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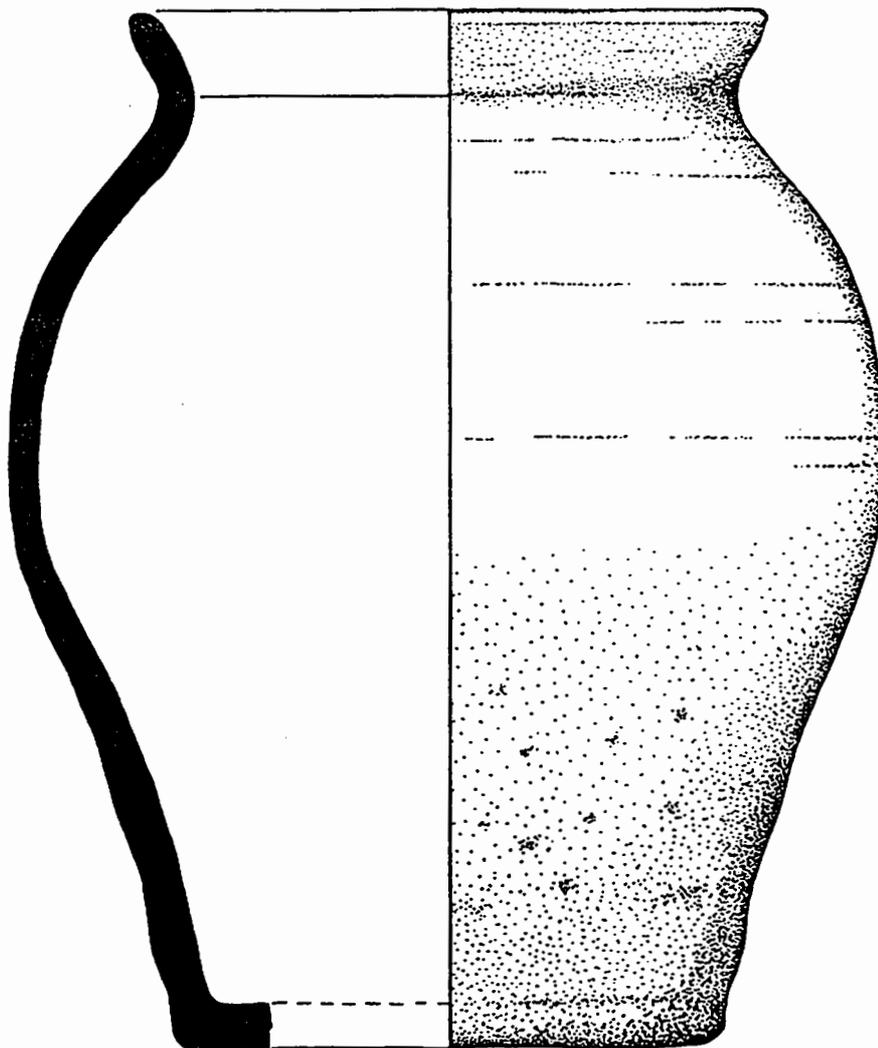
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
OF SOUTHWEST WATER, SECTION ROAD
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A Report for South West Water Services Ltd

An Archaeological Investigation at Stencoose, Cornwall 1996



CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL

THE ENGINEER

OF THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD

AND THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

A Report to South West Water Services Ltd

**An Archaeological Investigation at Stencoose, Cornwall 1996
Archive Report**

**By
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With Contributions from Anna Lawson Jones and Carl Thorpe**

November 1996

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A report by:

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Summary

Archaeological investigations along a South West Water Pipeline between Sevenmilestone and North Country took place between May 1996 and June 1996. The results from a geophysical survey at Stencoose led to the rescue excavation of an Iron Age or Romano-Cornish structure dating between approximately 600 BC-AD 400. The building was situated within an artificial terrace, and was surrounded by pits and a field system of Romano-Cornish date. The structure comprised two short lengths of earth and stone walling which joined together to form a simple open ended building. Very little actual occupation evidence was gathered from the interior of the structure. It could only be dated by the finds from features which cut into the walling of the building. The discovery of the structure is important because it has added another type of building to the range of excavated later prehistoric or Romano-Cornish buildings in Cornwall.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Project

The Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned by South West Water Services Limited to conduct an archaeological assessment in advance of a water pipeline that ran between Sevenmilestone and North Country. The pipeline was the last section in the Cornwall Spine Main water pipeline. The assessment report was undertaken by Nigel Thomas during the Spring of 1996 (Thomas 1996), its findings led to the geophysical survey of Stencoose and to the resulting excavations. This archive report covers the archaeological fieldwork which took place at Stencoose during May and June 1996. The report is the first stage in the analysis of the excavation results. It will be followed by the assessment report, and the full results will be published in *Cornish Archaeology*. The results from the rest of the pipeline will appear in a separate report (Jones forthcoming).

The area at Stencoose was targeted for archaeological investigation because of its proximity to the medieval farming settlement of Stencoose. Although the pipeline did not impact upon the extant farming settlement, it was possible that the settlement could have shrunk or shifted slightly over time. Buried archaeological features belonging to earlier settlements at Stencoose could therefore have been affected by the route of the pipeline. The resulting geophysical survey did indeed reveal the traces of linear ditches and other features underlying the existing field system, but in the archaeological excavations, which followed these were found to be not medieval but considerably older.

1.2 Methodology

The excavations were conducted over a three week period. The CAU team were aided by volunteers from the St. Austell and Truro colleges "A" level archaeology classes, the Cornwall Archaeological Society, and the Caradon Archaeological group. The area of the excavation was stripped by a mechanical swing shovel (which was closely monitored by CAU) through the topsoil, down to the level of the subsoil.

After the topsoil stripping was completed the area of the excavation was hand cleaned by trowels, and planned at a scale of 1:200. Subsequent plans were made at a scale of 1:50 and sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scales. A photographic record was made, notes were taken concerning the archaeological features and the soils filling them. Each context was given a unique number (1 to infinity); in this report the context numbers are given within square brackets. Soil samples were taken from those features and layers which were considered to have the greatest potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

A metal detector survey of the excavated area, the spoil heaps and the adjacent fields was carried out by Mike Compton. The survey did not uncover any stratified finds. All the finds were from the overlying topsoil and were post medieval in date (see section 4.1).

1.3 The Topography

The site at Stencoose is located 11 kilometres to the west of Truro, in St. Agnes Parish (see fig.1). It is situated in a tract of 'anciently enclosed land', whose field boundaries act to

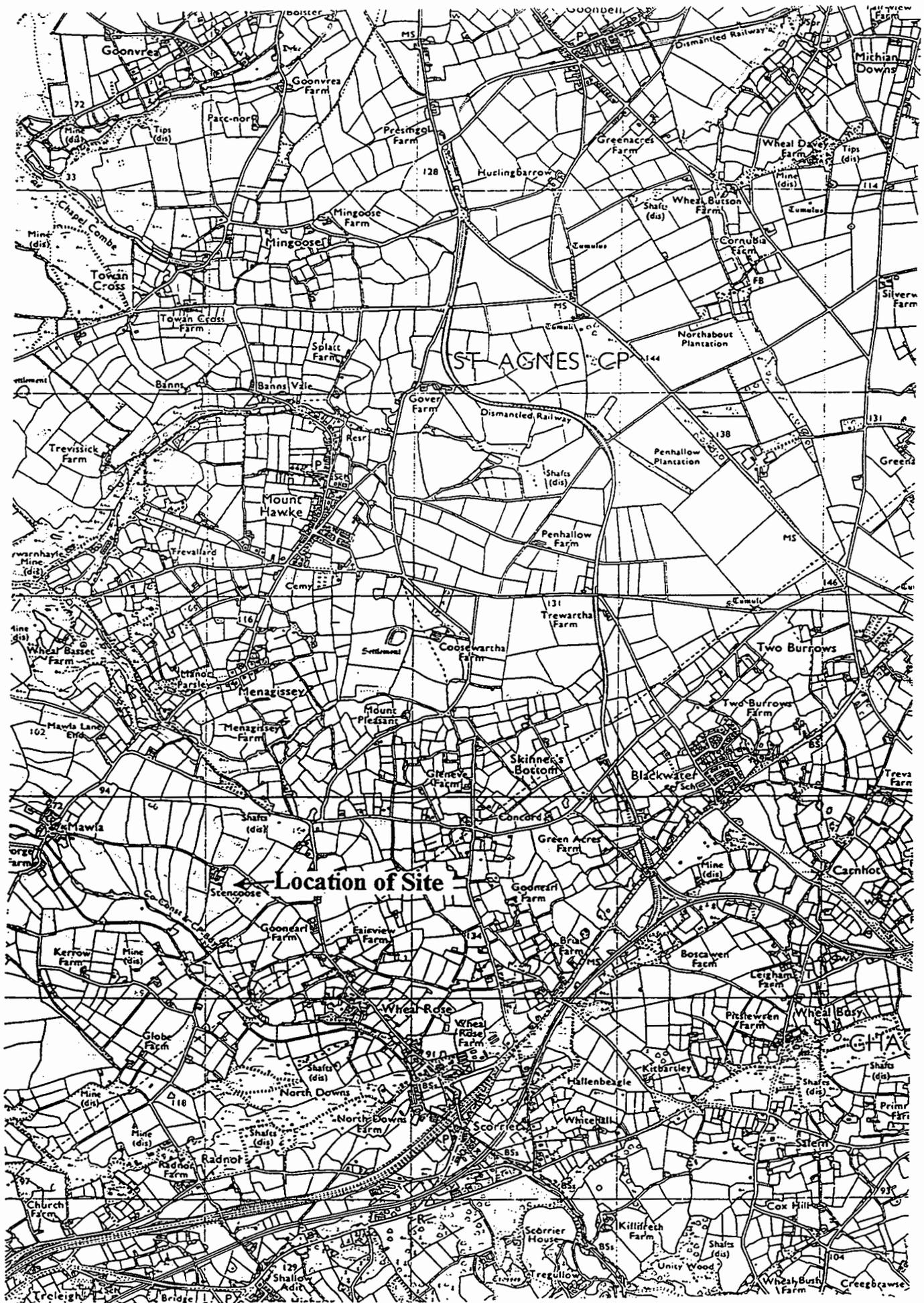


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Stencoose site. Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office ©Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cornwall County Council LA076538, 1996.

fossilise the pattern of the medieval strip field system (Countryside Commission 1996). The site is overlooked to the west by Carn Brea, and by recently enclosed uplands. The site at Stencoose is located close to the junction between the anciently enclosed farmland and the traditional upland heaths, enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries (Thomas 1996).

The main area of the excavation was sited upon an artificial terrace on a hill-slope. The underlying geology is a mixture of shillet, clays and quartz. The topsoil on the hillside was quite variable in thickness, averaging 20-30 centimetres depth at the top of the field and over 50 centimetres depth at the bottom. Trees are largely restricted to the boundaries, which means that the area is fairly exposed and windswept. The present landscape is characterised by a pattern of field systems, predominantly down to grass.

2.0 The Geophysical Survey

2.1 Introduction

Although the pipeline did not cut through any known archaeological sites, the Sevenmilestone to North Country pipeline did pass close to four areas of archaeological interest, identified in the initial archaeological assessment (Thomas 1996). South West Water funded magnetometer by *Geophysical Surveys of Bradford* at the four locations. The work was carried out in March 1996 (report 96/40).

This report is concerned with the results from the geophysical survey at Stencoose (**Site C**). The results from **Site A**, **Site B** and **Site D** will appear in a separate report (Jones forthcoming).

Site C was located on the eastern side of a known medieval settlement (fig.2). Despite the fact that there were no known archaeological remains surviving above ground, there was potential for buried archaeological features associated with the medieval settlement to survive beneath ground below the ploughsoil. Areas of medieval settlements and fields are areas where later prehistoric activity can be expected; therefore any archaeological anomalies detected by the survey within this area had the potential to be prehistoric or Romano-Cornish in origin.

2.2 The Results of the Geophysical Survey (fig.3)

The geophysical survey detected anomalies within the survey area. There were several linear ditch type features which appeared to form an enclosure, and some pit anomalies. The results of the survey led to the excavation at Stencoose.

The background "noise" (subsoil disturbance that was probably caused by ploughing) within the field meant that the responses produced by the archaeological features were comparatively weak and it resulted in some of the smaller features not being picked up by the survey. This interference was caused by the ploughed condition of the field. The survey recorded several linear ditch type anomalies, three of which appeared to form an enclosure. Only one north to south running ditch appeared to relate to the medieval strip field system (fig.3). The rest of the ditches seemed to be part of an underlying earlier field pattern that had a different layout to the later medieval field system. The results were interpreted as indicating the presence of a prehistoric field system.

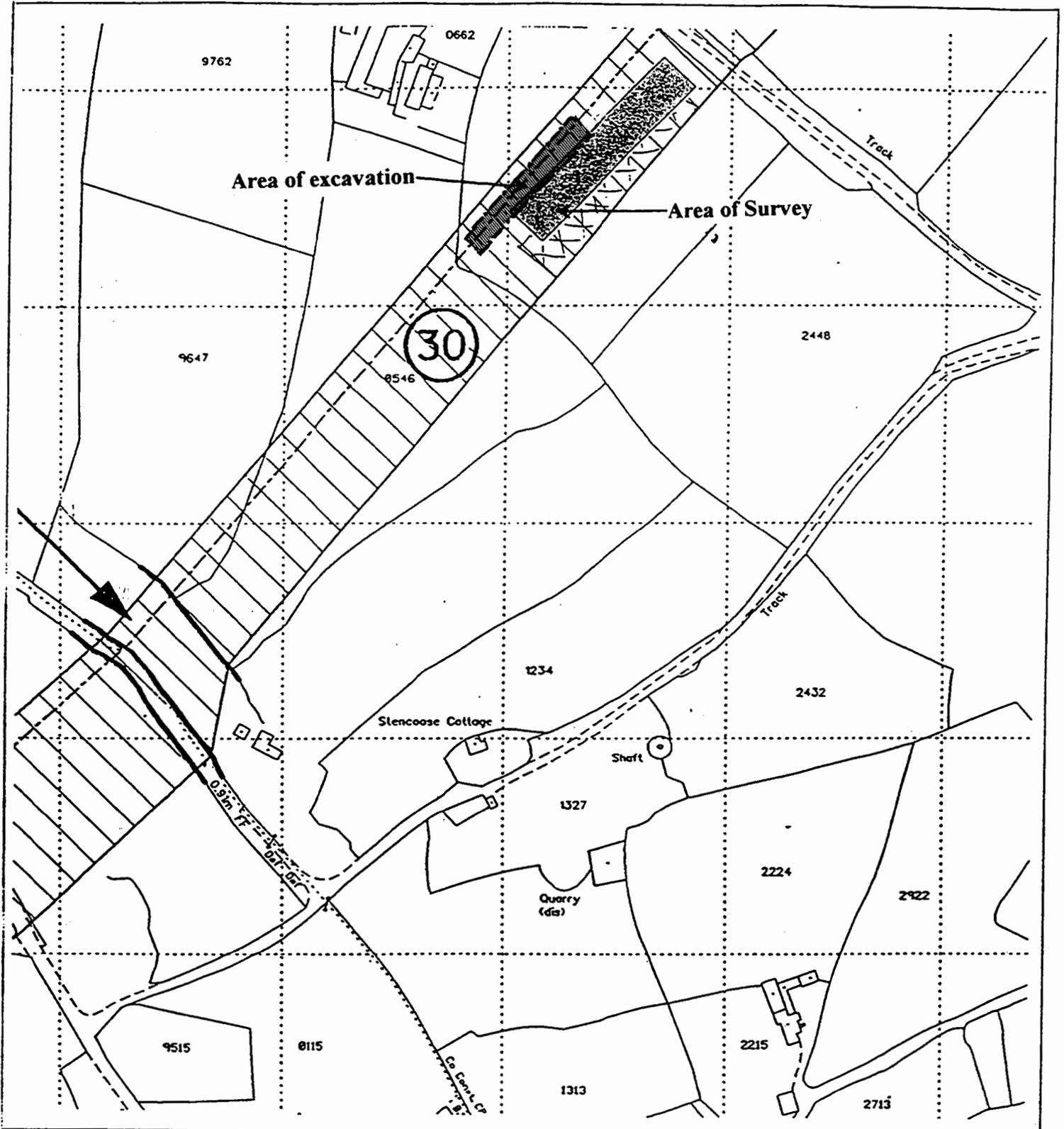


Figure 2. Map showing the location of geophysical survey- Site C. Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office ©Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cornwall County Council LA076538, 1996.

2.3 Discussion: The Results of the Subsequent Fieldwork

The geophysical survey identified several anomalies of archaeological interest within the survey area. The encouraging results from the geophysical survey led to CAU closely monitoring the topsoil stripping of the site.

The survey of **Site C** had identified several linear features in the south-western half of the area. Not all the features shown in geophysical survey area were visible within the area of the topsoil strip, and several additional pits and ditches were discovered during the topsoil strip (fig.4). However this disparity was due to the fact that most of the surveyed area lay outside the final pipeline corridor (see fig.2). The enclosure shown by the survey was revealed during the machine stripping as an unexpected "U" shaped structure with ditches running off it.

In conclusion the geophysical survey was successful in picking up most of the features within the survey area. At **Site C** the enclosure detected by the survey proved to adjoin a structure of Iron Age or Romano-Cornish date. The results of the geophysical survey along the pipeline once again demonstrated the usefulness of this technique for discovering sites and targeting further archaeological work.

3.0 A Stratigraphic Summary of the Excavated Features

3.1 Introduction

The stripped area was approximately 140m long and was 11m to 12m wide. Within the stripped area, attention was focused upon an irregular soil mark that was partially defined by a perimeter of stony rubble, which was situated in an artificial terrace in the middle of the pipeline corridor (fig.5). The site had produced Romano-Cornish and Iron Age pottery during the topsoil strip, so the feature had the potential to be a house structure. It was only during the course of the excavations that the true nature "U" shaped structure emerged.

The structure measured approximately 5.80 metres in length and was 5.60 metres wide at the entrance. The entrance was located on the eastern side of the building. The structure was composed of two lengths of walling made up of large stones and earth.

The number [60] was given to the feature which was identified as an Iron Age or Romano-Cornish structure. It soon became apparent that the structure and the surrounding archaeological features were fairly well preserved despite the impact of many centuries of agriculture. It was decided that the best strategy for excavating the structure was to divide it into four sections or quadrants. This method of excavation would allow us to quickly determine the depth of the archaeological deposits within the structure and would also leave standing baulks which could be recorded. All the other pits and linear features were partly or totally excavated during the course of the excavations. Structure [60] was completely excavated. Towards the end of the excavation all of the walling was dismantled and the baulks were removed.

3.2 Results from the Excavation

The excavation revealed several phases of activity at Stencoose that both predated and post-dated structure [60]. The phasing of the site was complicated by the lack of clear

CORNWALL SPINE MAIN
Site C

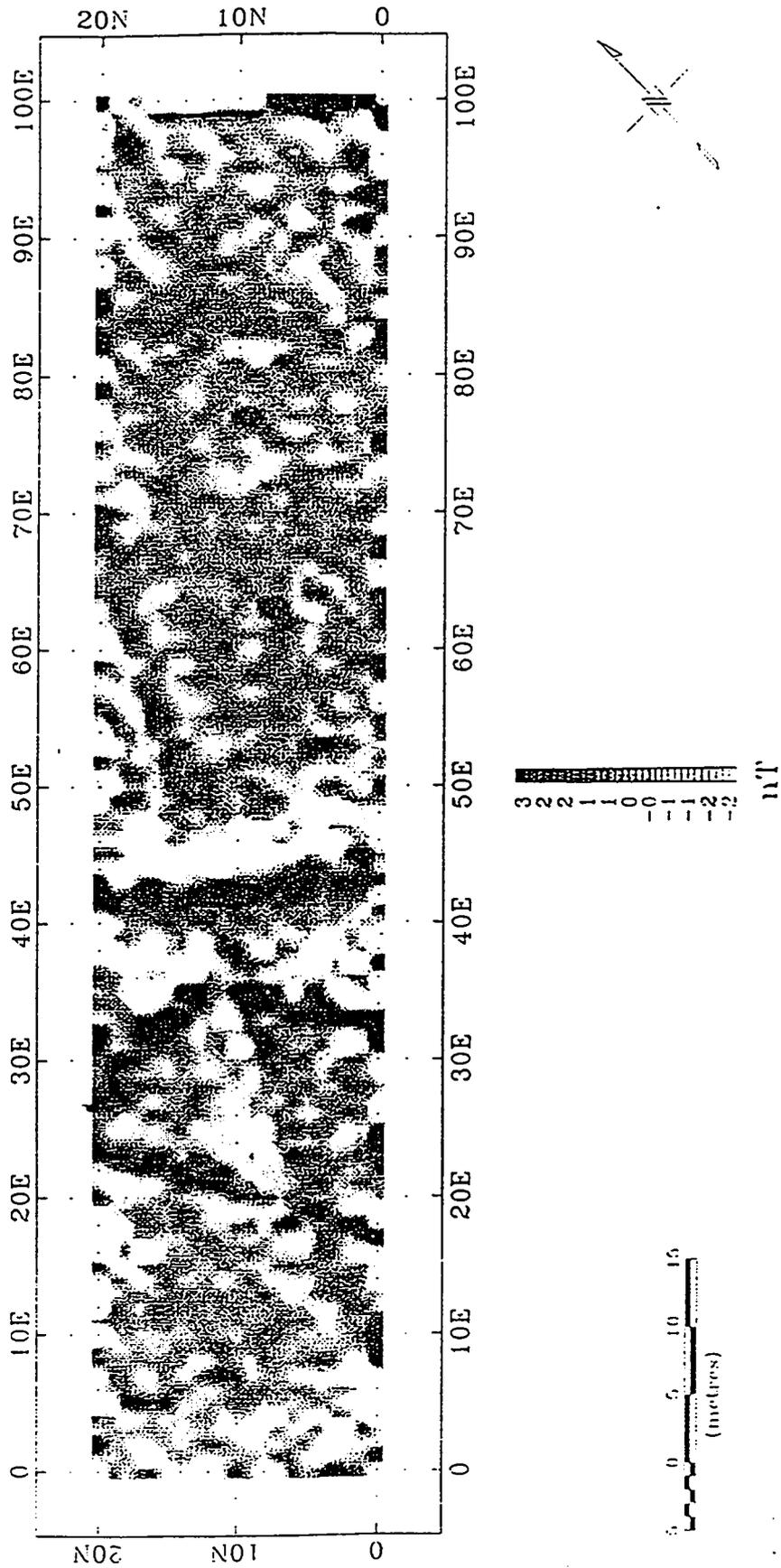


Figure 3. Plan showing the results of the geophysical survey- Site C.

stratigraphical relationships and by the large amounts of residual finds. However a clearer understanding of the development of the site will emerge through further study of the artefacts and the environmental samples. Currently four phases of activity have been identified at Stencoose. Phase 1 was associated with the pre-structure activity. Phase 2 was related to the construction and utilisation of the structure. Phase 3 was linked to the field system and the pit features. Phase 4 was associated with the medieval and post medieval reorganisation of the field system.

3.3 Pre-structure Activity

There were no obviously identifiable archaeological features which predated the building of structure [60], unless the artificial terrace [61] preceded the structure and was reused by the builders of the structure [60]. A large number of residual flints were found in and around the area of both the structure and the terrace, which were later Mesolithic and Neolithic in date. This concentration of lithic material was far denser than in adjacent areas, which were fieldwalked before and after the excavation. In addition residual Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery was recovered from features on the site. This could indicate that the area had been cleared and had been settled by groups of people for a considerable period of time before the building of structure [60]. This pattern would be consistent with other locales in Cornwall, where some places in the landscape are persistently reoccupied by groups of people throughout prehistory into historic times (for example Penhale Round, Nowakowski, 1994).

It is possible that the earlier occupation of the site may have influenced the siting of the later structure and the field system. The fact that the site had already been cleared may have made it a convenient place to construct a settlement. On the other hand the later occupation may have been deliberately sited within an area that had been used by groups of people throughout the prehistoric period. The usage may have been in the form of discontinuous periodic settlement. Alternatively the occupation of the area may have been part of a traditional pattern of occupation. The site at Stencoose may have had associations and memories attached to it which would have attracted people there (e.g. Tilley 1995).

3.4 Phase 2 The Occupation of the Structure

Phase 2 was marked by the construction of structure [60] upon an artificial terraced area [61]. It was not certain for how long the terrace predated the construction of the building. The terrace was cut into the middle of a fairly steep hill-slope, creating a level area up to (approximately) 10.50 metres wide. Structure [60] was set within the terrace. It was composed of two lengths of walling (figs.6, 7 and 8), which were joined at the north-western end of the building. Wall [32] made up the northern side of the structure. It ran for 5 metres along the inside edge of the terrace. It measured 1.50 metres wide and survived to a height of 20 centimetres. The wall was composed of large blocks of stone, that had a silty clay loam matrix between them. Wall [33] ran close to the outer edge of the terrace for approximately 6 metres. It measured 1.50 metre wide and survived to a height of 15 centimetres. It consisted of smaller blocks of stone that had a silty clay loam matrix between them. Wall [33] kinked round in the north-west end of the structure in order to join with wall [32]. The two lengths of walling created a structure which was 5.80 metres long and was 5.60 metres wide at the entrance. The interior of the structure was fairly even. The ground gently sloped in from the entrance, which created a slightly sunken floor. The structure did not contain any occupation deposits or internal features. When the building fell into disuse it appears to have been left to

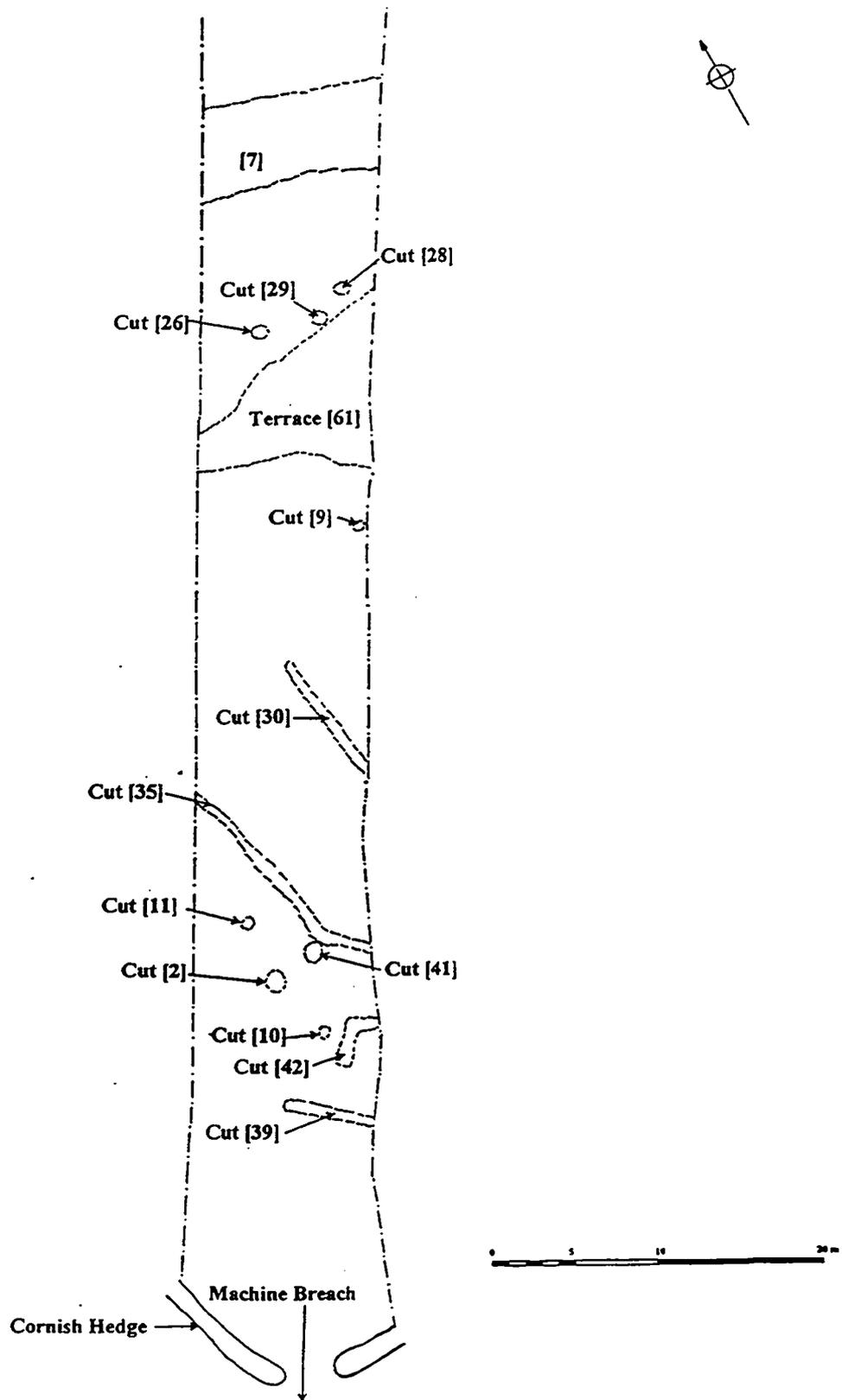


Figure 4. Pre excavation plan

silt up naturally. Structure [60] became infilled with three virtually identical layers (layers; [1], [23] and [23], fig 8). The three layers were all grey brown silty clay loams which differed slightly in their stone and silt content. The layers became more stony and silty with depth. This suggests that the building had gradually decayed and become naturally infilled over a period of time. There were no finds from the occupation period to date the building. The layers within the building contained residual material culture in the form of flints, Iron Age pottery and Romano-Cornish pottery, and a rotary quern fragment which was found in the vicinity of walls [32] and [33].

Very few of the features surrounding structure [60] can be demonstrated to have been contemporary with it. The features which are most likely to be associated with the structure include: ditches [34] and [54] and walls [50] and [53] (figs.6, 7, 9 and 11).

Wall [53] had the most convincing association with structure [60]. The wall was attached to the western end of the structure. It was "L" shaped in plan, and was 2.20 metres long. The wall consisted of a single course of stones that was 10-15 centimetres wide and was up to 20 centimetres in height. The wall enclosed an area behind the structure which measured approximately 1 metre square. The enclosed area was filled by a layer ([52]) of loamy clay and charcoal (fig.6), which had not been burnt *in situ*. It appears that wall [53] had been built for the sole purpose of containing ashes which had been burnt elsewhere.

Wall [50] was also probably related to the structure. It was located at the western end of the terrace and was mostly located under the edge of the pipeline section. The wall was aligned north-east to south-west. It measured 3.30 metres long and was 30 centimetres high. It was made of large stone blocks which had a silty clay loam matrix between them. Unlike walls [32] and [33] it was set into a wall trench ([51]). Wall [50] did not contain any stratified finds, although pottery and flint were recovered from the matrix of material on top of the wall. The function of the wall was not determined as much of it lay outside the area affected by the pipeline.

The association of ditches [34] and [54] with structure [60] is more problematic. Ditch [34] was a wide (1.50 metres), shallow (20 centimetres deep) cut, with sloping sides and an uneven base. The ditch cut was located approximately 3.50 metres beyond the eastern end of wall [32]. It appeared to follow the same roughly east to west alignment as the wall. Ditch [54] was located along the southern side of the terrace. It was very similar to ditch [34]. The cut measured 1.60 metres wide and it was 20 centimetres deep. The sides of the cut were sloping and the base was flat. Both ditches were filled by dark brown, silty clay loam material. Ditch [54] ran up to, but did not appear to cut, the eastern end of wall [33]. The relationship between structure [60] and the two ditches would imply that, either they are later than the building and the building became incorporated within a field system, or they are contemporary with the structure, and the building had an attached enclosure with it. Both ditches are visible on the geophysical survey (fig.3), where they formed the eastern side of an enclosure.

3.5 Discussion of the Occupation of the Structure

Phase 2 was associated with the occupation of the structure on the terrace. The building was simple and merely consisted of two walls, making it "U" shaped with a wide, open entrance on its eastern side.

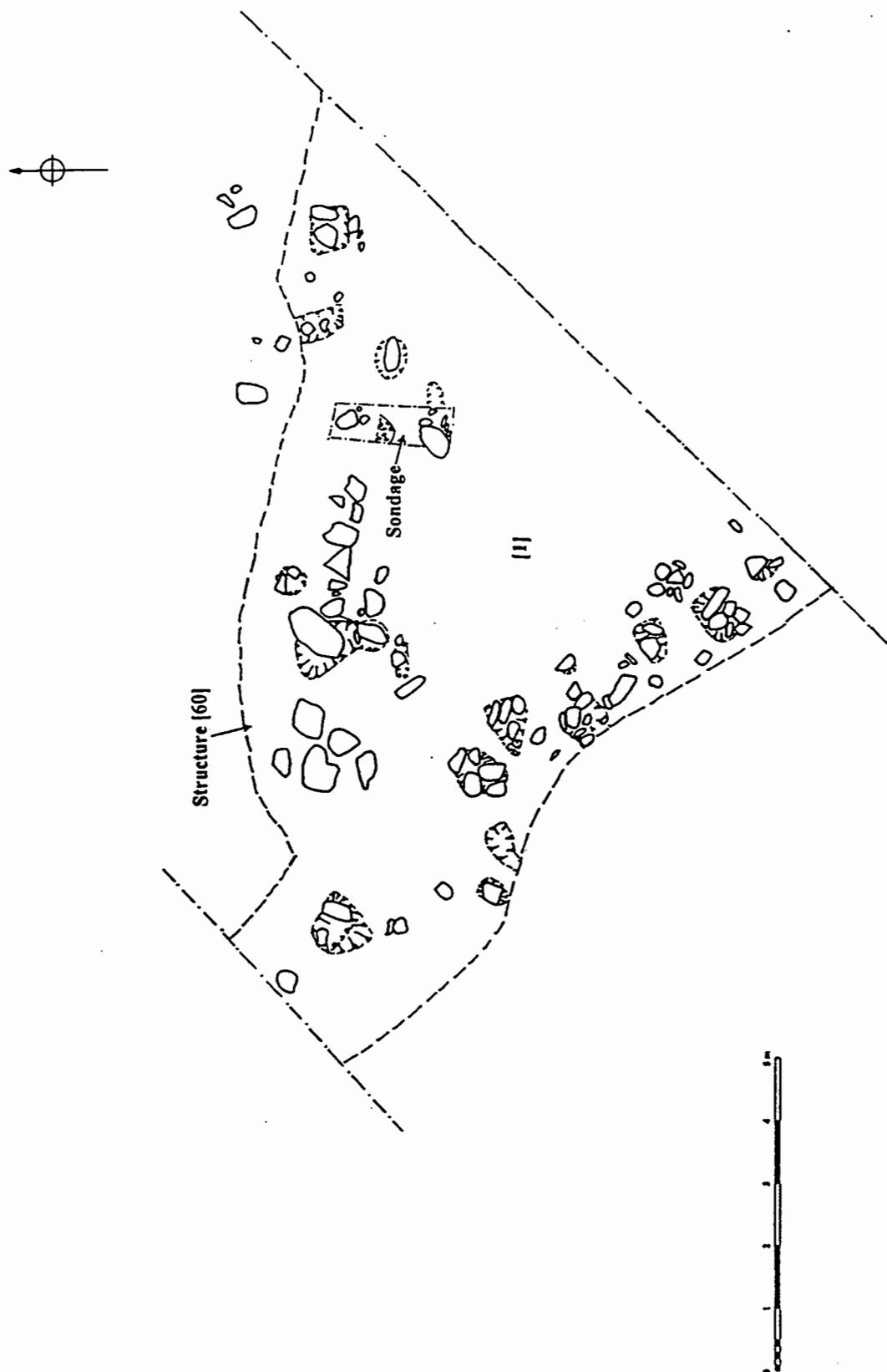


Figure 5. Pre excavation plan of structure [60].

The space within the building was completely undifferentiated. The interior was a simple sunken area which was not subdivided in any way. A small area was demarcated behind the building by a low wall. This area was used for the deposition of ashes from a fire. Other structures on the terrace are indicated by another wall [50], which lay to the west of the structure. It is possible that the building was located in the corner of an enclosure, as ditches [34] and [54] were aligned onto the ends of the wall of the structure. It is not possible to determine whether these ditches were contemporary with, or later than the structure.

The evidence from the construction/occupation phase would suggest that it was a fairly low status building, as it did not contain any occupation surfaces or contemporary material culture. The building was however cut by later features which have been assigned to the Romano-Cornish period, and the building became infilled with layers which contained residual Romano-Cornish pottery. It seems probable that the building either dates to the later Iron Age, or to Romano-Cornish period.

3.6 Phase 3 The Pits and the Field System

In addition to the structure on the terrace there were a number of other features of Romano-Cornish date within the area of the excavation. Broadly speaking these features can be divided into two categories, small circular pits and ditches (figs.6, 7, 10, 11 and 12).

The pits can be divided into three groups; a group located above the terrace, a group located around the terrace and a group located towards the bottom of the field.

The first group of pits (above the terrace) consisted of just two pits. It was the smallest of the three pit groupings. Pit [21] was a circular pit which was located beneath bank [7] (see below). The pit measured 60 centimetres in diameter and was 28 centimetres deep. The cut had steep sides and a slightly uneven stony base. The pit had been deliberately backfilled with two contrasting deposits. The upper fill [18] was a dark yellowish brown, silty loamy clay. It contained a large amount of Romano-Cornish pottery (including vessel 9, fig.13), burnt stones, and sections of a broken shillet object (see 4.13 and fig.16). In contrast the lower layer [19] was a dark grey brown, silty clay loam, which was rich in charcoal. The charcoal had not been burnt *in situ*, so the material must have been deposited into the cut from elsewhere.

The second pit in this group was pit [24]. Pit [24] was also sealed by bank [7]. Unfortunately the south-western side of this feature had been removed by ditch [8] (see below). The remaining pit was 70 centimetres in diameter and was 40 centimetres deep. The sides of the pit were sheer and the base was uneven. The pit was filled by a mid brown silty clay loam. Unlike the other pit in this group, it only contained 1 sherd of pottery and it did not contain much charcoal.

The middle group of pits was located on and around the terrace. With eleven pits it constituted the largest of the three pit groupings. Pit [9] was located to the south-east of the structure. It was an oval pit 78 centimetres long, 69 centimetres wide and 21 centimetres deep. The sides of the pit were sloping and the base was concave. The pit did not contain any finds. It was filled by two layers [12] and [13]. The upper layer [12] was a compact dark brown, silty loam. The lower fill was a grey ashy layer which had a high charcoal content. The base of the pit was scorched; this indicated that burning had taken place within the open pit.

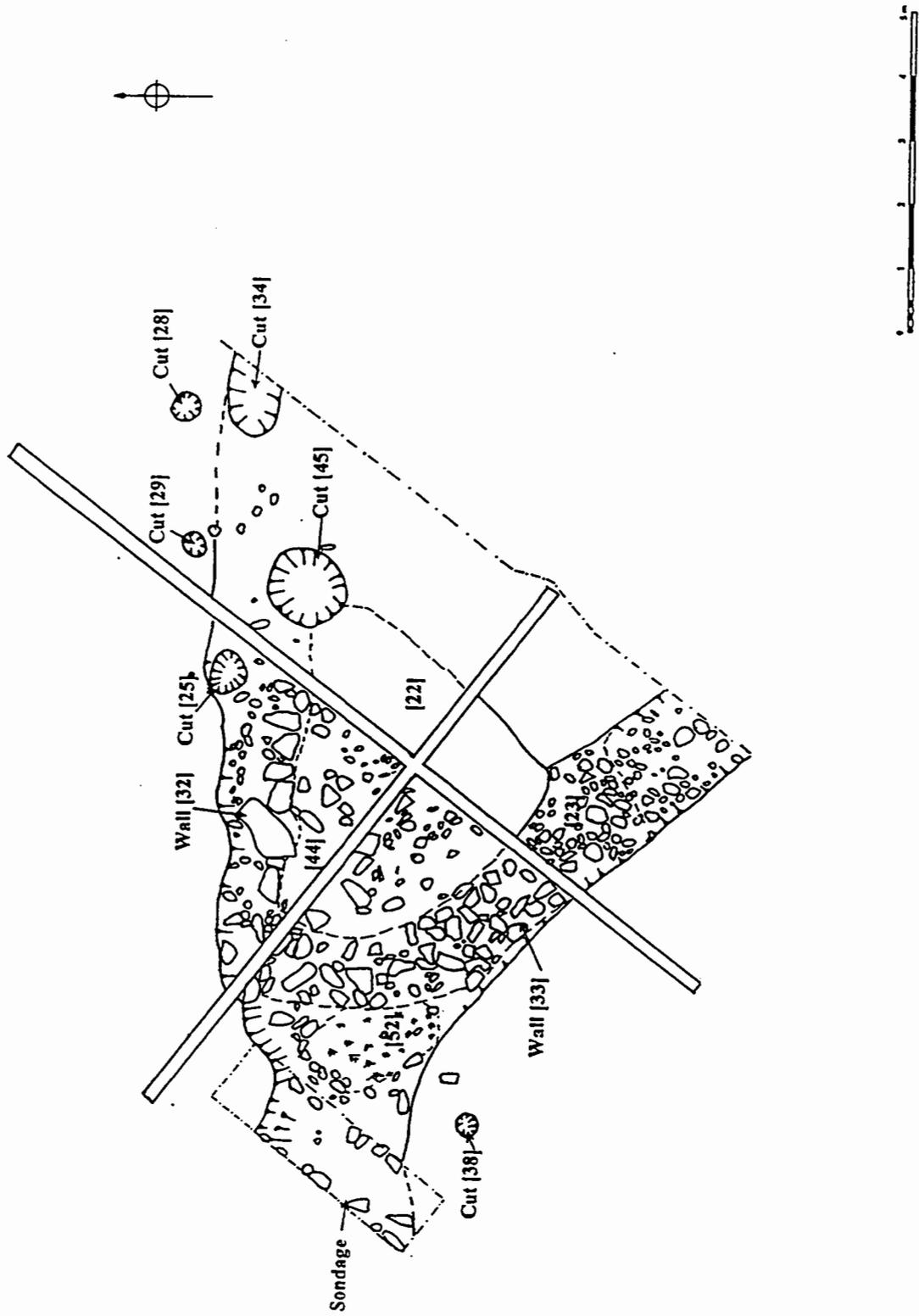


Figure 6. Plan of structure [60]

Pit [25] was located on the northern edge of structure [60]; which it cut. The pit cut measured 60 centimetres in diameter and was 16 centimetres deep. The sides of the pit were steep and the base was concave. The pit was filled by a grey brown, silty clay loam. There were no finds.

Pit [26] was located to the north of the structure. The pit cut measured 75 centimetres in diameter, and was twenty six centimetres deep. The sides of the cut were steep but shallow and the base was uneven. The pit was filled by a grey brown silty clay loam and stones. There were no finds within the pit.

Pit [28] was located on the northern side of the structure. The cut measured 70 centimetres in diameter and was 30 centimetres deep. The pit had steep sides and a flat base. The cut was filled by a mid brown clay loam and a large unworked stone.

Pit [29] was located close to the northern edge of structure [60] The pit was shallow. It measured 50 centimetres in diameter and was 20 centimetres deep. The sides of the cut were steep and the base was uneven. The pit was filled by a mid yellowish brown, silty clay loam. However most of the space within the pit was taken up by the lower half of a rotary quern. The quern was probably Romano-Cornish in date (see finds section 4.4 quern 1).

Pit [38] was located on the south-western side of the structure. The cut measured 65 centimetres in diameter and was 30 centimetres deep. The sides of the cut were steep and the base was flat. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay loam. There were no finds within the pit cut.

Pit [45] was located close to the eastern end of wall [32]. The pit measured 1.20 metres in diameter, and was 26 centimetres deep. The pit had three distinct fills, [46], [47] and [48]. The upper layer [46] was a dark brown, clay loam with burnt stone and charcoal inclusions. The middle layer [47] was a reddish brown ashy layer. The lowest layer [48] was a black and was comprised of *in situ* charcoal and ashes. The sides and base of the cut were reddened from burning. Pit [45] did not contain any finds. The pit may have been associated with the other pits in this group or it may have been related to structure [60]. The positioning of a fire pit just outside the entrance to the structure might indicate that they are contemporary in date. Modern transhumance structures often have hearths outside the entrance for the purposes of cooking and the driving away of wild animals (Herring *pers.comm.*). Alternatively the relationship between the structure and pit [45] may be fortuitous.

Pit [56] was located between the end of ditch [34] and the eastern end of the structure. It measured 51 centimetres long, 40 centimetres wide and was 20 centimetres deep. The sides of the pit were sloping and the base was rounded. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown, silty clay loam. There were no finds within the pit cut.

Pit [57] was located close to pit [56]. It was a near circular pit with sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 75 centimetres long, 63 centimetres wide and 14 centimetres deep. The cut was filled by a mid yellowish brown, silty clay loam. There were no finds within the pit cut.

Pit [58] was located near to pits [56] and [57]. The pit cut was almost circular, the sides of the cut were steep and the base was flat. The pit was 73 centimetres long, 50 centimetres wide

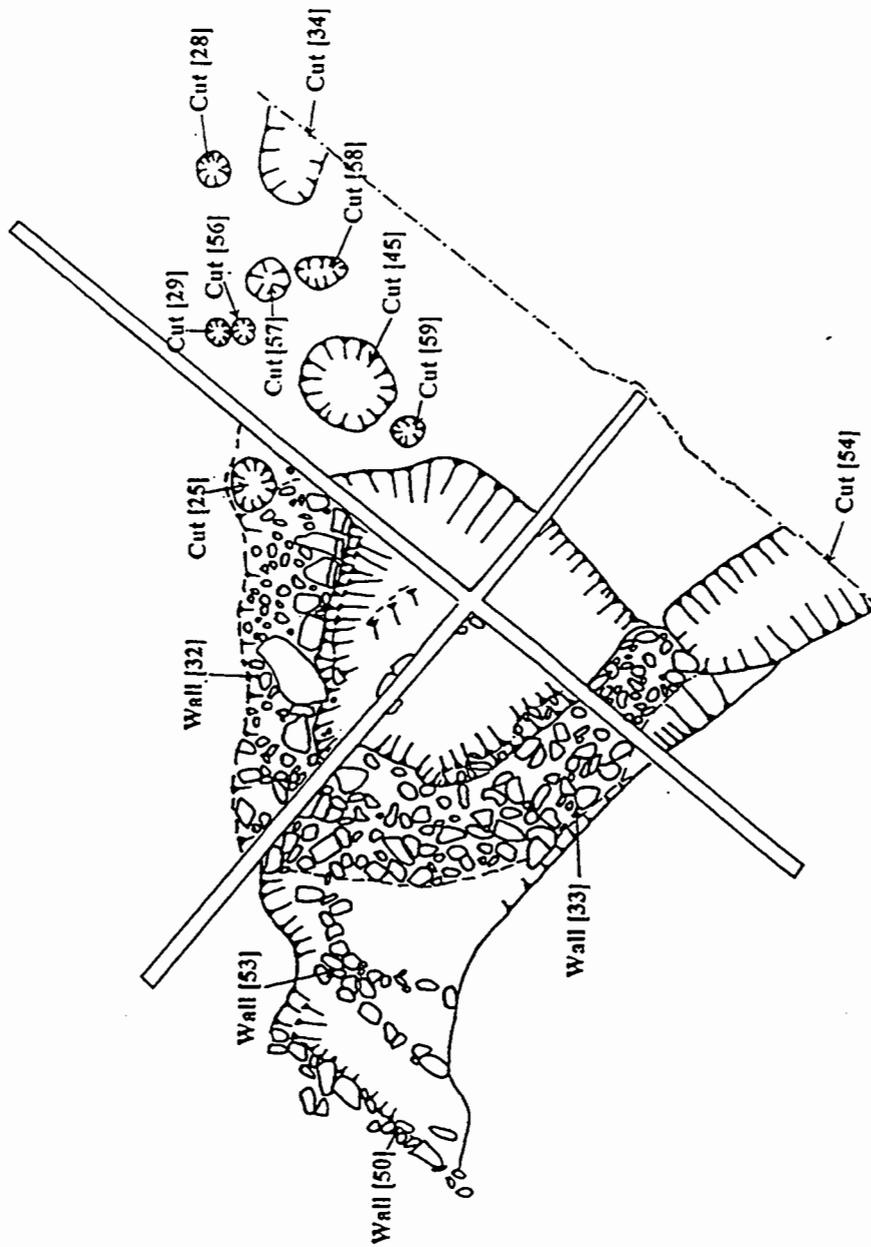


Figure 7. Post excavation plan of structure [60]

and was 22 centimetres deep. The pit was filled by a mid yellowish brown, silty clay loam. There were no finds within the pit cut.

Pit [59] was located near to pit [56]. It measured 50 centimetres long, 45 centimetres wide and was 20 centimetres deep. The sides of the cut were sloping and the base was rounded. The pit was filled by a mid brown silty clay loam. There were no finds within the pit-cut.

The lowest group consisted of three or possibly four pits located in the area between ditches [39] and [42]. Pit [2] was almost circular in shape. It measured 1.2 metres long by 1.1 metres wide, and was 34 centimetres deep. The sides of the pit were concave and the base was rounded. The pit had three distinctive fills. The upper fill was layer [3], a dark brown, silty clay loam with a high charcoal content. The middle fill [4], was a reddish brown ashy deposit. It had a silty feel to it. The lowest fill [5] was a black, charcoal and ash layer, which was associated with burning inside the pit. The sides and base of the pit were reddened from burning. In many ways the pit was similar to pit [45], which also contained burnt deposits. The upper fill of the pit contained a single abraded sherd of prehistoric pottery

Pit [10] was located to the south of pit [2]. It was an almost circular pit, with shallow sides and a flat bottom. It measured 60 centimetres long, 57 centimetres wide and was 9 centimetres deep. The pit was filled by layer [17], a dark brown, silty clay loam, with charcoal flecking. The pit did not contain any finds.

Pit [11] was located to the north of pit [2]. It was an almost circular pit with concave sides and a flat base. The pit cut measured 88 centimetres long, 84 centimetres wide, and was 19 centimetres deep. The pit had three distinctive fills. The upper fill was layer [14]. This layer was a dark brown, silty clay loam with charcoal flecks. The middle layer [15], was a dark grey, silty ashy layer. The bottom layer [16], was a black deposit of charcoal. The bottom and sides of the pit were reddened through burning. The fills within the pit were similar to the burnt layers within pits: [2], [9] and [45].

Pit [41] was only possibly associated with the other pits within this group. It was a large shallow pit which possibly cut ditch [35] (the relationship was not entirely certain). The cut measured 1.15 metres in diameter and was 18 centimetres deep. The sides of the cut were vertical and the base was flat. The cut was filled by a dark brown, loamy clay material. the pit was unlike the other pits at Stencoose. It was large and shallow and may have cut into ditch [35]. Most of the other pits were deeper and had concave sides. In addition the only other pit to have relationship with the field system (pit [2]) was definitely earlier in date.

The Romano-Cornish field system was located both above and below the terrace and the structure.

Features [6], [7] and [8] were situated approximately 6 to 10 metres above the area of the terrace. The features in this group were oriented roughly east to west. Ditch [6] was a shallow narrow feature, which terminated in the middle of the pipeline corridor. The cut measured 5.5 metre long, 70 centimetres wide (at the western end, just 40 centimetres at the eastern end), and was 15 centimetres deep. The ditch had a "U" shaped profile. The terminal of the ditch was open ended. The ditch was filled by layer [20], a mid brown, clay loam deposit. The ditch was located beneath bank [7]. However the bank was largely ploughed down, so it may have become spread over the top of the ditch cut. Therefore ditch [6] might have been

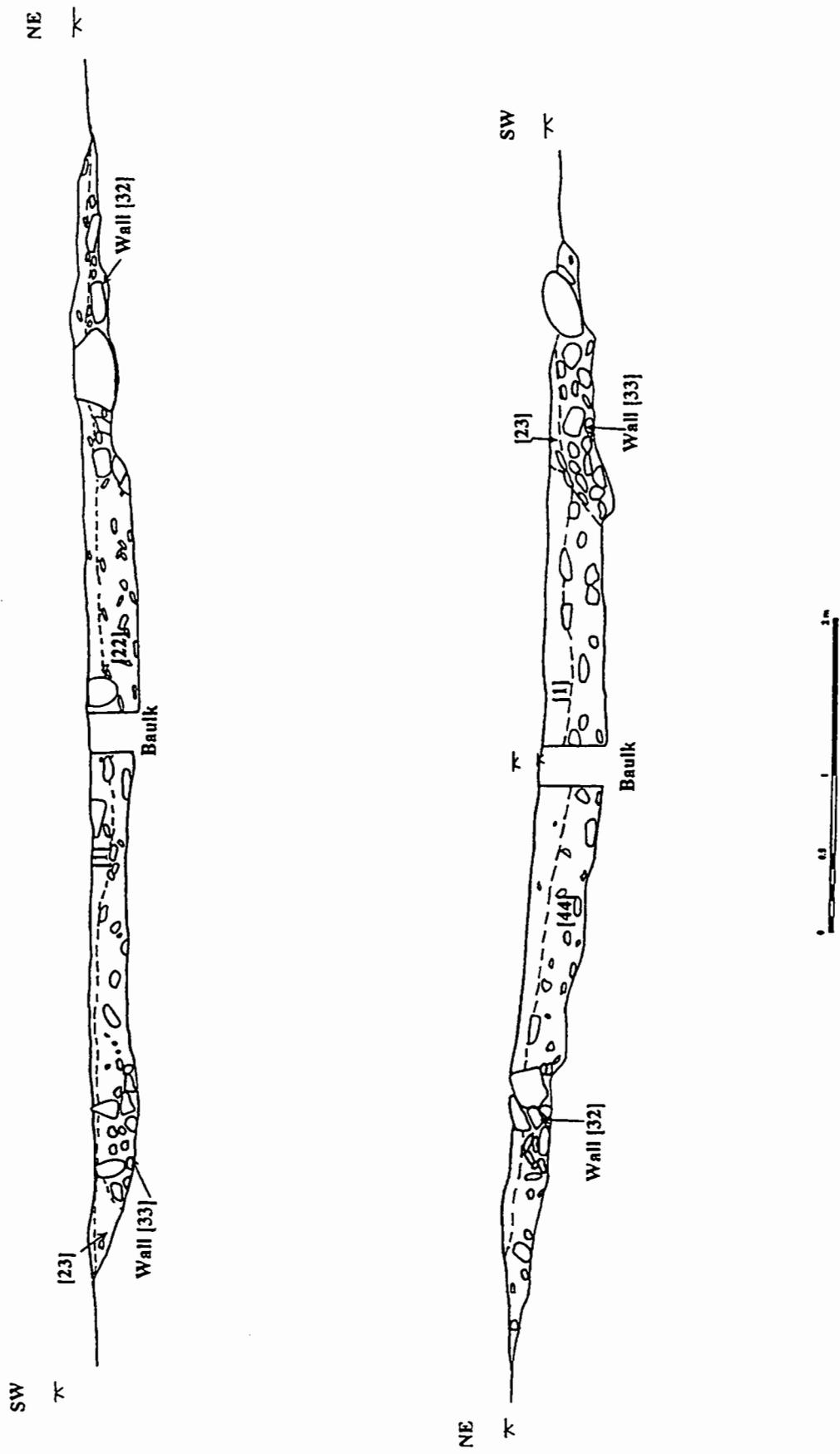


Figure 8. Sections across structure [60]

contemporary with bank [7] The ditch contained a large amount of Roman gabbroic jars, as well as some residual prehistoric material.

Feature [7] was a largely ploughed out bank. It measured 11.30 metres long, 6 metres wide and was up to 20 centimetres deep. The bank material was a yellowish brown, silty clay, that had large blocks of stone within it. The bank covered ditches [6] and [8] as well as pits [21] and [24]. The bank contained both Romano-Cornish and prehistoric pottery. The phasing of this feature is problematic. It could have been a Romano-Cornish bank, which marked the upper edge of the of the field system (There were no archaeological features above the bank). Alternatively the bank may have belonged to a later post medieval field system: it may have been a short lived boundary (it had gone by the time of the 1840 tithe map) that was part of the reorganisation of the medieval field system. However the bank did not contain any medieval or post medieval pottery so it is tentatively assigned to the Romano-Cornish phase of activity.

Ditch [8] was located under the southern edge of bank [7]. The ditch was wide and shallow. The ditch measured 11.30 metres long, 80 centimetres wide and 11 centimetres deep. The cut was well defined on its uphill side, but its downhill side merged into the hill slope. The base of the cut was flat. The ditch cut was filled by a yellowish brown silty clay, that was identical to the material within bank [7]. It seems probable that the fill within the ditch cut was derived from the slumped bank. It also probable that the ditch and bank were contemporary. Ditch [8] contained sherds of abraded prehistoric pottery. It cut through the southern side of pit [24].

The rest of the ditches associated with the field system were located on the hill slope below the area of the terrace. with the exception of ditch [42], all the ditches within this group shared the same north-south alignment, as opposed to the north-east south-west alignment of the later medieval strip field system.

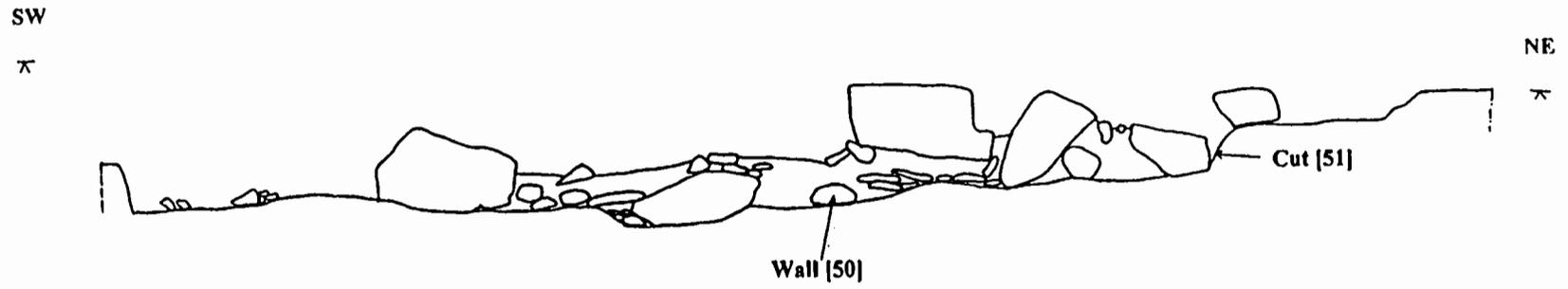
Ditch [30] was a shallow feature, which terminated in the middle of the pipeline corridor. The cut measured 9 metres long, 75 centimetres wide, and was 14 centimetres deep. The sides of the ditch were shallow and sloping and the base was uneven. The terminal of the ditch tapered to a point. The ditch was filled by layer [31], a yellowish brown, clay loam deposit. The ditch contained some residual prehistoric pottery and some flint.

Ditch [35] was located to the south of ditch [30]. It was a shallow "U" shaped feature. The cut measured 13.80 metres long, 88 centimetres wide and 14 centimetres deep. The ditch was filled by layer [36], a dark brown, loamy clay deposit. The ditch was possibly cut by pit [41]. The ditch contained some residual prehistoric pottery and flint.

Ditch [39] was located near to the southern extremity of the site, and terminated in the middle of the site. The sides of the cut were steep and the base was flat. The terminal end of the ditch was rounded. The cut measured 5.5 metres long, 80 centimetres wide and 28 centimetres deep. The ditch was filled by layer [40], a dark brown, clay loam deposit contained some residual prehistoric pottery and flint.

Ditch [42] was located at the southern end of the site, in the area between ditches [35] and [39]. Unlike the other ditches within the field system, the ditch was "L" shaped in plan. Both lengths of the ditch were 3.20 metres long, and where excavated the cut was 1.1 metres wide and 46 centimetres deep. Only the southern ditch segment was excavated. This revealed that

Section Along Wall [50]



Section Across Bank [7], Ditch [6], Ditch [8] and Pit [21]

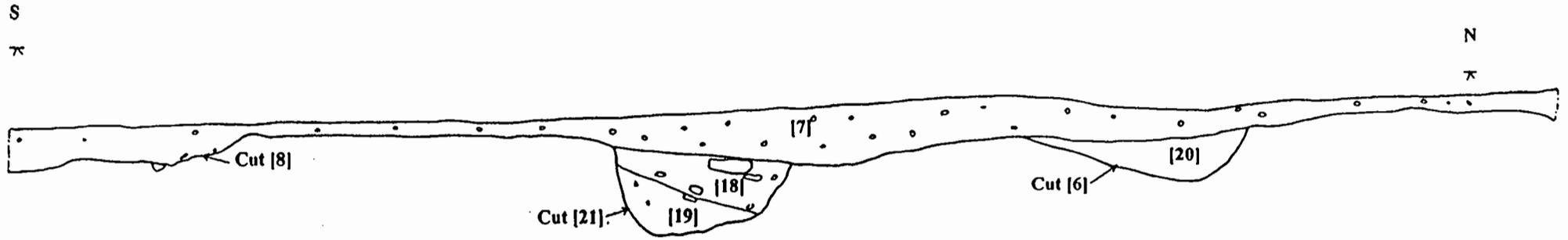


Figure 9. Sections

the ditch profile had steep sides and a flat base. The cut was filled by layer [49], which was a dark brown loamy clay deposit. Ditch [42] contained a few sherds of abraded, residual prehistoric pottery and flint. The ditch cut through a small, circular shallow posthole [43] at its southern end. It measured 30 centimetres in diameter and was just 15 centimetres deep. The posthole was filled by a mid brown silty loam deposit. There were no finds within the posthole cut.

3.7 Discussion of the Pits and the Field System

The pits and ditches at Stencoose appear to possibly post-date the usage of structure [60]; although it is also possible that the structure was contemporary with them, or had become incorporated into the field system if ditches [34] and [54] belong to this stage. The dating of the pits is however problematic due to their lack of stratigraphical relationships with other features, and their lack of closely datable finds. One of the pits was cut into the edge of the structure (pit [25]), which indicates that some or most of the other similar looking pits might post-date the structure as well. In terms of material culture two of the pits definitely contain stratified finds which possibly post-dates the usage of the structure (pit [21] and pit [29]). The only other finds from the pits was residual, heavily abraded, sherds of prehistoric pottery (pits [2] and [24]).

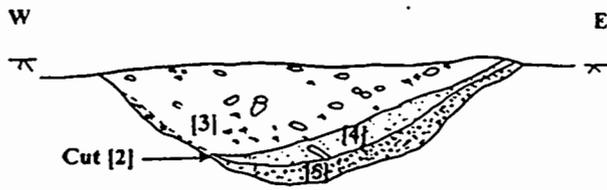
The relationship between the pits and the ditches was also ambiguous, again due to the lack of clear relationships between the pits and the ditches. Two of the pits were cut by one of the ditches. However the ditch in question ([8]) may belong to a later phase of activity on the site. One of the pits ([41]) may have cut into the edge of one of the field system ditches ([35]), however this pit was unlike the other pits in the group, and it may be a later feature that was unrelated to the pit groups. On balance the evidence suggests that the pits are either contemporary with the field system, or they are earlier in date.

The ditches at Stencoose seem to form a coherent pattern of generally narrow gullies which are aligned roughly north to south. Most of the ditches lack any kind of stratigraphical relationship with the other features within the excavated area. The finds from the ditches are broadly comparable with those from the pits. Most of the ditches contain very abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery and flints, as well as far less abraded looking sherds of Romano-Cornish pottery. This would suggest that the field system dates to the Romano-Cornish period, but that there had been considerable activity within the area during the Iron Age.

Two of the ditches (ditch [42] and ditch [8]), and bank [7], are more problematic to phase than the other ditches in the field system. Ditch [42] was the "L" shaped feature. Apart from the morphological differences from the other ditches, this feature was also much deeper than any of the other ditches or the pits, although the infill of the feature was very similar to the other ditches (e.g. residual prehistoric pottery and flint). The most likely explanation for this feature is that it represents some form of foundation trench for a structure. It is possible that other trenches belonging to similar structures lay outside the area under investigation.

Ditch [8] and [bank [7] were also uncertain in their phasing, as they could belong either to the post medieval field system or the Romano-Cornish period. There are two pieces of evidence which suggests they belong to the earlier phase of activity. Neither the ditch or the bank contained any medieval pottery, despite the fact that the ploughsoil horizon within the field contained medieval and post medieval pottery. However both the bank and ditch did contain

Section Across Pit [2]



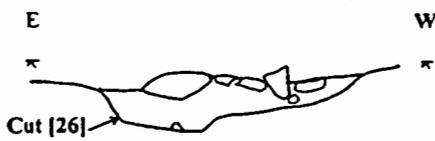
Section Across Pit [9]



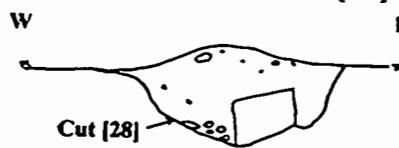
Section Across Pit [11]



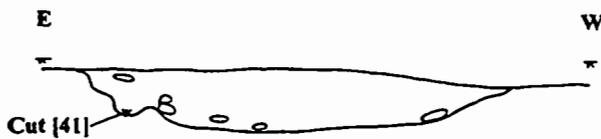
Section Across Pit [26]



Section Across Pit [28]



Section Across Pit [41]



Section Across Pit [45]

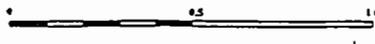
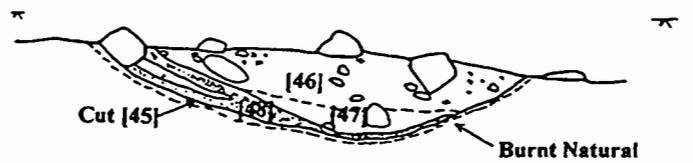


Figure 10. Sections

sherds of prehistoric and Romano-Cornish pottery. The features also seemed to mark the upper limits of the field system and the pit groups. This would imply that the bank and ditch were contemporary with the rest of the field system. If features [7] and [8] do belong this phase then it again suggests that the pits are earlier than the field system, or that at least some of the pits were dug before the field system was fully developed.

3.8 Post Romano-Cornish Activity

The latest pottery from the field system dates to the 3rd or 4th centuries AD. This would indicate that the field system had fallen into disuse sometime during the 4th century. The next recorded phase of activity occurred when a new settlement and strip field system were founded during the medieval period. The settlement of Stencoose is first mentioned in 1327 (Gover 1948), but is probable that the medieval settlement predates this reference. It is not known whether the area was without a settlement for several hundred years or whether there was continuity of settlement around Stencoose.

The only feature to date from the post Romano-Cornish phase, within the excavated area was pit [27]. The feature was located on the northern side of structure [60]. The cut was square, 1.15 metres long, 1.10 metres wide, and 85 centimetres deep, with shear sides and a flat base. It was infilled with a dark grey, silty loam, which resembled the plough soil (only the pit fill was far more stony). The fill contained a single sherd of later medieval pottery. The most likely explanation for this feature is that it is an infilled prospecting pit, of the late medieval or post medieval date. Stencoose is situated on the edge of an area which has been extensively mined; in particular the downs to the south and west. The valley below Stencoose used to have a mineral tramway which went to Portreath (Jones forthcoming). The pit probably represents an opportunistic attempt to try and find mineral lodes beyond the downland, within the 'anciently enclosed land'.

4.0 The Finds Report

4.1 Introduction

A total of 544 artefacts were recovered from the site of Stencoose. Ceramics comprise the largest group (417 sherds, that weighed 3205g) some 76.65 % of the total, the bulk of it being Romano-Cornish (RB) (236 sherds, 44.86 %) in date though with some residual later prehistoric (probably Iron Age (IA) material). The fabrics are mainly gabbroic (or gabbroic admixtures) though there is one granitic sherd. There are also several worked flints, daub and stone artefacts including quern stone fragments and a complete bottom stone of a granite rotary quern.

Finds of flint, iron, glass, clay pipe and medieval pottery were retrieved as unstratified finds from the ploughsoil overlying the site.

All the artefacts were recovered as bulk finds, relating to contexts. None of the finds were three dimensionally recorded. The finds were then left to air dry. This allowed the pottery to harden before being cleaned in water, dried and marked.

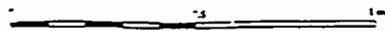
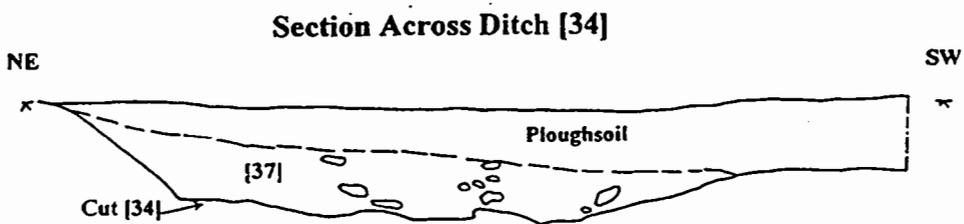
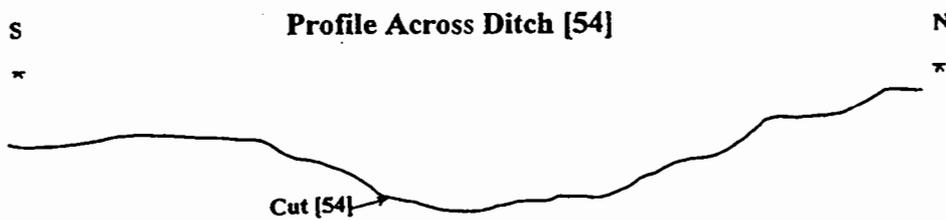
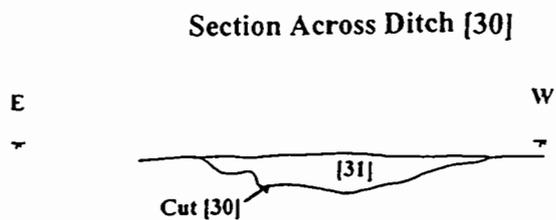
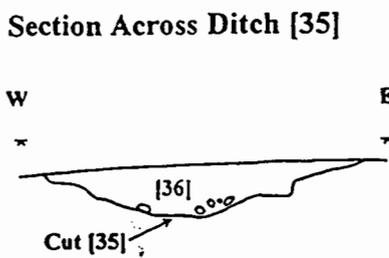
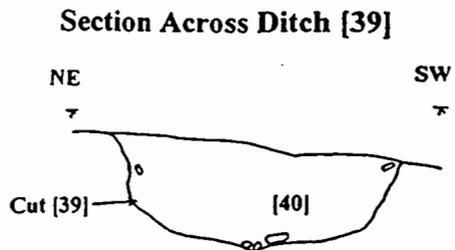
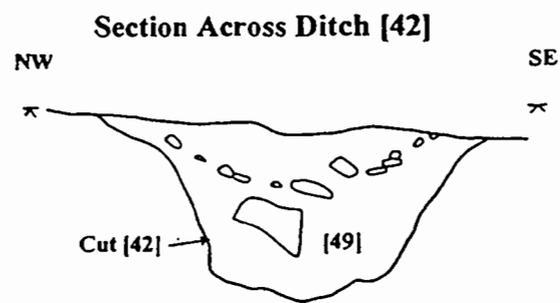


Figure 11. Sections and profiles

Currently all the finds are being temporarily stored at the Cornwall Archaeological Unit office in Hut 4, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, Cornwall.

The total number of finds in each context is summarised below.

Unstratified

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
5	Bodysherds, undiagnostic.	IA.	
1	Rimsherd. samian.	Roman.	
1	Rimsherd of a flanged bowl.	RB	2nd century ?.
1	Rimsherd of a bowl.	RB.	
1	Rimsherd of a jar.	RB.	
1	Neck sherd of a bowl.	RB.	
1	Basal angle sherd.	IA/RB ?.	

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Bodysherd of Granitic fabric.	RB.	
53	Bodysherds, undiagnostic.	RB.	
2	Rimsherds, Cornish Medieval Coarseware. Stuffle Ware.	Medieval.	13th century AD.
4	Bodysherds, Cornish Medieval Coarseware. Stuffle Ware.	Medieval.	13th century AD.
2	Bodysherds, Cornish Medieval Gravel Tempered Ware.	Medieval.	13th century AD.
1	Basal angle sherd. Cornish Late Medieval Lostwithiel Ware.	Late Med.	14th/15th century AD.
5	Bodysherds. Cornish Late Medieval Lostwithiel Ware.	Late Med.	14th/15th Century AD.
3	Rimsherds Cornish Post Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware.	Post Med.	17th/19th Century AD.
1	Handle, Cornish Post Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware.	Post Med.	17th/19th Century AD.
1	Basal Angle, Cornish Post Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware.	Post Med.	17th/19th Century AD.
22	Bodysherds, undiagnostic. Cornish Post Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware.	Post Med.	17th/19th Century AD.
2	Crucible fragments.	Post Med.	19th Century AD.
3	Clay pipe fragments.	Post Med.	19th Century AD.
1	Flint transverse arrowhead.	Late Neolithic.	
1	Flint single platformed core.	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.	
4	Flint multi-platformed cores.	Prehistoric	
7	Flint serrated flakes.	Neolithic.	
2	Flint chips.	Prehistoric	
1	Flint point.	Prehistoric	
1	Flint awl.	Early Neolithic ?.	
3	Flint burins.	Neolithic.	

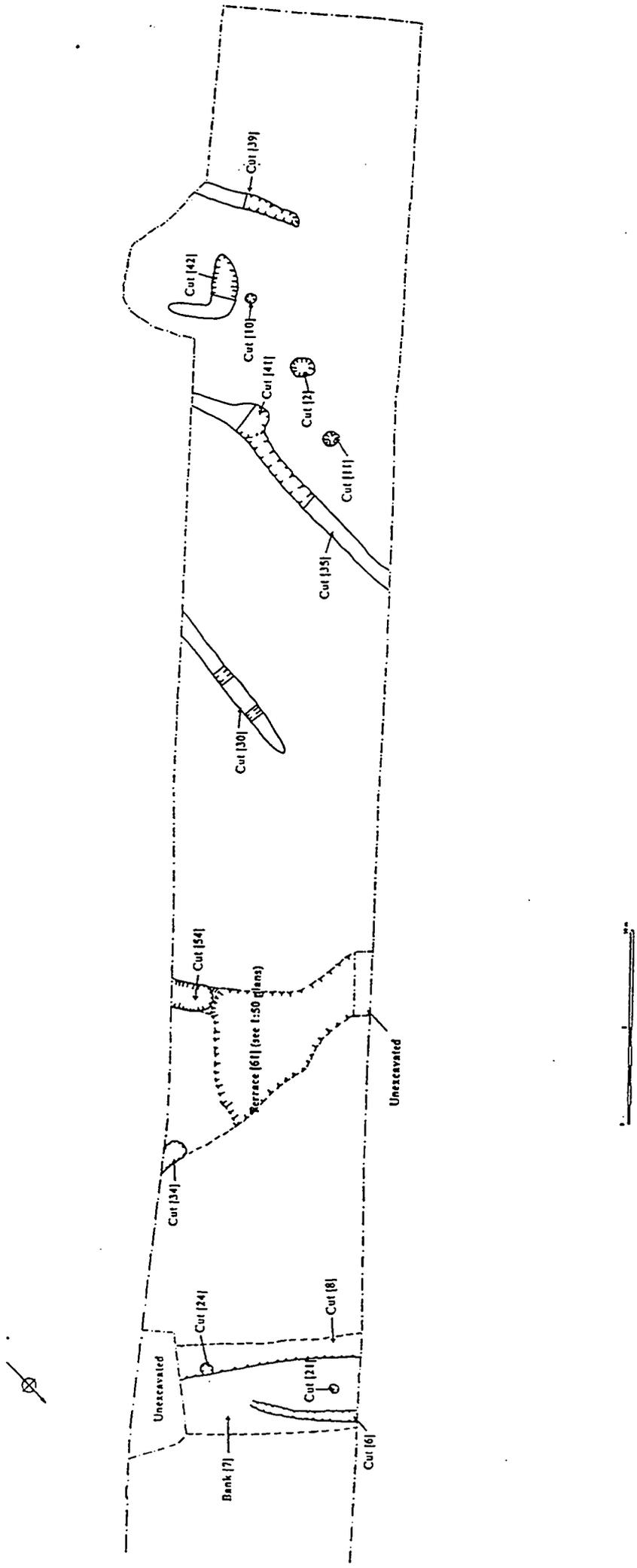


Figure 12. Post excavation plan

1	Flint end scraper.	Neolithic.
10	Flint flakes.	Prehistoric
1	Flint lump, bashed.	Prehistoric
2	Iron horse shoe fragments.	Post Med.
18	Hand forged iron nails.	Post Med.
1	Rock splitting chisel head.	Post Med.
2	Iron hinge brackets.	Post Med.
1	Iron locking plate.	Post Med.
1	Iron scribe.	Post Med.
1	Hand forged draw bolt.	Post Med.
2	Misc iron objects.	Post Med.

Context [1] (Uppermost fill of structure [60])

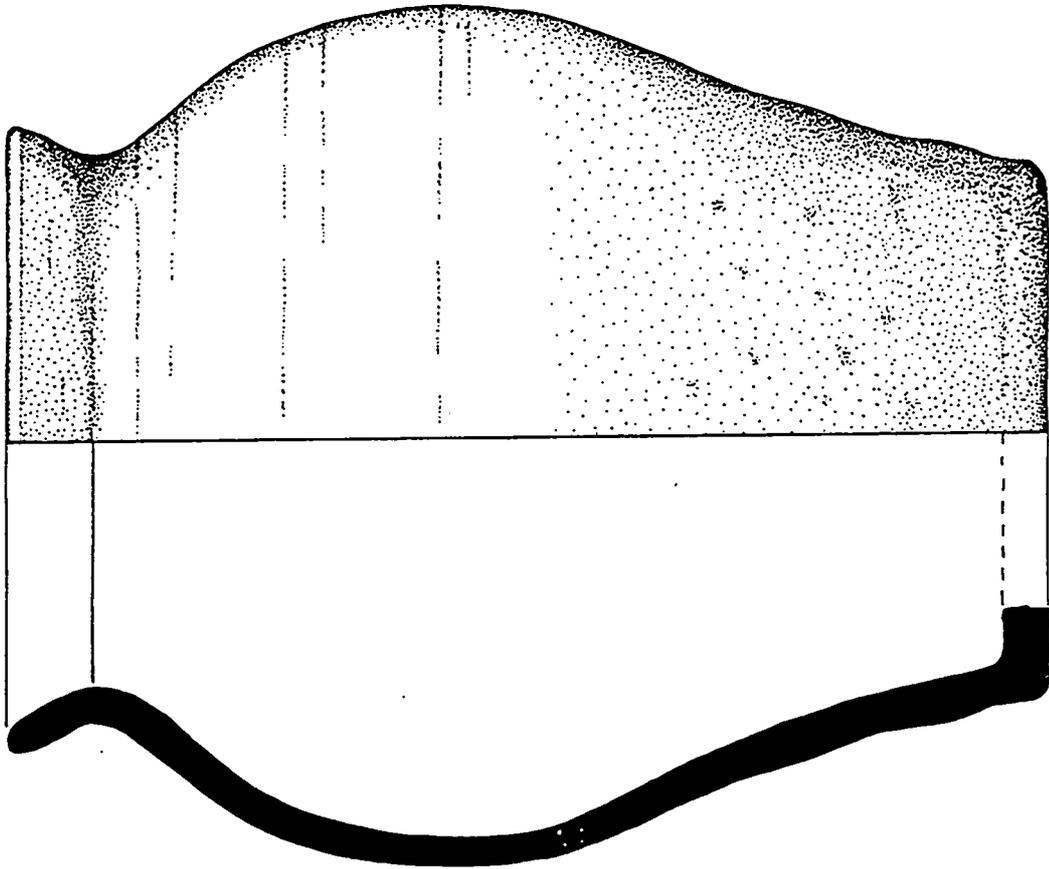
<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
18	Bodysherds of gabbroic fabric.	IA/RB.	
1	Rimsherd of a flanged jar.	RB.	
2	Rimsherds from a non - standard bowl.	RB.	
1	Rimsherd, abraded Jar.	IA ?.	
1	Slag fragment.	IA/RB ?.	
1	Snapped, serrated flint blade.	Prehistoric.	
1	Serrated flint flake.	Prehistoric.	
1	Quartz pebble.	Prehistoric ?.	

Context [3] (Fill of Pit [2])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
2	Bodysherds, undiagnostic.	IA.	
1	Quartz pebble.	Prehistoric ?.	

Context [6] (Ditch)

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Rimsherd.	IA.	
8	Bodysherds, undiagnostic.	IA.	
1	Rimsherd, gabbroic jar.	RB.	3rd/4th century AD.
2	Bodysherds, undiagnostic.	IA.	
6	Rimsherds.		
31	Bodysherds.		
4	Basal Angle sherds. Co-joining to form jar.	RB	3rd/4th century AD.
1	Waste flint flake.	Prehistoric.	



Gabbroic Vessel 9



Figure 13. Pottery finds.

Context [7] (Ploughed out bank)

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
55	Bodysherds, undiagnostic.	IA/RB.	
2	Rimsherds, bowl.	RB.	2nd/4th century AD.
1	Basal angle.	RB.	
2	Bodysherds.	RB.	
1	Granite quern stone fragment.	RB.	
1	Bashed flint lump.	Prehistoric.	
1	Waste flint flake.	Prehistoric.	

Context [8] (Ditch)

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Rimsherd.	IA/RB.	
1	Basal angle sherd. Non Gabbroic.	Prehistoric	
1	undiagnostic bodysherd.	IA/RB ?.	

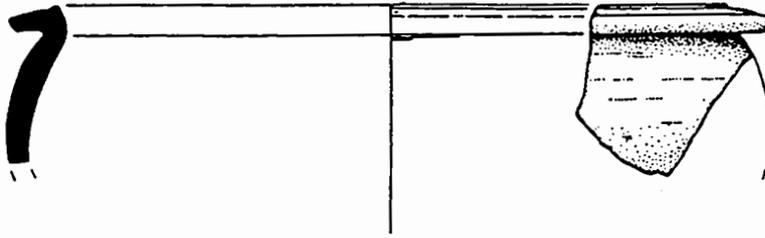
Context [18] (Fill of pit [21])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
17	Undiagnostic abraded bodysherds.	IA.	
4	Pieces of curved slate.	RB ?.	
3	Rimsherds of Bowl.	RB.	2nd/4th century AD.
1	Rimsherd of Bowl.	RB.	2nd/4th century AD.
1	Rimsherd, cooking pot.	RB.	3rd century AD.
1	Rimsherd,	IA/RB ?.	
8	Bodysherds undiagnostic cooking pot.	IA/RB ?.	
9	Basal angle sherds	RB ?.	
98	Bodysherds. From bottom of a Large storage jar.	RB.	3rd/4th century AD
5	Daub fragments.	RB ?.	
1	Fragment of a granite rubbing stone.	RB ?.	
7	Undiagnostic iron fragments.	RB ?.	
4	slag fragments.	RB ?.	

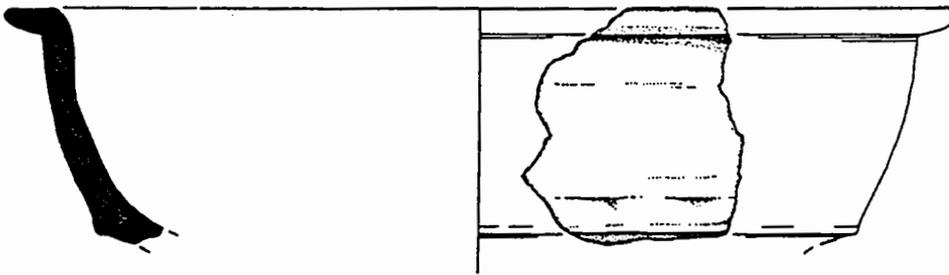
Context [22] (Layer within structure [60])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
5	Abraded bodysherds.	IA.	

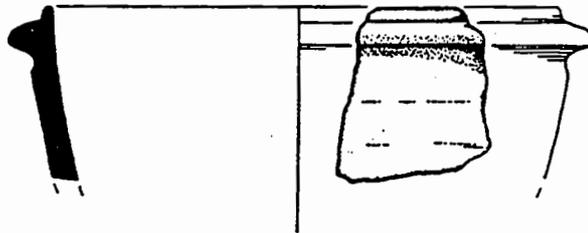
Gabbroic Vessel 1



Gabbroic Vessel 10



Gabbroic Vessel 18



Gabbroic Vessel 17

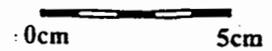


Figure 14. Pottery finds

Context [23] (Layer within structure [60])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
2	Abraded bodysherds.	IA.	
1	Snapped, serrated flint flake.	Prehistoric.	
1	Flint chip.	Prehistoric.	
1	Flint point ?.	Prehistoric.	
1	Utilised flint flake.	Prehistoric.	

Context [27] (Pit)

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Rim/handle sherd of a Cornish Medieval Coarseware jug/flagon Stuffle ware.	Medieval.	13th century AD.

Context [29] (Pit)

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Complete bottom stone of a granite rotary quern.	RB.	

Context [30] (Ditch)

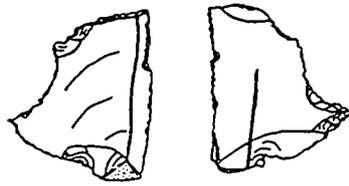
<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Abraded bodysherd.	IA.	
1	Bashed flint lump.	Prehistoric.	
1	Snapped flint bladelet.	Prehistoric.	

Context [32] (Wall forming north side of structure [60])

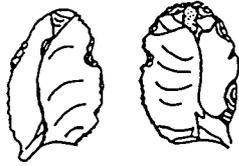
<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Rough out for rotary quern (Broken).	RB.	
2	Quartz pebbles.		

Context [33] (Wall forming southern side of structure [60])

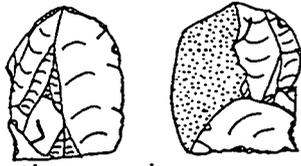
<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Quartz pebble.	Prehistoric ?.	



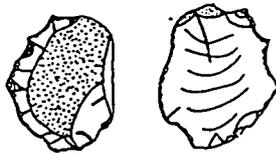
End scraper / awl. (Unstratified context)



End scraper / burin. (Unstratified context)



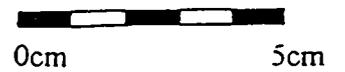
Chert core. (Unstratified context).



Pebble scraper. (context [42])



Transverse arrowhead. (Unstratified context)



Microlith. (context [40])

Context [34] (Ditch)

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Abraded bodysherd.	IA.	
1	Quartz pebble.	Prehistoric ?.	

Context [36] (Fill of ditch [35])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Abraded bodysherd.	IA.	
1	Bashed flint lump.	Prehistoric.	
1	Finely retouched flake. Arrow roughout ?.	Prehistoric.	

Context [40] (Fill of ditch [39])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Bodysherd. Glastonbury style decoration.	IA.	
1	Flint microlith.	Mesolithic ?.	
1	Waste flint flake.	Prehistoric.	

Context [42] (Ditch)

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
8	Bodysherds.	IA.	
1	Primary flint flake.	Prehistoric.	
1	Flint scraper.	Prehistoric.	
1	Serrated flint flake.	Prehistoric.	
1	Flint point.	Prehistoric.	

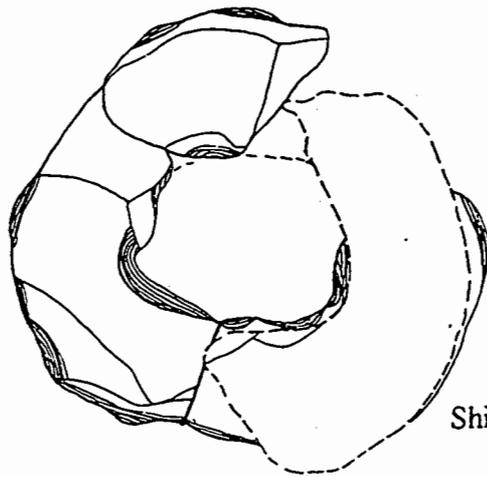
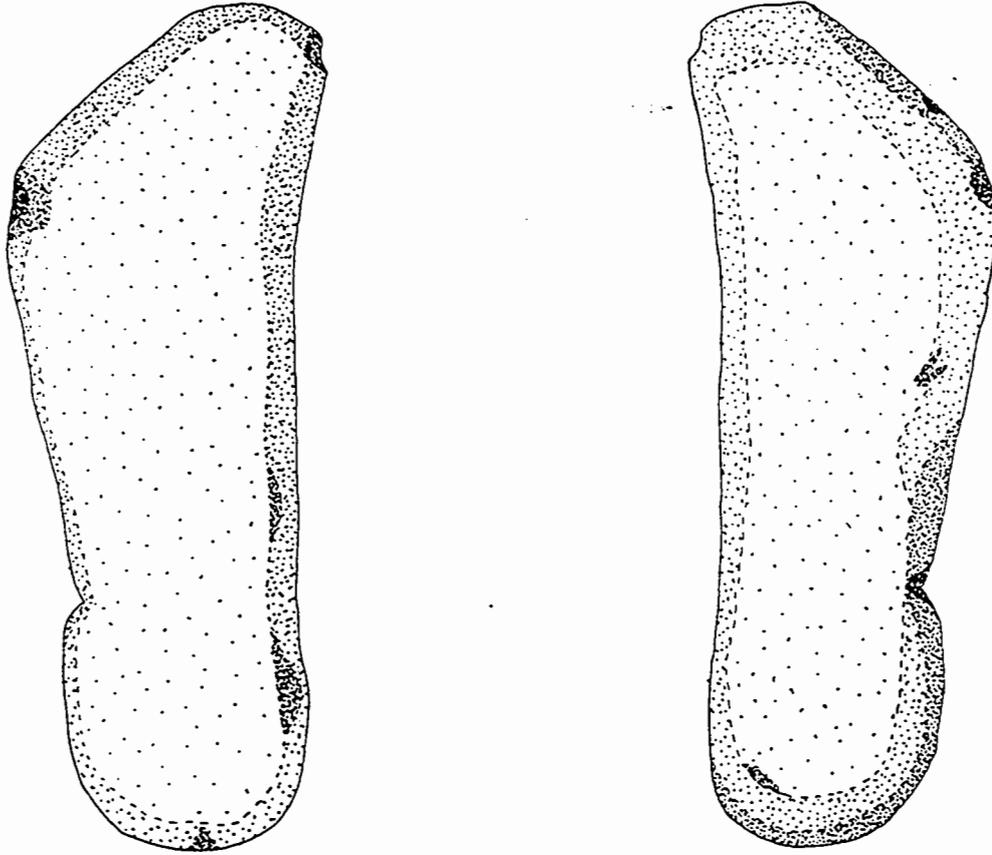
Context [44] (Layer within structure [60])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
1	Rimsherd, flanged bowl.	RB.	3rd/4th century.
1	Undiagnostic rimsherd.		
1	Granite rotary quern fragment.	RB.	
1	Multi platform flint core.	Prehistoric.	
1	Quartz pebble.	Prehistoric ?.	

Context [50] (Wall on western side of structure [60])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
2	Abraded bodysherds.	IA.	

Whetstone / ? dagger skeumorph. (context [55])



Shillet perforated disc. (context [18])

Figure 16. Selected stone artefact illustrations

Context [52] (Layer behind structure [60])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
2	Abraded bodysherds.	IA.	
1	Flint side / end scraper.	Neolithic.	

Context [55] (Fill of ditch [54])

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Provisional date</u>
2	Abraded bodysherds.	IA.	
1	Whetstone.	Prehistoric.	

4.2 The Diagnostic Pottery of the Iron Age and Romano-Cornish Periods

The site of Stencoose provided a ceramic assemblage which has direct comparisons with the pottery from several other sites in Cornwall and the south-west. These sites include: Reawla, Kilhallon, Carvossa, Carn Euny, Goldherring, Carngoon Bank, Trebarveth, Trethurgy, Duckpool, and Castle Gotha. The references for these sites can be found in the bibliography (section 7.0). The bibliographic references for these sites are as follows: Appleton-Fox 1992, Carlyon 1982, 1987, 1995, Christie 1978, Guthrie 1969, Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, McAvoy 1980, Peacock, 1969, Quinnell forthcoming, Ratcliffe forthcoming, Saunders and Harris 1982.

The only sherd of imported Roman pottery is the small unstratified rimsherd of samian ware. This is a simple bead rim, though the form as yet cannot be determined, so the date is uncertain. However the supply of samian dried up in Exeter in the first decade of the third century AD, thus providing a terminus post quem.

The large number of sherds of Romano-Cornish wares can be separated by fabric into two distinct groups.

Gabbroic (and Gabbroic admixtures). This is a hand made, thin walled, wheel finished, form of pottery, often with a black coating on the exterior and sometimes burnished. The fabric is sometimes coarse, containing a large quantity of white angular grits (feldspars) and other dark minerals such as amphibole and black tourmaline (for a full petrological description see Williams D. F, in Carlyon 1987). Gabbroic fabrics are found from the Iron Age through to the Late Roman period and, at Trethurgy, tentatively continuing into the 5th Century (Quinnell forthcoming). The diagnostic forms of pot recognised at Stencoose date from the 1st millennium BC to the 4th century AD.

Vessel 1 (fig.14). Unstratified context. 1 rimsherd.

Downward pointing flanged bowl with rim poorly developed, diameter 22cm.

Carlyon form 39b.

cf. Kilhallon fig 3. no. 27; Reawla fig 18. no.68; Trethurgy no.116 and 123.

2nd/3rd century AD.

Vessel 2. Unstratified context. 1 rimsherd.
Flat rimmed bowl, with straight sided body. Diameter greater than 20cm
Carlyon form 36
Trethurgy 113; Goldherring fig 13. no.21; Castle Gotha fig 15 no.65.
2nd/3rd century AD

Vessel 3. Unstratified context. 1 rimsherd, very abraded.
Jar with slack profiled rim, slightly everted. Diameter greater than 20cm
Form difficult to assess, possibly Carlyon form 3
reawla fig 15 no.21; castle gotha fig 12 no.17; Carvossa fig 5 no.146;
Goldherring fig 12 no.18 and 19;
2nd/3rd century AD

Vessel 4. Context [1]. 1 rimsherd.
Bowl with "nascent" flange. rim poorly developed, diameter greater than 20cm.
Carlyon form 38.
Trethurgy no.114; Carnoon Bank fig 17 no.11; Goldherring fig 13 no.21; Carn Euny fig 62
no.38.
2nd/3rd century AD.

Vessel 5. Context [1]. 2 rimsherds.
Bowl with outward pointing rim, diameter greater than 50cm.
Non-standard Carlyon form 33.
No exact parallels found, cf. with Goldherring fig 13 no.12.
2nd/3rd century AD.

Vessel 6. Context [1]. 1 rimsherd.
Large storage jar slightly everted rim with well defined neck, diameter greater than 50cm.
Carlyon form 3 ?
No exact parallels found, cf. Carvossa fig 5 no.146.
1st millennium BC ?

Vessel 7. Context [6]. 1 rimsherd, very abraded.
Large jar slightly everted rim, diameter greater than 50cm.
Carlyon form 3 ?
No parallels found.
1st millennium BC ?

Vessel 8. Context [6]. 1 rimsherd, very abraded.
Jar slightly everted rim, diameter 10cm.
Carlyon form 1
Carvossa fig 5 no.146 Castle Gotha fig 13 no. 24; Trebarveth fig 20 no.24; Goldherring fig 12
no.24;
3rd/4th century AD.

Vessel 9 (fig.13). Context [6]. 6 rimsherds, 31 bodysherds and 4 basal angle sherds. 1/3rd of
vessel.
Jar with slack profiled, everted rim, diameter 15cm.

Carlyon form 3 or 12

Trethurgy 47; Trebarveth fig 20 nos.35; Goldherring fig 12 no.19;
3rd/4th century AD.

This is a jar with a simple rounded everted rim, globular shape, and burnished exterior surface. Unfortunately it is a long-lived form that is not closely dateable, though the slack profiled form suggests that a 3rd or 4th century date is likely.

Vessel 10 (fig.14). Context [7]. 2 rimsherds.

Flat rimmed, sharply carinated bowl, diameter 23cm.

Carlyon form 37 or 37 A

No exact parallels found, cf. Carvossa fig 4 no.126 and 129;
2nd/4th century AD.

Vessel 11. Context [8]. 1 rimsherd.

Flat topped, rounded rimmed, with no eversion, diameter could not be determined.

Form undefinable

Sherd too small to match parallels.

1st millennium BC to 4th century AD.

Vessel 12. Context [18]. 3 rimsherds.

Bowl with outward, upward pointing rim with fairly thick rounded rim, diameter 16cm.

Carlyon form 33

Carn Euny fig 62 nos.32, 33, and 46; Goldherring fig 12 no.11; Carngoon Bank fig 17 no.37;

Castle Gotha fig 12 no.10;

2nd/4th century AD.

Vessel 13. Context [18]. 1 rimsherd.

Bowl with upright rounded rim, diameter 14cm.

Carlyon form 27

Kilhallon fig 3 no.31; Castle Gotha fig 12 no.15; Trebarveth fig 20 no.31;

2nd/4th century AD.

Vessel 14. Context [18]. 1 rimsherd.

Cooking Jar with slack profiled, everted rim, diameter 19cm.

Carlyon form 3

Carvossa fig 5 no.146; Trebarveth fig 20 no.35; Goldherring fig 12 no.19;

2nd/4th century AD.

Vessel 15. Context [18]. 1 rimsherd, very abraded.

Jar with rounded, beaded rim slightly everted, diameter could not be determined.

Form difficult to assess, possibly Carlyon form 3

No exact parallels found.

1st millennium BC to 4th century AD.

Vessel 16. Context [18]. 9 basal angles and 98 body sherds.

Base of large storage jar, diameter 22cm

Form difficult to assess, possibly Carlyon form 6

Carngoon Bank fig 17 no.43; Carvossa fig 6 no.176;

3rd/4th century AD.

Vessel 17 (fig.14). Context [40]. Single bodysherd.
Bodysherd with Glastonbury style incised wave decoration.
Form undefinable
No parallels found.
1st millennium BC ?.

Vessel 18 (fig.14). Context [44]. 1 rimsherd.
Horizontal pointing flanged bowl with straight sided body, diameter 13cm.
Carlyon form 39d.
Carn Euny fig 63 no.9; Carnoon Bank fig 18 no.61; Goldherring fig 12 no.3;
Carvossa fig 5 no.169;
3rd/4th century AD.

Vessel 19. Context [44]. 1 rimsherd.
Flat topped, rounded rimmed, with no eversion, diameter could not be determined.
Form undefinable
Sherd too small to match parallels.
1st millenium BC to 4th century AD.

Granitic. This fabric resembles South Devon Ware, Exeter Fabric 5 (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991) (Quinnell pers.comm.). It is a hand made, wheel finished, with fairly coarse grits, especially quartz and mica (for a full petrological analysis, see Williams D, in Ratcliffe, forthcoming.). It is buff-grey to black in colour, with burnishing on the exterior, often with cordons or lightly incised lines forming a lattice pattern, sometimes both (e.g. Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, Fig 71, Nos.10.1), dating from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

Vessel 1. Unstratified context.
Single bodysherd, undiagnostic.

4.3 The Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery

The site of Stencoose provided a medieval ceramic assemblage which has comparisons with the pottery from other sites in Cornwall and the south-west. These sites include: Exeter, Tintagel, Bunnings Park, and Lammana. The references for these sites can be found in the bibliography (section 7.0). The bibliographic references for these sites are as follows: Allan 1984, and O'Mahoney 1989 a, 1989 b, 1994.

A total of 44 medieval and post medieval sherds were recovered from the excavation at Stencoose. All but one sherd came from the plough soil overlying the site and this is a typical assemblage found in most fields that have been subjected to manuring from domestic middens.

All sherds are abraded and their forms are thus difficult to identify. However there are two rim sherds, one of a flagon and one cooking vessel both of stuffle ware. There is one stratified find.

Bunnings Park/Stuffle Ware. This has a pink-buff exterior with a grey core. It is hand made, though wheel finished; hard fired, thin walled, micaceous, with common inclusions of rounded quartz grains. This ware generally dates from the 13th and 14th centuries, was probably made

in the Lostwithiel area, though actual kiln sites are not known. Forms include cooking pots, jugs, bowls, and rare cisterns, all with sagging bases. Decoration is infrequent (O'Mahoney 1989 a/b and 1994).

Vessel 1. Unstratified Context. 1 rimsherd.

Cooking pot with flat topped, everted rim. diameter could not be determined.

Tintagel fig 3 no.29;

13th century AD.

Vessel 2. Unstratified Context. 1 rimsherd.

Flagon or jug, with round topped everted rim. diameter could not be determined.

Tintagel fig 7 no. 114;

13th century AD.

Vessel 3. Context [44]. 1 rimsherd with handle.

Flagon or jug, with squared rim. diameter 17cm.

Tintagel fig 4 no.63;

13th century AD.

None of the other medieval and post medieval sherds are worth describing apart from noticing that they are all Cornish wares with no imports.

4.4 The Querns

The quernstones recovered from Stencoose formed an assemblage that has comparisons with querns recovered from other sites in Cornwall. These sites include: Trevisker, Carvossa, Carn Euny, and Castle Gotha. The references for these sites can be found in the bibliography (section 7.0). The bibliographic references for these sites are as follows: ApSimon, and Greenfield 1972, Carlyon 1987, Christie 1978, and Saunders and Harris 1982.

Three rotary quernstones were discovered during the excavation, two fragmentary, and one complete. Two are of granite, one of elvan, and all are of non local stone that has been introduced onto the site. From the contexts of their discovery and shape, they are all Romano-Cornish in date.

Quern 1. Context [29]. 1 complete bottom stone.

Granite rotary quern. diameter 37cm.

No exact parallels found, cf. Castle Gotha fig 9 no.5; Trevisker fig 26b no.2; Carn Euny fig 49 no.9; These have roughly same diameter, but are not completely perforated.

2nd/4th century AD.

Quern 2. Context [32]. 1/3 of stone.

Broken elvan roughout for rotary quern. Unable to determine if this is for a top or bottom stone. diameter approximately 37cm.

No exact parallels found.

2nd/4th century AD.

Quern 3. Context [44]. Fragment of stone.

Broken granite rotary quern. top stone. exterior circumference of quern has a deeply incised groove running along it. diameter approximately 45cm.

Carn Euny fig 49 nos. 1, 2; Trevisker fig 26b no.3;

1st century BC to 4th century AD.

Quern 4. Context [7]. Fragment of stone.

One other quernstone fragment was found, again of granite. This was 1/4 of an oval flat sided quern that could easily be mistaken for a very large rubbing stone. The flattened sides are often polished through use, while the edges are rounded and again polished suggesting that part of the activity they were utilised in involved running in a groove. They are often found on late Iron Age, Romano-Cornish sites.

Broken oval quern.

Carvossa fig 14 no.3; Trevisker fig 25 nos.1, 3, and 9;

1st century BC to 4th century AD.

The general pattern of artefacts examined seems to indicate an initial period of activity within the Neolithic (see flint report below), followed by occupation within the Iron Age (or possibly the Later Bronze Age). It is possible that structure [60] belongs to this phase of activity or with the Romano-Cornish phase (see stratigraphical outline). All of the pottery that has been recognised as 1st millennium BC is small and very abraded. This makes the identification a lot more tentative.

The area was probably reused between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD when the area became incorporated within a field system which contained pit groups. It is to this period that most of the pottery can be ascribed. These sherds are a lot larger in size and are better preserved. The rotary quern stones are also from this period suggesting some processing of grain occurred in the area.

The next identifiable group of finds is associated with the medieval strip field system. The finds from this phase were all unstratified and are probably associated with the manuring of the fields. The earliest finds from this phase dates to the 13th century.

Finally a prospecting pit was sunk on the site. It is possibly 13th century in date as it contained a sherd of medieval pottery; however the pottery may be residual, it may have entered the pit when it was backfilled. The field system seems to have been in continual use since the medieval period. The artefact sequence seems to be unbroken from the 13th century until the present day.

4.5 The Worked Flint and Stone

4.6 Introduction

The Stencoose excavation produced a total of fifty-one pieces of worked flint, two pieces of worked chert, a perforated shillet object which had been broken into four pieces, two water worn stones which had been used as whetstones and eleven water worn pebbles; one of flint and ten of quartz.

Thirty-one of the worked flints and one of the chert pieces were found in unstratified deposits; in the machine stripped topsoil and in the upper subsoils that had been dumped along the sides of the pipeline corridor. The flint pebble and one of the whetstones were also recovered from unstratified contexts.

All of the flint was derived from beach pebble sources. The quartz pebbles and the whetstones may have either a riverine or a coastal source. The variety in flint colour and quality reflects the variety in the source of the raw material. Bipolar flaking techniques tend to dominate the assemblage. This is not a datable attribute, but it is typical of many West-country (Cornish) flint assemblages (Edmonds 1995). There is also a bias towards the use of the soft hammer technique; but again this is not datable.

The number of diagnostically datable pieces is limited, but the available evidence indicates that the assemblage ranges from the later Mesolithic through to the later Neolithic. There are no specifically Bronze Age pieces.

Each of the artefacts within the assemblage has been catalogued and selected pieces have been illustrated (see figs. 15 and 16).

4.7 The Flint and Stone

The unstratified flint assemblage consists of thirty-one worked flints, one chert piece, four quartz pebbles, one flint pebble, and one whetstone.

The four quartz pebbles would perhaps under different circumstances have been dismissed as being post medieval in date. During the post medieval period beach sand was mixed with soil in order to improve drainage of the fields. However at Stencoose more than twice as many (seven) similar pebbles were found within stratified deposits, that were pre-medieval in date. The water worn nature of the flint and quartz pebbles at Stencoose implies that they had been deliberately selected and introduced to the site. This inference is further supported by the fact that all of the quartz stones were under 2.5 centimetres across. The function of the quartz pebbles is uncertain. The flint pebbles were obviously being brought onto the site as cores, and the larger water worn stones were used as whetstones. The quartz stones could have been brought onto the site during the Iron Age as sling shot, or they may pre-date the Iron Age usage of the site and may instead be contemporary with the Neolithic flint scatter.

The unstratified flint and the chert include a number of distinct forms: they include; five cores, a scraper, three burins, an arrow head, two points, seven serrated flakes/blades and at least ten retouched pieces (some pieces exhibit traits which are characteristic of more than one of the above forms).

Of the five cores one is a single platformed bladelette core of later Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date (Edmonds 1995) (fig.15). The four remaining cores are multi-platformed. They are broadly Neolithic in date. Some of the cores appear to exhibit signs of having dual functions. One of them had been reused as a point, another seems to have been reused as a scraper (fig.15).

The single definite scraper is an end scraper, and is probably Neolithic in date, as it has steep, fairly broad retouch (Edmonds 1995). The bulbar end of the scraper is a burin (see fig.15).

The arrowhead is a transverse form of later Neolithic date (fig.15). It exhibits partial pressure flaking across its ventral surface (see Pierpoint 1981, Bamford 1985).

The points, awls, burins and the retouching that are found in the rest of the unstratified flints from Stenchoose are all typical of the later Mesolithic and Neolithic period (e.g. Lynch 1993, Saville 1981). Saville's (1981) "cutting" flakes account for a significant amount of the otherwise undiagnostic worked pieces. The points and the notched pieces found at the site are frequently found in Neolithic contexts (e.g. Pierpoint 1985). However very few of the Stenchoose examples are sufficiently distinctive to give a precise date. The high proportion of coarsely serrated flints are probably Neolithic in date, although the few finer pieces may be of a later Mesolithic date (e.g. Lynch 1993).

The stratified assemblage consists of twenty-one flints and one piece of chert. The diagnostic forms include: a core, two scrapers, a microlith, a point and three serrated flakes. In addition there were seven quartz pebbles and a large whetstone. All the artefacts were found in contexts which date to the Iron Age or Romano-Cornish periods. Therefore they are all residual and presumably entered these contexts by chance.

The seven quartz pebbles could have been associated with the Iron Age settlement (for example they could have been sling shot). Alternatively they could have been contemporary with the earlier Neolithic flints.

The core is a poor quality multi-platformed artefact. There are a number of faults and weaknesses in the flint. It is not a diagnostic form and could date from the Mesolithic onwards.

The two scrapers are both diagnostic forms. The first is a side scraper (fig.15); which has steep, broad retouch. This type of scraper is usually assigned a later Neolithic date (Edmonds 1995). The second is an end and side scraper. The scraper was manufactured from a secondary flake, which may originally have been used as a partial core. This scraper is also probably Neolithic in date (Edmonds 1995).

The single microlith (fig.15) is a very finely retouched around the bulbar end, and it extends down either side towards the distal end. The distal end has been obliquely snapped off. The microlith is of Mesolithic date and probably dates to the later part of the period.

The remaining pieces are not particularly diagnostic in terms of form or date. However the point and the snapped/serrated flakes would not be out of place within a broadly Neolithic assemblage. Mark Edmonds (1995) considers serrated blades as being one of the commonest forms in earlier Neolithic flint assemblages.

4.8 The Discussion of the Flint and Stone

In general the assemblage reflects adaptation to a relatively abundant but fairly poor quality flint source; a source which consists of small irregularly shaped pebbles collected from the beach. The assemblage has much in common with other areas in Britain which have similar resources, for example north-west Britain (Edmonds 1995). The bi-polar flaking technique (with the use of an anvil) is evident throughout much of the assemblage. Many of the pieces

show scalar damage at their distal end, which is indicative of such flaking techniques (Pierpoint 1981).

The assemblage as a whole contains twenty primary or cortical flakes, eight secondary flakes, seventeen tertiary flakes and five cores. The high proportion of primary flakes to secondary and tertiary flakes would, in areas where flint occurs naturally indicate a quarry/reduction site. However in an area such as Cornwall, where the availability of nodular flint is restricted, their presence is more a reflection of the small size of the available raw material.

Restrictions imposed by the available flint resources are also likely to have influenced the high number of primary flakes that were modified for use, primarily as serrated cutting flakes. It is unusual for so many primary flakes to have been selected for usage (Bamford 1985). When utilised primary flakes do occur in large numbers it usually means that the accompanying cores are exhausted. The Stencoose cores however were not by any means exhausted.

Twenty per cent of the flint and chert assemblage shows signs of burning. The burnt forms are quite varied and includes, waste flakes and a core. The presence of burnt flint is often interpreted as being indicative of prolonged activity in an area. Burnt flint can be indicative of permanent, temporary, or seasonal settlement (Tim Gent *pers. comm*).

The scrapers, points and cores are also suggestive of "domestic" activities (Edmonds 1985). This group of artefacts makes up nearly twenty per cent of the assemblage. The presence of the arrowhead and the microlith may well imply that the usage of the area was fairly mobile and based around foraging and hunting (the lack of contemporary features would concur with this).

The large but low density lithic scatter found at Stencoose presents a picture of short term occasional occupation. Groups of people may have dwelt at the site during routine seasonal movements. Although most Neolithic settlements were still fairly mobile (Edmonds 1995), a longer term occupation site would probably have left a higher density of flints in a more restricted area (Schofield 1994).

4.9 The Whetstones

Two probable whetstones (Edmonds, McKeowan and Williams 1975) were found during the fieldwork. One found in the unstratified material was excavated by the machine. The second larger one was found in ditch ([54]); a feature that was possibly associated with structure [60].

Both of the whetstones are made on long, slender water worn pebbles. These stones do not occur naturally at Stencoose, so they must have been obtained from a coastal or riverine source.

The unstratified example is 11.9 centimetres long, is up to 3.5 centimetres wide, and is 1.5 centimetres thick. It has a long straight edge, and a long convex edge with rounded ends. There is a slight scar (1.2 centimetres long) at the top end of the convex edge and a near circular scar (0.7 centimetres long) at one end.

The scars indicate that the whetstone had been utilised as a hammerstone, although the damage may have occurred during a single episode of usage. The damage to the whetstone

could have happened if the stone had been used as a hammer in conjunction with an anvil to work flint pebbles, however this interpretation is conjectural.

There are slight signs of wear along all the edges; although most of the use wear occurs at the ends. The wear is fairly indistinct and would suggest that it had only been used for a short period of time.

The second larger, stratified stone has a dagger like appearance. It measures 15.7 centimetres long, is up to 5.3 centimetres wide and is 1.3 centimetres thick.

With the exception of what can legitimately be called its handle (see fig.16), this stone shows much clearer signs of use wear along all of its edges. The wear is most pronounced at its more angular end (the end opposite to the handle). The angular terminal has clearly "rubbed" areas, and three small scars.

The stones were probably introduced onto the site from a coastal location; especially since no other similar stones were found on or near to the site, in either a used or non-used state.

Both stones show wear from rubbing, although the stratified example showed the clearest wear. Both stones also show use related pitting, which was probably related to hammering. However the limited extent of the damage means that neither stone has seen prolonged usage as a hammer stone.

As in the case of the quartz pebble artefacts, neither whetstone is directly datable in itself, nor by its context. Both artefacts could be residual and could be related to the flint scatter, or they could be associated with the Iron Age/Romano-Cornish periods of activity.

It is debatable as to whether the "dagger" shaped whetstone was deliberately fashioned. It may have been selected because of its "dagger" shape, or it may have been a skeumorph, partially shaped via rubbing in order to emulate later prehistoric metal dagger forms. Stone "daggers" and other skeumorphs have been found at other sites in Cornwall; in particular the Iron Age site at Harlyn Bay produced several stone artefacts which copied metal forms (Bullen 1912). However the Stencoose artefact is not quite as clearly shaped as the Harlyn Bay artefacts..

4.10 The Perforated Shillet Disc

The excavation produced four curvilinear pieces of worked shillet. They were found within pit [21]. Originally the pieces would have formed a near circular shillet disc, with a central perforation.

Three of the four pieces fit together well, however the fourth is less well fitting (see fig.16) where it is shown in its original position, but is dashed). The objects outer diameter varies between 8.7 and 8.9 centimetres. The central perforation is oval in shape and it measures 3.2 wide by 3.8 centimetres long. The thickness of the stone varies between 0.5 and 0.8 centimetres; although the less accurately fitted piece increases the overall thickness to 1.3 centimetres.

The disc was manufactured by snapping off excess shillet. This was followed by the more controlled removal of smaller pieces, possibly by hammering. The central perforation was

hammered out possibly with the use of a punch. there was no sign of any finer finishing/working, for example "rubbing". This would indicate that the object had become broken prior to completion, or that further finishing was never required. It seems likely that the object was broken before it was completed, as when reconstructed one half is very much thicker than the other.

The interpretation as to the function of the stone object is uncertain. The piece may represent a broken loom-weight roughout, a used but unrefined loom-weight, or perhaps a broken but unfinished decorative trinket. Comparable perforated stones have been found in Cornwall in varying contexts. The examples include: the Bronze Age/Iron Age site of Trevisker (Apsimon and Greenfield 1972) where loom-weights were found; although these tend to be about half the size of the Stencoose stone (other unillustrated perforated stones were mentioned in the text, four of which were shillet). The Iron Age/Romano-Cornish site at St.Mawgan-in-Pyder (Threipland 1957) produced stones that were interpreted as weights, that were possibly used to hold roof thatching in place. Croft Andrew's wartime excavations of the Bronze Age barrows on Davidstow Moor also produced a small number of perforated stones and discs of unknown function (Christie 1988).

4.11 Recommendations for Future Work

Subject to confirmation in the Assessment stage of this project, individual specialist reports will be required from an Iron Age and Romano-British pottery specialist, a lithics specialist and a stonework specialist. Residue analysis on some of the potsherds would be a useful exercise, and certainly a petrological report on the pottery fabrics would be required.

It is recommended that all the finds be stored in solid strong boxes and kept under stable temperature conditions; being checked periodically to ensure that there has been no fungal growth or deterioration, especially with regard to the ceramics.

Arrangements should be made for the return of artefacts to the land owner, or if they consent, for the final deposition of all objects within the RIC Museum in Truro, Cornwall. Copies of all archive material, and drawings will be kept at the Cornwall Archaeological Unit premises at Old County Hall, Truro.

5.0 The Environmental Sampling Strategy

5.1 Introduction

The overall sampling strategy during the excavation at Stencoose was to collect as many samples as possible from the well-sealed deposits within the structure, as well as from the surrounding ditches and pits. This was done in order to gain as much information as possible about the environment, and the economic activities (e.g. the type of crops being grown, and the activities taking place within the pits) at Stencoose during later prehistory and the Romano-Cornish period.

5.2 Discussion

The bulk of the material sampled within the structure was taken from the infilling deposits (4 samples totalling 12 bags). The rest of the samples from inside the structure were taken from behind and within the walls (layer [32] and [33]). Additional samples were taken from the charcoal layer behind the structure (layer [52]). Most of the pits were also sampled, they included: pit [2], pit [9], pit [10], pit [11], pit [21], pit [25], pit [26], pit [28], pit [38], pit [45] and pit [56]. Several of the ditches were sampled these included: ditch [6], ditch [30], ditch [35], ditch [39] and ditch [42]. A total of 28 samples, making up 78 bags were taken from the site at Stencoose.

Several of the samples were particularly rich in charcoal (especially from pit [2], layer [52] and pit [45], etc.). It is hoped that these samples will provide material suitable for radiocarbon determinations as this will probably be the only way of obtaining important information about aspects of the sites development.

Pollen samples were not taken, as it was not considered to be a worthwhile endeavour; the structure did not have any *in situ* occupation layers and the material within the structure appeared to have been worm sorted.

All of the samples from Stencoose were wet sieved. The samples were processed during August 1996, under the guidance of Vanessa Straker at Bristol University. An inventory of the environmental samples that were taken during the excavation is presented in a table below (section 9, appendix).

The deposits within the structure at Stencoose were relatively well sealed and apparently undisturbed by later activity. This apparently high level of preservation meant that there is good potential for environmental analysis. Unfortunately most of the material which could be sampled within structure [60] came from contexts that were associated with the post occupational infilling of the structure. This means that the information gained through the sampling will do little to help elucidate the function of the structure during its occupation. Additionally most of the material suitable for radiocarbon dating will probably come from the abandonment phase, rather than from the occupation. It is hoped that material from other features, in particular the pit groups will provide dates which are associated with their usage.

These difficulties aside, the sampling programme should provide some evidence for the status of this site. It will contribute to our understanding of the development of a later prehistoric or Romano-Cornish site and will provide comparisons with other recently excavated later prehistoric and Romano-Cornish sites for example Penhale Round (Davis *et al* 1994).

6.0 Conclusions: Context and Interpretation

The excavation at Stencoose was important because it uncovered elements of several phases of agricultural activity. The excavation revealed that the 'anciently enclosed land' at Stencoose has probably been occupied and utilised throughout prehistory through to the present, although the nature of this usage was not necessarily the same throughout this period.

The earliest settlement activity at Stencoose was associated with the later Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatter. However the first tangible archaeological remains belong to Structure [60]. This building was of particular interest as it is unparalleled; no similar types of structure have been excavated in Cornwall, although there are some poorly dated possibly analogous structures on Bodmin Moor (Johnson and Rose 1994). The discovery of this building will therefore add another type of building to the range of excavated later prehistoric or Romano-Cornish buildings in Cornwall and may possibly provide dating information for similar buildings discovered in the future.

In Cornwall it has been argued that the usual pattern of landuse and settlement during the Iron Age (and the Romano-Cornish periods) consisted of field systems that were attached to rounds (e.g. Penhale Round, Davis *et al* 1994), hillforts and to open settlements (or slightly enclosed) (e.g. Bodrifty, Dudley 1956, for overview see Quinnell 1986). Due to the restricted nature of the pipeline corridor it was not possible to determine whether the structure or the pits and field system were attached to an open or an enclosed settlement.

Structure [60] can therefore be interpreted in two ways. The first interpretation would see the structure as representing a surviving fragment of an Iron Age or Romano-Cornish settlement. The structure and the ditches aligned onto it could represent a simple building that was located in the corner of a field or enclosure. The building may have served a number of purposes. It could have acted as a tool hut, a cart shed, or as an animal pen. In the latter case the structure could possibly have been used to separate young sheep or goats from their mothers. Gwenno Caffell (1995) has described how young kid goats were kept in small pens within larger enclosures as a way of controlling the mother goats movements and as a method of obtaining substantial amounts of goats milk for human consumption. The amount of surplus milk produced by goats or sheep would have provided an appreciable bonus to the diet of the settlement and would have been well worth the effort of constructing such a structure (Caffell 1995).

If this first interpretation is correct then it may indicate that there was a degree of continuance between the structure and the field system (or that they were contemporaneous). Alternatively the field system which surrounds the structure, may represent a further expansion of the settlement in the second or third centuries AD.

The second interpretation suggests that structure [60] could have been part of a late prehistoric or Romano-Cornish system of transhumance. This argument is based on several factors including its location, the tradition of transhumance in Cornwall, and its architecture.

Transhumance has been a part of Western European agricultural practices for several Millennia (Lynch 1993). The origins of stock-breeding or transhumance may go back in Britain to at least the second millennium BC (Bradley 1972, Fleming 1972). Fleming (1972) has suggested that relatively stable areas of grassland may have developed within a few hundred years of the Neolithic. Whole societies or parts of them may have exploited this grassland for animal husbandry. Alternatively the climatic deterioration of the later Bronze Age may have led to some groups in more marginal areas adopting transhumance.

The evidence for the Bronze Age adoption of pastoralism in the uplands of west Britain has been acknowledged for some time (e.g. Fox 1964); and this is still the generally accepted model today (e.g. Quinnell 1996). Within Cornwall (Herring 1986) it has been argued that

transhumance had been established on Bodmin Moor by the Early Bronze Age; many of the moorland enclosures dating to this period are small (80-120 metres) and would have been suitable for pastoral agriculture. However it was probably during the later Bronze and Iron Ages when climatic deterioration led to the abandonment of many of the settlements on the Moor, that the widespread seasonal usage of the uplands moors and the downland began (Herring 1986, 1996). This is demonstrated by the reuse of early Bronze Age structures (e.g. at Garrow) and the construction of animal pounds.

The Stencoose building is located outside the upland areas which are known to have been used for transhumance during the medieval period (e.g. Bodmin Moor, Johnson and Rose 1994). This fact need not however argue against the Stencoose structure being associated with transhumance. The Cornish downlands provided suitable summer grazing for sheep and cattle (Herring forthcoming), indeed most of the farming communities in Cornwall would have been able to practice transhumance in the period between 1000 BC and 1000 AD (Herring 1996).

The transhumant movement of livestock was an important part of the medieval farming economy on the downs. The seasonal movement of animals would have benefited a mixed farming economy in two ways. Most importantly transhumance would have maximised the available resources by exploiting areas of grazing too marginal for cultivation. In addition the seasonal movement of animals would have kept them away from areas which were designated for cultivation (Herring 1996).

Structure [60] was located in an ideal position for transhumance as it was situated on the junction between the 'anciently enclosed land' and the downlands (Herring, *pers.comm.*). Recent studies of the distances between the permanent settlements and the transhumance settlements have shown that they can be as little as half a mile away from each other. Therefore a location at the edge of the rough grazing could have provided a suitable place for a transhumance hut. It has also been argued that the transhumance settlements may have exploited tin deposits (Herring 1986). Although there was no evidence for metal working, the structure at Stencoose was situated on the edge of an area rich in copper and tin.

Architecturally the closest parallels to the Stencoose structure are the subrectangular and ovoid shaped structures of Bodmin Moor (Johnson and Rose 1994, Herring 1986). These structures are poorly dated but the little evidence there is suggests that they most closely resemble the Roman and early medieval structures of lowland Cornwall (Herring 1996). Where these structures have become incorporated within medieval field systems (e.g. Brown Willy) they clearly precede the early medieval field systems (Herring 1986, 1996). The Bodmin Moor structures generally consist of low stony walls up to 40 centimetres high, which enclose a space of between 3.2 and 22 square metres (Johnson and Rose 1994). The complexity of the internal arrangements of these structures ranges from simple undivided "U" shaped structures to two and three celled dwellings. The size of these dwellings would suggest that they were occupied by small groups of people. The average hut would have only accommodated a bed, a fire and some storage space (Herring 1996).

Although the transhumance huts on Bodmin Moor are generally presumed to be early medieval in date, the paucity of dating evidence may allow for some of them to be Iron Age or Romano-Cornish in date. The Stencoose structure would probably fit at the simpler end of these huts. With internal measurements of 16 square metres it would have comfortably held just one or two people, or provided shelter for a few animals. The lack of occupation deposits

within the structure means that it is uncertain as to whether the building was used by humans or animals. The structure does have a resemblance to animal shelters, for example the Brenig Valley sheep fold (Lynch 1993). However there are two pieces of circumstantial evidence which might indicate that the dwelling was used by humans.

The first piece of evidence is pit [45]. Pit [45] was located just outside the structure, to the left of the entrance. Although this pit cannot at the moment be proved to be contemporary with the structure, its possible usage and location indicate that it might have been. The pit had held a fire. It is possible that it was used as a hearth pit. It could have provided warmth and cooking facilities for the occupier of the structure. The positioning of this feature could also be significant (Herring *pers.comm.*), as the fire in the pit may also have been used to drive away wild animals from the entrance to the structure (similar arrangements have been found at Italian transhumance sites).

The second piece of evidence is related to the deposition of the ashes in the space defined by wall [53], behind structure [60]. The reasoning behind the deposition of this material is unclear, but it indicates human actions linked to cultural practices. Ethnographic analysis has revealed how even apparently mundane actions and materials can be deployed within complex symbolic systems. Material classified as mere "rubbish" in the western world, can be used and manipulated in other societies to convey elaborate ideas and beliefs. For example the Marakwet of Kenya (Moore 1984, 1988) use domestic waste as part of a web of practices which communicate beliefs and ideas about gender. The various categories of rubbish are separated and treated separately because they have different symbolic associations. Ash for example is always sorted and placed behind the house. This is done because ash is associated with the destructive aspects of female fertility. The deposition of the ashes behind the structure at Stencoose may not have had the same associations as ash has for the Marakwet, but it might indicate that it did have some symbolic associations to the people who built the structure.

If the second interpretation of the structure is correct then it may indicate that there was a change of land usage between the time of the structure and the later field system. The later archaeological features (field system and the pits), could indicate that there was an expansion and reorganisation of the settlement in the second or third centuries AD. An intensification and expansion of the enclosed land would be plausible during this period as it is generally accepted that population levels rose during the Roman period (e.g. Salway 1981, Quinnell 1986). Increased pressure on the land may have meant that more acreage became enclosed within field systems and the edges of the rough grazing may have been pushed back. Under these conditions structure [60] (located on the fringe of the downs), might have become incorporated within the field system.

The seventeen pits were possibly the next features to appear at Stencoose. They were perhaps the most enigmatic features to be encountered on the site. Stratigraphic relationships were few and far between and their function was far from clear.

What stratigraphic evidence there is seems to suggest that the pits were earlier than or contemporary with the field system (see above). However apart from pits [21] and [29] which contained stratified finds, all the other pits had residual finds or contained nothing that was immediately datable.

The function of the pits is uncertain. They appear to have been too shallow for storage pits, and only two of them (pits [21] and [29]) appear to have been obviously used for "rubbish". Five of the pits produced evidence for *in situ* burning and contained charcoal and ashes (including pit [45] which may be earlier in date, see above). The rest of the pits appear to have become filled with silty clay loam and stones (although environmental analysis may identify organic remains that were not visible to the excavator). The pits therefore might have had different functions and they may have been dug and infilled over a period of time. At the moment three categories of pit have been identified: pits with *in situ* burning, pits containing artefacts and pits which appear to have been dug and possibly back-filled (without artefacts or burnt deposits).

The three categories of pit may relate to the separation, categorisation, and differing treatment of waste materials (e.g. Moore 1984, 1988, Thomas 1991). Recent study of Iron Age pits in southern Britain has revealed certain rubbish discard patterns. Hill (1995) has argued that the materials which are found inside "rubbish" pits were not the result of a random process at all. It appears that the infilling of pits was in fact a highly selective process, and that it had ritualised aspects which involved people placing selected items into the open pit. Hill argues that pit groups formed over a period of years through periods of "structured deposition". The digging and infilling of these pits was probably included within the "daily routines" of the people who created them. It is these routines which inculcate and inform peoples cultural knowledge of the world. Hill believes that through the separation of certain deposits (e.g. grain or pottery), the pits and their contents expressed oppositions and correspondences between elements of the social system. An example of this principle could be an opposition between grain and ash. Grain may have had links with agricultural production domestic food production (Hill 1995), whereas ash may have had an entirely different set of cultural associations (Moore 1984, 1988) (see above).

If the pits do relate to complex patterns of discard, then it is likely that the contemporary settlement was located fairly nearby. Ethnographic analysis has shown that even waste material which is regarded as polluting to humans and animals can be deposited as little as 15 metres from the actual dwellings (Moore 1984).

The field system constituted the final phase of activity to be identified at Stencoose. The ditches formed a north to south oriented field pattern. The upper edge of the field system may have been demarcated by a bank and ditch(es) (Features [7], [8] and [6]?). The area of the field system exposed by the pipeline corridor was quite restricted so it is difficult to interpret or make generalisations about the nature of it. However if all the ditches in the system were contemporary with each other, the available evidence would suggest that the areas enclosed by the ditches were quite narrow (as little as 10 to 15 metres apart). Therefore the field system could have formed fairly small scale cultivation plots, or it could have been a series of paddocks for animals.

There is also a lack of comparable data from which interpretations could be drawn from. Very few later prehistoric or Romano-Cornish field systems in Cornwall have been investigated, and those which have been explored, have tended to be small scale investigations of the lynched fields of West Cornwall, for example at Foage (Herring *et al* 1993), or Poldowrian (Smith 1987). However large scale surveys of Romano-Cornish courtyard settlements and their field systems (e.g. Botrea, Chysauster and Mulfra Hill) have revealed a pattern of fields that vary in shape and size. In general the field pattern indicates that small fields or plots are located

around the edges of the settlement and the larger subrectangular 'Celtic fields' are situated further away from the settlement area. The field survey evidence from west Cornwall might imply that the small fields at Stencoose were located close to the settlement. This extrapolation does however need to be treated with caution as the field systems of west Cornwall are associated with domestic settlements which are unique to that area (e.g. courtyard houses). Additionally the field systems of west Cornwall are poorly dated. Unlike the fields of Stencoose, their layout may have been influenced by earlier Bronze Age field patterns.

The material culture within the ditches may again indicate that the settlement was close by. In particular the large amount of pottery within ditch [6] appears to represent a midden deposit (Quinnell *pers.comm.*). Once again it is unlikely that broken sherds of pottery would be carried very far from the settlement.

The latest sherds of pottery deposited within the ditches date the third and fourth centuries AD. This implies that the field system had become abandoned by the end of the fourth century. The first reference to Stencoose is in 1327 (Gover 1948), at face value this suggests that there was a gap in the occupation of Stencoose of approximately nine hundred years. This break in the archaeological record may not however be as clear cut as it seems. Although Stencoose is first mentioned in the fourteenth century, this does not necessarily mean that there was no activity in the intervening period, as the strip field system could be of an early medieval origin (before the Norman conquest, Herring *pers.comm.*).

Recent research has demonstrated that the location and density of the later prehistoric settlements are broadly similar to the distribution of settlements in the succeeding medieval period (Rose and Preston-Jones 1995, Rose forthcoming). As in the preceding period, the medieval settlements tended to be located around the edges of the heathland. They are also frequently situated close to the earlier prehistoric and Romano-Cornish settlements. The settlement activity at Stencoose appears to fit into this general pattern.

The proximity of the medieval settlements to prehistoric sites can be explained in a number of alternative ways (Rose and Preston-Jones, 1995).

The medieval settlement at Stencoose may therefore reflect a continuance within the landscape. A slight shift in the location of the settlement and the reorganisation of the field system could be related to a change in social organisation, perhaps from small kinship groups to a more centralised authority. The formation of a proto state in Cornwall in the early medieval period may have made living in rounds or in independent settlements redundant (Rose and Preston-Jones, 1995).

Alternatively the medieval settlements may be located close to the prehistoric settlements because the land had already been cleared and broken in. In addition the location of the medieval settlements may have suffered the same constraints as those in the prehistoric period. The shortage of suitable land may have meant that the medieval farms were bound to be situated close to the prehistoric settlements.

In summary it is proposed that the archaeology of Stencoose is multi-period in nature. The sequence of activity at Stencoose is currently characterised as follows.

The first phase of activity at Stencoose probably began during the later Mesolithic or Neolithic (Circa 5000-2000 BC). This phase was identified through the recovery of lithic artefacts. There were no structures associated with this stage of occupation; although the artificial terrace may have originated at this time. The lithic scatter at Stencoose may indicate that the site was visited seasonally, or that a contemporary prehistoric settlement lay outside the confines of the pipeline corridor. Residual Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the sites but this material could not be linked to any of the features.

The next identifiable phase of occupation at Stencoose was associated with Structure [60]. This structure may possibly date to the Iron Age (600BC-43AD), or the Romano-Cornish period (43-400AD). This structure can be interpreted either as an agricultural building in the corner of a field, or as a transhumance hut situated on the edge of the downs.

The pit groups appear to represent the third phase of activity at Stencoose, although they might be contemporary with structure [60]. These pits date to the Romano-Cornish period. The function of the pits is not clear, but it is possible that they are rubbish pits. The presence of the pits may indicate that a contemporary settlement is located close by outside the area of the pipeline corridor.

The field system also probably belongs to the Romano-Cornish period. The available stratigraphical relationships indicates that it may be later in date than the pit groups; although it is also possible that they overlap in time. The field system possibly represents an expansion of the enclosed land at Stencoose, up to the edge of the downland. Again it seems possible that a contemporary settlement is located close by.

However it is worth noting that all three phases could be broadly contemporary. The structure, the pits and the field system could belong to an unenclosed Romano-Cornish settlement. Only further analysis will help to clarify this.

The field system seems to have been abandoned during the fourth century AD. The next phase of identifiable archaeological activity dates to the medieval when the strip field system was laid out. This settlement is first recorded in the fourteenth century. It is not clear whether the medieval settlement represents a re-colonisation of a deserted landscape or whether it was merely a reorganisation of the Romano-Cornish landscape.

In conclusion the project demonstrated the benefits of closely monitoring a pipeline scheme. The excavations provided the chance to investigate a piece of the 'anciently enclosed land' and record the changes to the landscape that have occurred to it over the millennia.

The exact nature of certain aspects of the archaeological record at Stencoose is still not precisely understood. The necessarily limited width of the pipeline means that many of the features were viewed out of context. It is therefore uncertain how the structure, the pits and the field system related to the contemporary settlement pattern. It is also difficult to speculate whether the different phases of activity at Stencoose represent continuation in the landscape or profound changes.

Some questions can be tackled further analysis of the excavation results (for example more detailed study of the pottery may yield further information about the chronology of the site).

As with the excavations at Callestick (Jones 1996), further unresolved questions at Stencoose can only be solved by further investigation in the form of geophysical survey or excavation.

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8.0 The CAU Archive

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Stencoose Excavations 1996- SC96

Table 1. List of Samples

SAMPLE NO	DESCRIPTION
501	Bulk sample taken from fill [5] within pit [2], in order to obtain dating and environmental information.
502	50% sample taken from pit [2], fill [3], in order to obtain environmental data.
503	50% sample taken from pit [26], in order to obtain environmental data.
504	Bulk sample taken from pit [25], in order to obtain environmental and dating data.
505	Bulk sample taken from pit [38], in order to obtain environmental and dating data.
506	Bulk sample taken from layer [44], in order to obtain environmental and dating data.
507	Bulk sample taken from layer [44], in order to obtain environmental data.
508	50% sample taken from pit [45], fill [48], in order to obtain environmental and dating information.
509	Bulk sample taken from pit [45], fill [46], in order to obtain dating and environmental data.
510	Bulk sample taken from pit [45], fill [47], in order to obtain dating and environmental data.
511	Bulk sample taken from layer [22], in order to obtain environmental data.
512	Bulk sample taken from layer [52], in order to obtain environmental data.
513	Spot sample taken from layer [52], in order to obtain dating and environmental information.
514	50% sample taken from pit [28], in order to obtain dating and environmental information.
515	50% sample taken from pit [10], in order to obtain environmental data.
516	10% sample taken from ditch [35], fill [36] in order to obtain environmental information.
517	Bulk sample taken from ditch [30], fill [31] in order to obtain environmental data.
518	Bulk sample taken from pit [21], fill [18] in order to obtain environmental data.

SAMPLE NO	DESCRIPTION
519	Bulk sample taken from ditch [6], fill [20] in order to obtain environmental information.
520	50% sample taken from pit [9], fill [12] in order to obtain environmental information.
521	50% sample taken from pit [9], fill [13] in order to obtain dating and environmental information.
522	Bulk sample taken from ditch [42], fill [49] in order to obtain environmental and dating information.
523	Bulk sample taken from pit [11], fill [14] in order to obtain environmental and dating information.
524	50% sample taken from pit [11], fill [16] in order to obtain dating and environmental information.
525	Bulk sample taken from ditch [39], fill [40] in order to obtain environmental information.
526	Bulk sample taken from silty matrix within wall [33] in order to obtain environmental and dating information.
527	Bulk sample taken from silty matrix within wall [32] in order to obtain environmental and dating information.
528	Bulk sample taken from pit/posthole [56] in order to obtain environmental information.

Table. 2 List of Contexts

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
[1]	Layer [1] was the uppermost fill in structure [60]. It was a grey Brown clay loam.
[2]	Cut [2] was a pit. It was filled by layers [3], [4] and [5].
[3]	Layer [3] was a fill of pit [2]. It was a dark brown silty clay loam.
[4]	Layer [4] was a fill within pit [2]. It was a dark reddish brown, silty clay ash deposit.
[5]	Layer [5] was a fill within pit [2]. It was a dark blackish brown, charcoal and silty ash deposit.
[6]	Cut [6] was a ditch. It was filled by layer [20].
[7]	Layer [7] was a ploughed out bank. It was a yellowish brown silty clay deposit.
[8]	Cut [8] was a ditch. It was filled by a yellowish brown silty clay deposit.
[9]	Cut [9] was a pit. It was filled by layers [12] and [13].
[10]	Cut [10] was a pit. It was filled by layer [17].
[11]	Cut [11] was a pit. It was filled by layers [14], [15] and [16].
[12]	Layer [12] was a fill of pit [9]. It was a dark brown silty clay loam deposit.
[13]	Layer [13] was a fill of pit [9]. It was a dark grey black silty charcoal deposit.
[14]	Layer [14] was a fill of pit [11]. It was a dark brown silty clay loam.
[15]	Layer [15] was a fill of pit [11]. It was a dark grey black silty ashy deposit.
[16]	Layer [16] was a fill of pit [11]. It was a black charcoal deposit.
[17]	Layer [17] was the fill of pit [10]. It was a dark brown silty clay loam deposit.
[18]	Layer [18] was a fill of pit [21]. It was a dark yellowish brown silty loamy clay deposit.
[19]	Layer [19] was a fill of pit [21]. It was a dark grey brown silty clay loam deposit.
[20]	Layer [20] was the fill of ditch [6]. It was a mid brown clay loam deposit.
[21]	Cut [21] was a pit. It was filled by layers [18] and [19].
[22]	Layer [22] was a grey brown silty clay loam deposit, located within the interior of structure [60].
[23]	Layer [23] was a grey brown silty clay loam deposit, located within structure [60].

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
[24]	Cut [24] was a pit. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay loam deposit.
[25]	Cut [25] was a pit. It was filled by a light grey brown silty clay loam deposit.
[26]	Cut [26] was a pit. It was filled by a grey brown silty clay loam deposit.
[27]	Cut [27] was a pit. It was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay loam deposit.
[28]	Cut [28] was a pit. It was filled by a mid brown clay loam deposit.
[29]	Cut [29] was a pit. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay loam deposit.
[30]	Cut [30] was a ditch. It was filled by layer [31].
[31]	Layer [31] was the fill of ditch [30]. It was a yellowish brown clay loam.
[32]	Wall [32] formed the northern side of structure [60].
[33]	Wall [33] formed the southern side of structure [60].
[34]	Cut [34] was a ditch. It was filled by layer [37].
[35]	Cut [35] was a ditch. It was filled by layer [36].
[36]	Layer [36] was the fill of ditch [35]. It was dark brown loamy clay.
[37]	Layer [37] was the fill of ditch [34]. It was dark brown silty clay loam.
[38]	Cut [38] was a pit. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay loam deposit.
[39]	Cut [39] was a ditch. It was filled by layer [40].
[40]	Layer [40] was the fill of ditch [39]. It was a mid to dark brown clay loam.
[41]	Cut [41] was a pit. It was filled by a dark brown loamy clay deposit.
[42]	Cut [42] was a ditch. It was filled by layer [49].
[43]	Cut [43] was a pit/posthole. It was filled by a mid brown silty loam deposit.
[44]	Layer [44] was a grey brown silty clay loam deposit, located within structure [60].
[45]	Cut [45] was a pit. It was filled by layers [46], [47] and [48].
[46]	Layer [46] was a fill within pit [45]. It was a dark brown clay loam deposit.
[47]	Layer [47] was a fill within pit [45]. It was a mid reddish brown silty ash deposit.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
[48]	Layer [48] was a fill within pit [45]. It was a dark brown/black, silty clay and ash deposit.
[49]	Layer [49] was the fill of ditch [42]. It was a dark brown loamy clay deposit.
[50]	Wall [50] was located on the western side of structure [60].
[51]	Cut [51] was the wall trench for wall [50].
[52]	Layer [52] was a deposit of grey brown loamy clay and charcoal. It was located behind structure [60].
[53]	Wall [53] was a setting of stones, located on the western side of structure [60].
[54]	Cut [54] was a ditch. It was filled by layer [55].
[55]	Layer [55] was the fill of ditch [54]. It was a dark brown, silty clay loam deposit.
[56]	Cut [56] was a pit. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay loam deposit.
[57]	Cut [57] was a pit. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay loam deposit.
[58]	Cut [58] was a pit. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay loam deposit.
[59]	Cut [59] was a pit. It was filled by a mid dark brown silty clay loam deposit.
[60]	Context [60] was the number given to the structure.
[61]	context [61] was the number given to the terrace which structure [60] was sited upon.



Plate 1. Pre excavation photograph of structure [60] (GCS 19797).

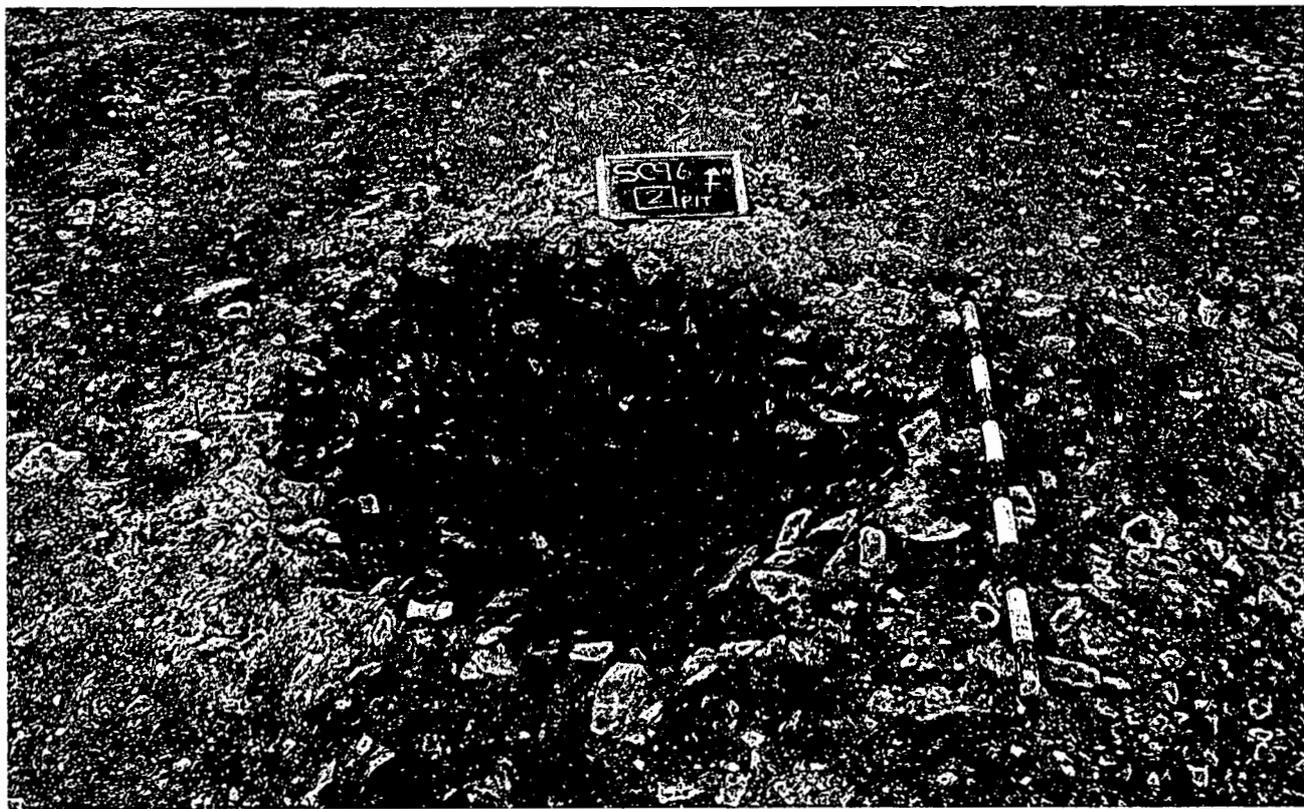


Plate 2. Pit [2] fully excavated showing the burnt natural subsoil (GCS19803).



Plate 3. Photograph showing the terminal end of Ditch [42] (GCS 19863).



Plate 4. Working shot showing the work in progress on structure [60] (GCS 19855).



Plate 5. Post excavation photograph showing the standing baulks across structure [60] (GCS 19871).



Plate 6. Post excavation photograph showing structure [60] with the baulks removed (GCS 19887).