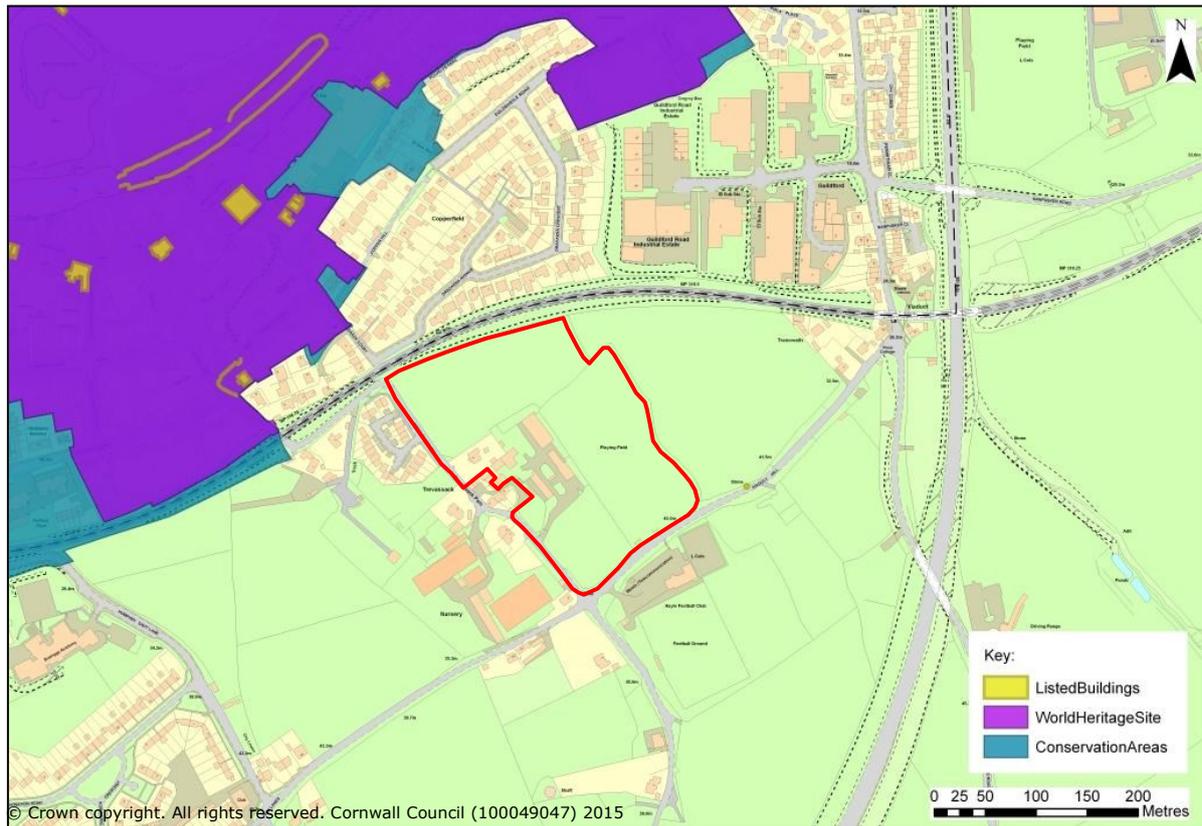


Figure 11: Modern map overlaid with the extents of the World Heritage Site, Conservation Area and Listed Buildings shown in relation to the development area.



Figure 12: The development area in 2000. Note the modernisation and infrastructure, including the A30, and the foundry terraces can still be seen though the development field appears to consist entirely of pasture at this time.