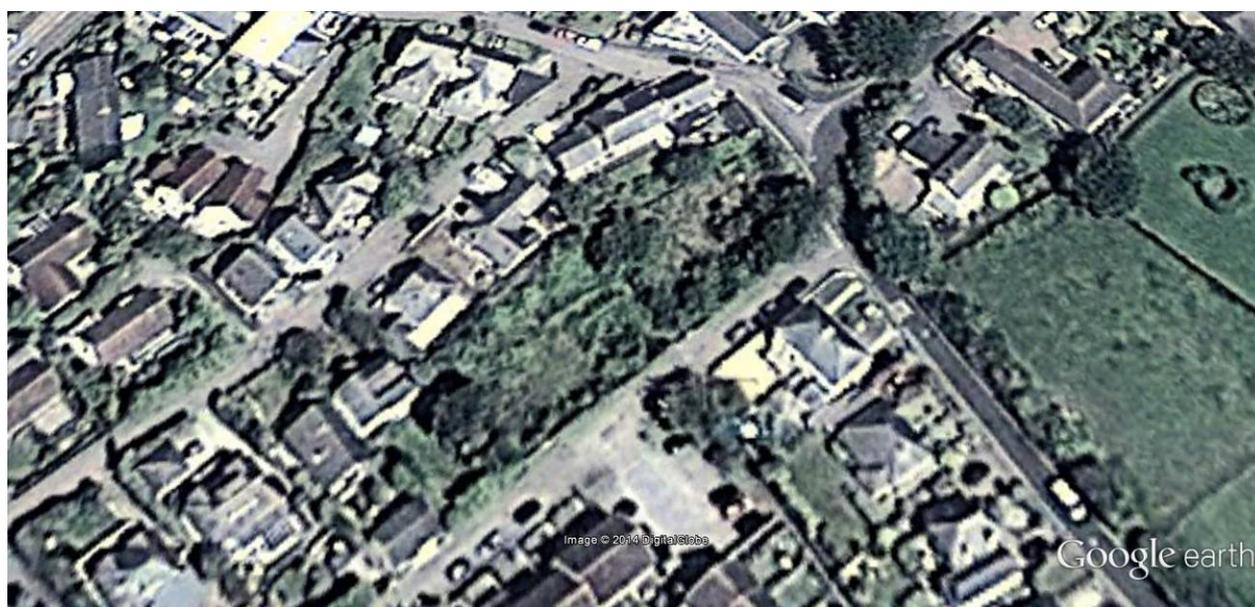


Trenwith House, St Ives, Cornwall

Archaeological Recording May 2014



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with
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October 2014

Acknowledgements

The Archaeological Recording was commissioned by architects R. A. Design on behalf of the owner of the property, Tim Symons. Jeanette Ratcliffe, Historic Environment Consultant, carried out the historical research and prepared this report, incorporating the results of the archaeological watching brief. The latter was sub-contracted to Cornwall Council Historic Environment Projects Service (now Cornwall Archaeological Unit) and carried out by Adam Sharpe and Carl Thorpe.

The author would like to thank Chris Strike (R. A. Design), Phil Markham (Cornwall Council Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer), Jane Powning (Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record) and staff at Cornwall Record Office and St Ives Archive Centre for providing information and assistance.

Front cover illustration: Aerial view of the site (centre picture) prior to development (Google Earth 08/08/2013)

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Contents	Page
1. Summary	5
2. Background	5
2.1 Location and setting	5
2.2 Planning context	5
2.3 Pre-development assessment of archaeological significance	6
2.4 Potential for the discovery of buried archaeological remains	6
2.5 Research questions	6
3. Methodology	7
3.1 Consulting existing records	7
3.2 On-site archaeological watching brief	7
3.3 Archiving & assessment (of fieldwork results)	7
3.4 Report preparation	8
3.5 Dissemination & deposition (of report & archive)	8
4. Results	8
4.1 Historical research	8
4.1.1 Historic landscape setting	8
4.1.2 Archaeological sites in the vicinity	8
4.1.3 Trenwith House and adjacent development site	8
4.2 Results of the archaeological watching brief	9
4.2.1 Boundary walls	10
4.2.2 Stratigraphy (soils and bedrock)	10
4.2.3 Features recorded in sub-soil	10
4.2.4 Artefacts	11
4.3 Conclusion	11
References	11
Appendices	
1. Register of photographs	12
2. Contents of project archive	14

Figures

1. Site location and Historic Landscape Characterisation	15
2. Medieval (and later) extent of St Ives, in relation to the site	15
3. Site extent and archaeological sites in the vicinity	16
4. 1840 Tithe Map	16
5. c1880 OS 1st edition 25" map	17
6. c1907 OS 2nd edition 25" map	17
7. Proposed development plan (R A Design Sept 2011)	18
8. Plan of site showing features identified during the archaeological watching brief	18
9-18. Site photographs	19-24

1 Summary

Archaeological recording took place in May 2014 in order to discharge conditions attached to planning permission for the building of eight dwellings on land to the rear of Trenwith House, St Ives. Although place-name evidence indicated potential for development ground works to uncover medieval settlement remains, only relatively features were exposed by the topsoil strip. These included the remains of a garden wall, tree throws associated with a 19th century orchard and a modern fire pit and land drains.

2 Background

2.1 Location and setting

Trenwith House, Trenwith Lane, St Ives TR26 1DA is located inland (east) of the historic centre of St Ives, towards the head of the Stennack Valley, at NGR SW 5106 3998 (Figures 1 and 2). The site is a relatively level sub-rectangular plot to the rear of Trenwith House, a post-medieval farmhouse with attached cottage (Figure 3). Until relatively recent times this part of St Ives consisted largely of farmland. It is now populated by modern buildings, interspersed with a few older properties, no longer in their original rural setting.

2.2 Planning context

The archaeological recording was associated with Planning Applications PA12/01107 and PA12/05667 for the erection of a total of 8 dwellings and associated works, which have been approved subject to several conditions.

Condition 7 of PA12/01107 states:

A) No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: To ensure that development does not have an adverse effect on the landscape, nature, conservation, historic, archaeological and geological values.

Condition 5 of PA12/05667 states:

No development shall take place within the area to be developed until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording based on a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that provision is made to record finds of archaeological interest in accordance with the requirements the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 with specific reference to paragraph 128.

A 'Brief for Archaeological Recording' was produced by Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO), 16th May 2012, which set out the minimum required in order to discharge the Condition 7 (and, by inference, also the subsequent Condition 5).

At the request of R. A. Design (on behalf of the owner), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) addressing the Brief's requirements was prepared by the Historic Environment Consultant, Jeanette Ratcliffe (11.06.12; revised 17.01.13), and approved by the HEPAO.

2.3 Pre-development assessment of archaeological significance

Place-name and field-pattern evidence indicates that most Cornish farms are on the site of medieval homesteads or hamlets, and many of the latter were located on or near the site of Rounds (defended farmsteads of Iron Age and Romano-British date). Rounds and medieval settlements are of national significance owing to their early date and the fact that, despite the abundance of place-name evidence, above ground survival and excavated buried remains are rare. Since 'Trenwith' is a medieval place-name, it was considered possible that Trenwith House was constructed on or close to the site of an early farming settlement.

2.4 Potential for the discovery of buried archaeological remains

Medieval hamlets in Cornwall typically consisted of rectangular farmhouses arranged around a shared yard, known as a town place. Given the early medieval place-name of Trenwith, there was potential for the remains of medieval and later buildings, yards, tracks and field boundaries, together with occupation material (such as pottery, stone, metal and other artefacts and charcoal and other organic deposits) to survive within the development site. It was also considered possible that the development ground works would uncover settlement remains of an earlier or later date. However, as the place-name is also attached to the wider surrounding area, there was also a possibility that the original settlement was located outside of the development envelop.

2.5 Research questions

The key research questions identified in the WSI were as follows.

- Was the site part of the early medieval settlement of Trenwith?
- What was the nature of that settlement (layout, number of buildings, their functions, phasing etc)?
- What was the date range within which the settlement was occupied?
- Is there evidence (structural or artefactual) for earlier or later occupation of the site?

3.0 Methodology

The archaeological recording involved the following stages.

1. Consulting existing records
2. On-site archaeological watching brief
3. Archiving & assessment (of fieldwork results)
4. Report preparation
5. Dissemination & deposition (of report & archive)

3.1 Consulting existing records

The purpose of this stage of the work was to gain a clear picture of what was already known of the history of the site, in order to inform understanding of any archaeological remains discovered during the watching brief.

It consisted of visiting Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Record and Cornwall Record Office in Old County Hall, Truro, and the St Ives Archive Centre in order to view and copy easily accessible, existing archaeological and historic information about Trenwith House, and the immediate vicinity.

This included the following types of records.

- Records held within the Cornwall Historic Environment Record's computer database of archaeological sites
- c1840 Tithe Map and Tithe Apportionment
- Historic Ordnance Survey maps (c1880 & c1908)
- Unpublished and published accounts of Trenwith House and St Ives

Electronic and paper copies of the architect's plans were also obtained at this stage.

3.2 On-site archaeological watching brief

The aim of this stage was to:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered
- establish the nature of the activity on the site
- identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site
- provide further information on the archaeology of the site from any archaeological remains encountered

The archaeological contractor was present while vegetation was cleared and the overburden of topsoil was removed across the site (by mechanical digger using a toothless ditching bucket).

Soil profiles were recorded at 14 locations across the site and a number of natural and relatively recent features were revealed in the subsoil, which were (as appropriate) hand cleaned, photographed and plotted to scale on a general plan of the site (Figure 8). No artefacts were retrieved or samples taken.

3.3 Archiving & assessment (of fieldwork results)

Owing to the lack of any significant archaeological remains, archiving was limited to labelling and indexing the digital photographs taken during the watching brief, preparing a photographic register, inking up (for inclusion in the report) the general plan of features recorded on site, and preparing an archive folder (and contents list) for deposition.

Following assessment of the watching brief results, it was concluded that specialist analysis was not required.

3.4 Report preparation

The results of the historical research and watching brief are presented in this report.

3.5 Dissemination & deposition (of report & archive)

- The report has been submitted to Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service and the Cornwall Record Office.
- A digital copy has been supplied in 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format.
- The report will be held by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available for public consultation.
- A digital copy of the report has been supplied to the applicant/client.
- An ordered and integrated site archive has been prepared in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006* upon completion of the project.
- The archive has been deposited with the Cornwall Record Office.
- A summary of the contents of the archive has been supplied to the HEPAO.
- A copy of the report has been supplied to the National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon (via Oasis).
- A project summary has been added to the OASIS (the English Heritage/ADS online index of archaeological investigations).

4 Results

4.1 Historical research

4.1.1 Historic landscape setting

Now incorporated into the outskirts of St Ives, the site lies beyond the c1907 town limit (Figures 1-2) and until the later 20th century was set within medieval farmland modified by later mining. Today, modern housing and leisure facilities give the area its predominant character.

4.1.2 Archaeological sites in the vicinity

Apart from the medieval place-name 'Trenwith', none of the archaeological sites recorded in the general vicinity have any direct relevance to the development site. They include the sites of a post-medieval windmill and ropewalk, together with shafts, spoil heaps and track ways associated with the 18th-early 20th century Trenwith Mine and a few stray artefact find spots of prehistoric date (Figure 3).

4.1.3 Trenwith House and adjacent development site

According to the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER 29912; MCO17643), the settlement of Trenwith is first recorded as "Treyunwith torrūn" in 1361. The name is Cornish and contains the element *tre* meaning 'estate, farmstead' (suggesting a settlement of early medieval origin) and an unknown second part; "torrūn" is a manorial suffix. The place-name also survives as Trenwith Lane and Trenwith Bridge, making the exact location of the early medieval settlement uncertain, although the vicinity of Trenwith House seems most likely.

The 1840 Tithe Map (and subsequent 1880 and 1907 OS maps) shows a main building range aligned roughly E-W, broadly agreeing with the plan of the present buildings at Trenwith House, together with a (no longer surviving) N-S alignment of what were probably barns (Figures 4-6). The Tithe Apportionment records the collection of buildings (Plot No. 1252) as a 'house & homestead etc' owned and occupied by William Chellew, who also had the plot to the south (No. 1253, the development site), described as an 'orchard'.

The development site is depicted as a single enclosure on the Tithe Map, but by the time of the 1880 OS map (Figure 5) it had been subdivided by a north-south boundary, with the western half still an orchard and the eastern (directly behind Trenwith House) having become a garden. By the early 1900s, the latter had been sub-divided into north and south parts (Figure 6). On the south, the site was previously bordered by fields. The road (Pen-an-Gwel) that now runs along this side was inserted as part of later 20th century housing development.

The limited amount of related historical information uncovered at St Ives Archive Centre was as follows.

- Kelly's Directory of 1889, 1893 & 1902 records William Henry Hosking, a market gardener, as being based at Trenwith (with the development site presumably forming part of the land he cultivated).
- According to the St Ives Weekly Summary and Visitor List, a Mr Docker stayed at Trenwith House, with the landlady, Mrs Hosking, during the weeks of 23rd August and 27th September 1890. Edward Docker was an artist who exhibited at the National Academy of Design and had promise as an animal painter, having produced a painting exhibited at Dowdeswells entitled 'En famille', depicting a young girl attentively watching her pet guinea pigs enjoying their meal (Cornish Telegraph on 26.03.1891; Tovey 2008, 67-8).
- In a document entitled *St Ives Borough Council Damage by Enemy Action 12th May 1941* the owner of Trenwith House is noted as Mrs Farrant and damage to her property is recorded as a result of a land mine exploding in a vegetable garden at Anthony's Farm, near Leach Pottery, in January 1941.

Trenwith House is reputed to have been the count house for Trenwith Mine (pers comm: Adam Sharpe; and the present owners), although no reference to this was found during the historical research and another property a short distance to the west (The Old Count House in Trenwith Square) may be a more likely candidate.

4.2 Results of the archaeological watching brief

The site was initially very mangled by vegetation clearance, but gradually gained some semblance of order (for inspection/recording) amongst the dumps of stone, vegetation, scrap and rubbish. The western part had been very overgrown and used for extensive fly tipping. The eastern part of the site had been maintained as a garden and contained mature apple trees and flowering cherries, which were cut down during the watching brief.

4.2.1 Boundary walls

The surrounding boundary walls were generally between 1.0m and 1.6m high and built of random blue elvan, which outcrops here and down into the valley of the Stennack, presumably associated with the mineralisation. Some rounded beach bobbles were also recorded in the walls, and within the site, with the soil looking in places as if beach sand had been brought in to lighten it. There were formerly mature elms around the edges of the site and remnants of mature sycamores along the boundaries.

The eastern boundary was formed by a mortared elvan wall, a bit over 2m high, which was being retained as part of the development. A formal doorway into the walled garden was located in the north east corner.

The southern side of the site was defined by a blockwork wall against the (20th century) road, though this is built on/adjacent to a double-faced elvan wall about 2.5m wide at its base and 1.4m high, particularly in the south eastern part of the site.

The north-south wall shown on the historic OS maps as dividing the site into east and western halves, had already been largely grubbed out by the time the archaeological contractor arrived on site, but was evident as an elvan-faced earth bank 1.25m high and 2m wide.

4.2.2 Stratigraphy (soils and bedrock)

The soils were generally very clayey, dark brown, and (in the in the northeast corner of the western enclosure) waterlogged, though with a clay/sand texture. Beneath the turf, the topsoil varied from 15cm to 30cm in depth thick. The underlying subsoil (decayed natural) was ginger to yellow in colour, with some mineralised mottling. This was generally stone-free, though there were indications of lumps of greenstone bedrock not far below its upper surface. The bedrock, itself, may not be far below, given the large quantities of elvan boulders and lumps of rock used in the walling.

4.2.3 Features recorded in sub-soil

The following features were visible on/within the exposed subsoil surface.

- Modern fire pit incorporating coal and clinker, on the western side of the garden area (Figure 8 & 15)
- Tree throws (Figure 8 & 16) - four sub-circular hollows with indistinct edges (and some root runs), sloping sides, 35-80cm in diameter by up to 15cm deep, in-filled with grey-brown clay loam containing 19th century china and some ash, cinders and charcoal flecks; lying roughly equidistant within the south western part of the site and assumed to be tree throws associated with the orchard recorded on the historic mapping.
- Line of elvan rocks running northeast to southwest, above a break of slope (Figure 8) – probably the remnants of the boundary shown as subdividing the garden area on the 1907 OS map (Figure 6).

- Two modern rubble-filled land drains running north-south, parallel to each other, across a waterlogged area in the north east corner of the western half of the site (Figure 8 & 17).

4.2.4 Artefacts

A collection of boiler fire-grate bars, together with an anvil and pick were found on top of the bank running parallel to the blockwork wall along the site's southern boundary. These are assumed to derive from an engine boiler at nearby Wheal Trenwith. It was unclear why they had ended up on the site, although judging from the general amount of rubbish uncovered during vegetation clearance of the western half, it may have been a metal scrap yard at one point. The soil removed from across the site during the topsoil strip was relatively clean of artefacts, with only a few pieces of 19th/20th century china and red-glazed earthenware (none of which were retrieved).

4.3 Conclusion

The remains recorded within the development site are commensurate with its post medieval and later use as an orchard and garden. If still surviving, the remains of the early medieval settlement that gave Trenwith House its name may survive beneath and/or immediately around the existing buildings, or elsewhere in the vicinity.

References

- Cornish Telegraph on 26.03.1891
Kelly's Directory 1889, 1893 & 1902
Ordnance Survey, c1880. *25 Inch Map* First Edition (licensed digital copy at Cornwall & Scilly HER)
Ordnance Survey, c1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at Cornwall & Scilly HER)
Ordnance Survey, 2007. *MasterMap Digital Mapping* (licensed digital copy at HER)
St Ives Borough Council Damage by Enemy Action 12th May 1941 (Document in St Ives Archive Centre)
Tithe Map & Apportionment Survey, c1840. *Parish of St Ives* (licensed digital copy at HER)
Tovey, D., 2008. *Pioneers of St Ives Art at Home and Abroad (1889-1914)*.

Appendix 1: Register of digital photographs

Photo No.	Subject / direction
TH/1	Front of Trenwith House, from NW
TH2	Front of Trenwith House, from NW
TH3	East end of Trenwith House, from NE
TH4	Eastern garden wall, from NE
TH5	Eastern garden wall, from E
TH6	Trenwith House & eastern garden wall, from SE
TH7	Southern boundary wall, from E
TH8	Eastern garden wall, from S
TH9	Western part of the development site prior to vegetation clearance, from SE
TH10	Southern boundary wall, from SW
TH11	Trenwith House, from SW
TH12	Eastern half of site during vegetation clearance, from S
TH13	Eastern half of site during vegetation clearance, from E
TH14	Eastern half of site during vegetation clearance, from E
TH15	Western part of site during vegetation clearance, from S
TH16	Western part of site during vegetation clearance, from S
TH17	Western part of site during vegetation clearance, from S
TH18	Boiler fire-grate bars
TH19	Boiler fire-grate bars
TH20	Boiler fire-grate bars
TH21	Boiler fire-grate bars
TH22	Boiler fire-grate bars
TH23	General view over site looking W
TH24	General view over NE part of site, looking NE
TH25	General view over central part of site looking NE
TH26	General view over central part of site looking NW
TH27	SW corner of the site, looking S
TH28	SW side of the site, looking W
TH29	Western side of site showing nature of ground encountered
TH30	Western side of site showing nature of ground encountered
TH31	Western side of site showing Tree throw B looking west
TH32	Western side of site showing Tree throw C looking NE

TH33	Central part of site prior to strip showing muddy zone
TH34	General view over NE part of site, looking NE
TH35	General view over NE corner of site, looking NE
TH36	General view over east corner of site showing dismantled wall
TH37	Nineteenth century boiler bars, anvil and pick from mine
TH38	Central area, western land drain looking E
TH39	Central area, showing nature of ground encountered
TH40	Central area, western land drain looking N
TH41	Central area, western land drain looking E
TH42	Central area, showing both land drains looking N
TH43	Central area, muddy zone after stripping
TH44	Central area, muddy zone after stripping looking NW
TH45	General view over central part of site looking NW
TH46	Central part of site, greenhouse area, showing nature of ground
TH47	Central part of site, greenhouse area, showing nature of ground
TH48	Central part of site, greenhouse area, showing nature of ground
TH49	Central area of site, showing fire pit E
TH50	Central area of site, showing fire pit E
TH51	Section 1
TH52	Central part of site, showing nature of ground
TH53	Central part of site, showing nature of ground
TH54	Section 2
TH55	Section 3
TH56	Section 14
TH57	Central area showing nature of ground encountered
TH58	Central area showing nature of ground encountered
TH59	Tree throw D
TH60	South eastern side of site, cutting back of hedge bank
TH61	South eastern side of site, cutting back of hedge bank
TH62	NW side of site showing nature of ground encountered
TH63	Site overview looking SW

Appendix 2: Contents of project archive

1. Brief for Archaeological Recording produced by Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (Phil Markham, 16th May 2012)
2. Written Scheme of Investigation (Version 2), Jeanette Ratcliffe 17.01.2013
3. Report (printed in black and white; copied to CD in colour), Index of digital colour photographs
4. Colour digital photographs copied to CD
5. Site plan showing sub-soil features and soil profile recording points
6. Soil profile descriptions and general field notes

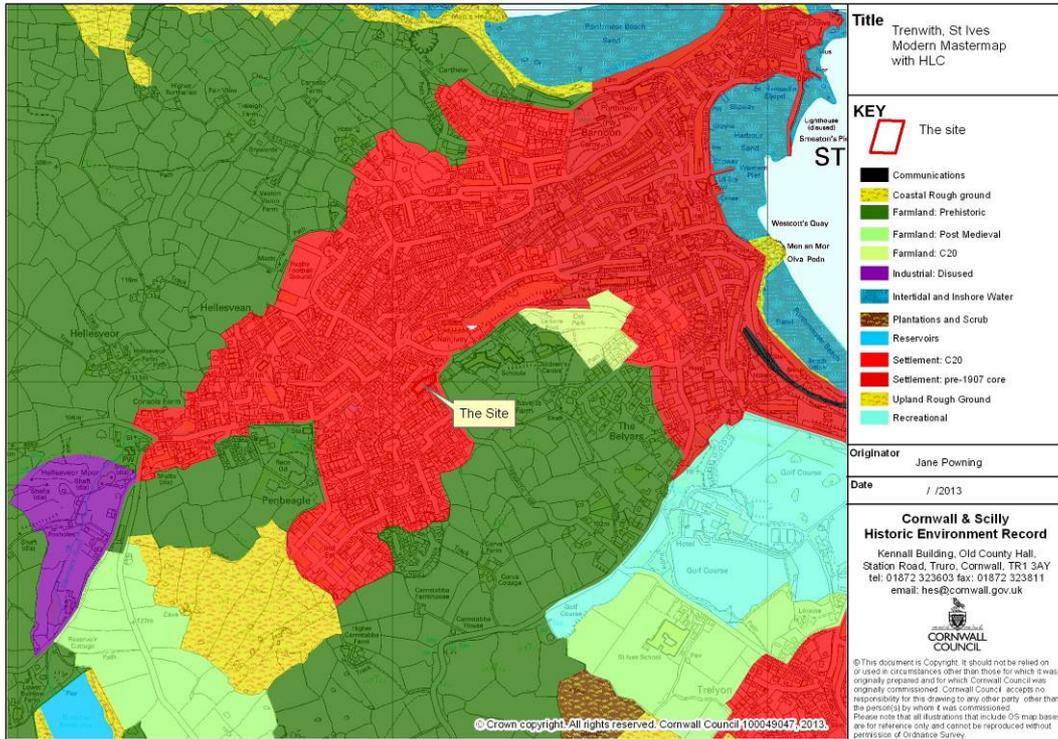


Figure 1. Site location and Historic Landscape Characterisation (Cornwall & Scilly HER)

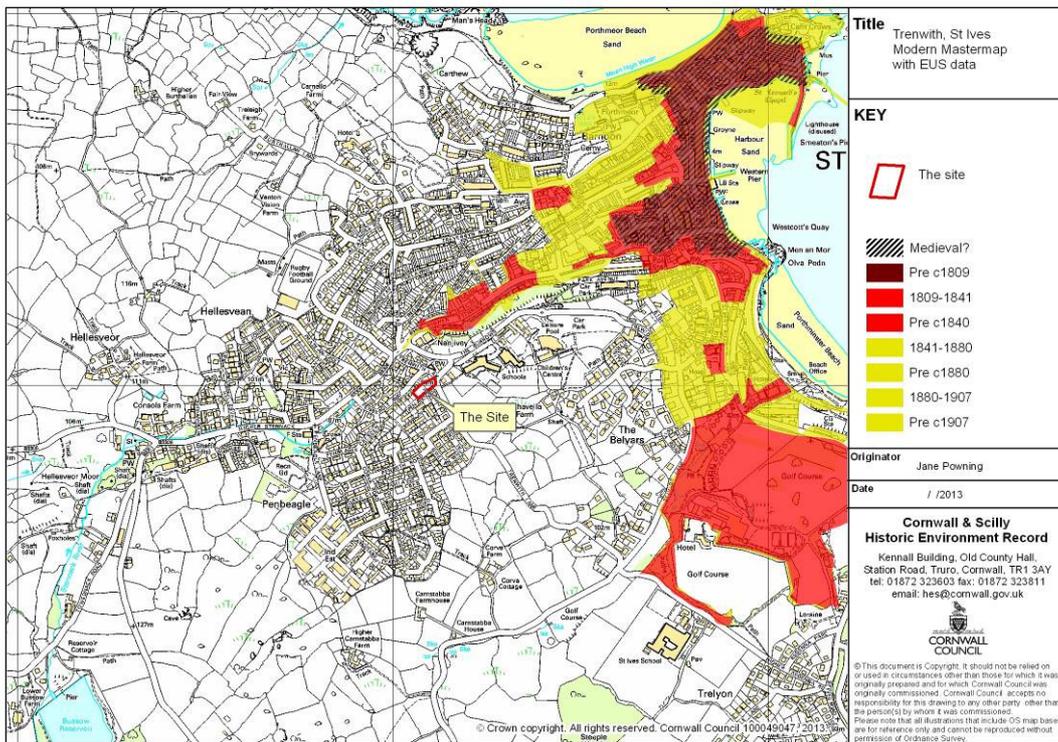


Figure 2. Medieval (and later) extent of St Ives, in relation to the site (Cornwall & Scilly HER)

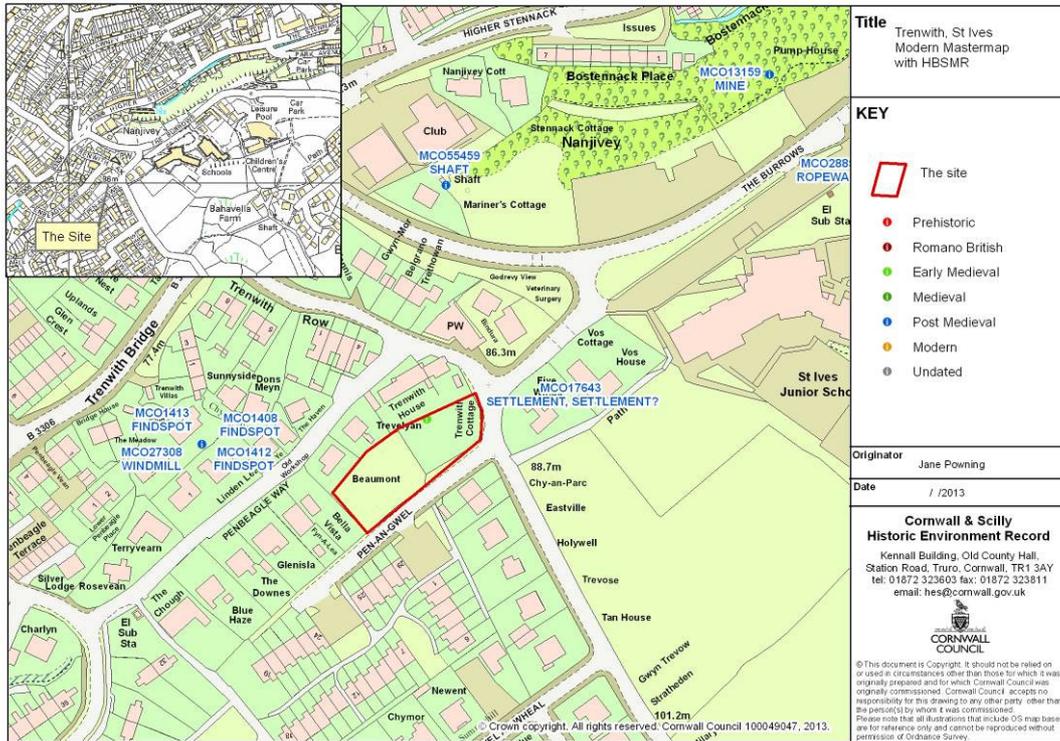


Figure 3. Site extent and archaeological sites in the vicinity (Cornwall & Scilly HER)

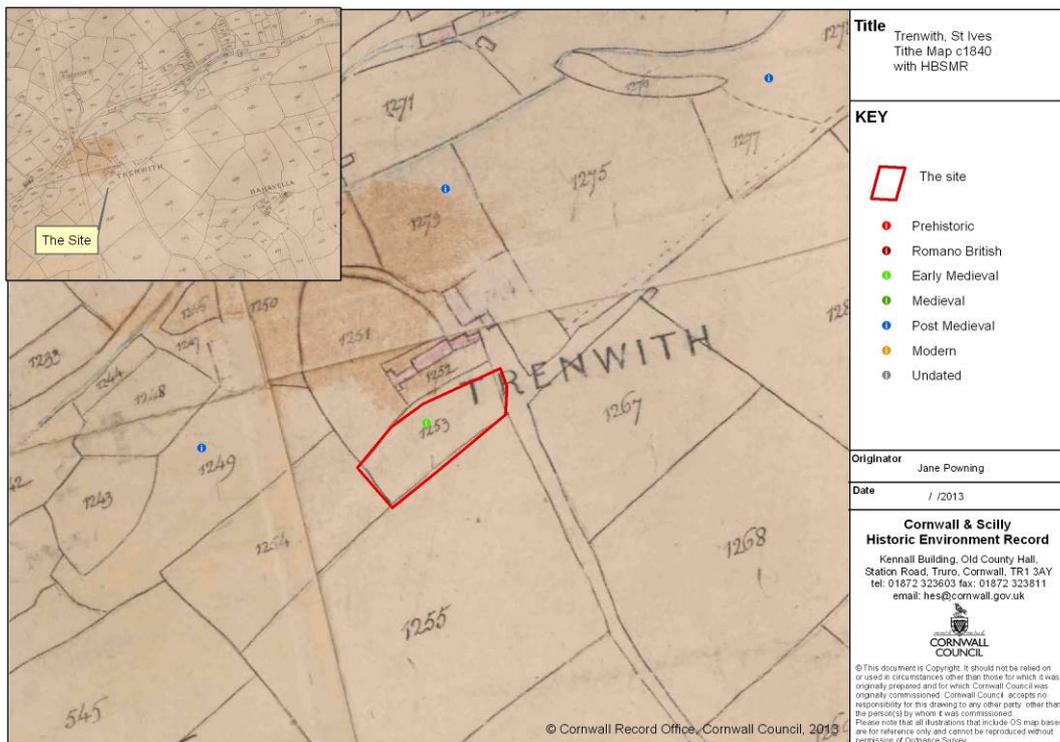


Figure 4. c1840 Tithe Map (Cornwall Record Office)

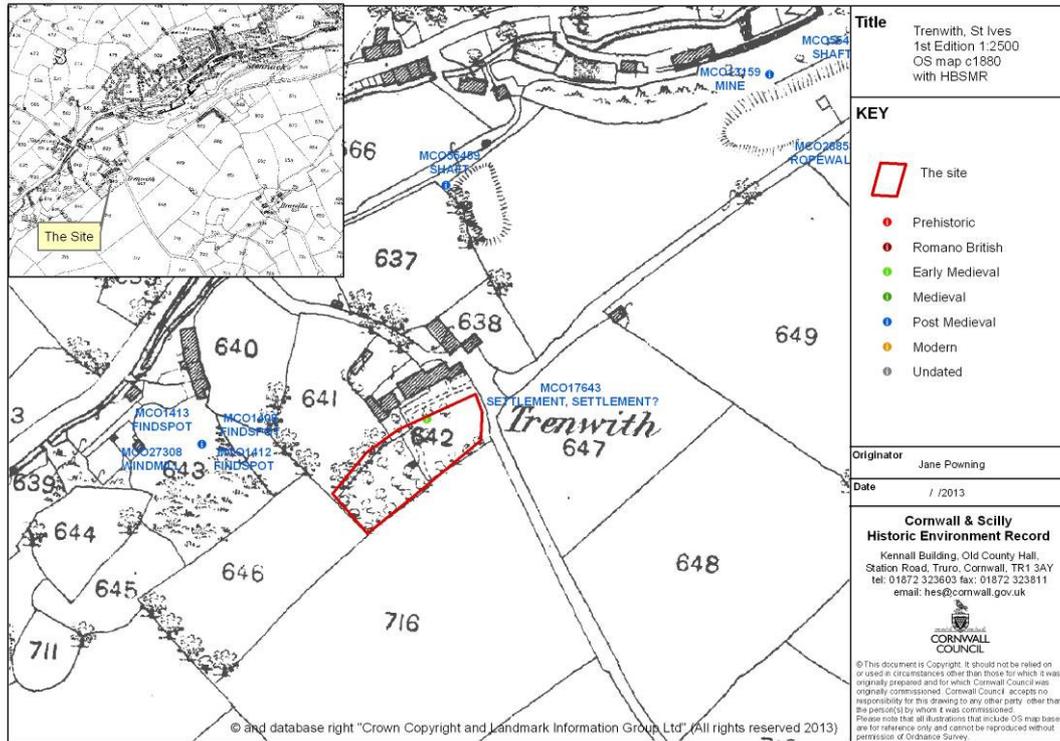


Figure 5. c1880 OS 1st edition 25" map (Cornwall & Scilly HER)

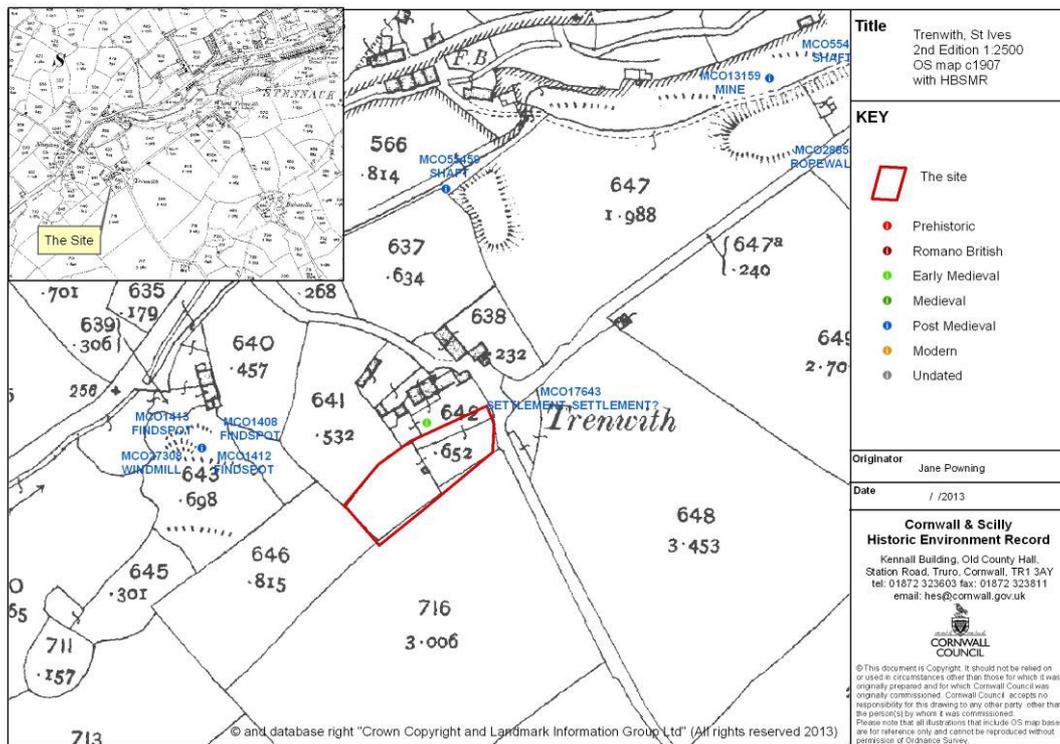


Figure 6. c1907 OS 2nd edition 25" map (Cornwall & Scilly HER)



Figure 7. Proposed development plan (R. A. Design Sept 2011)

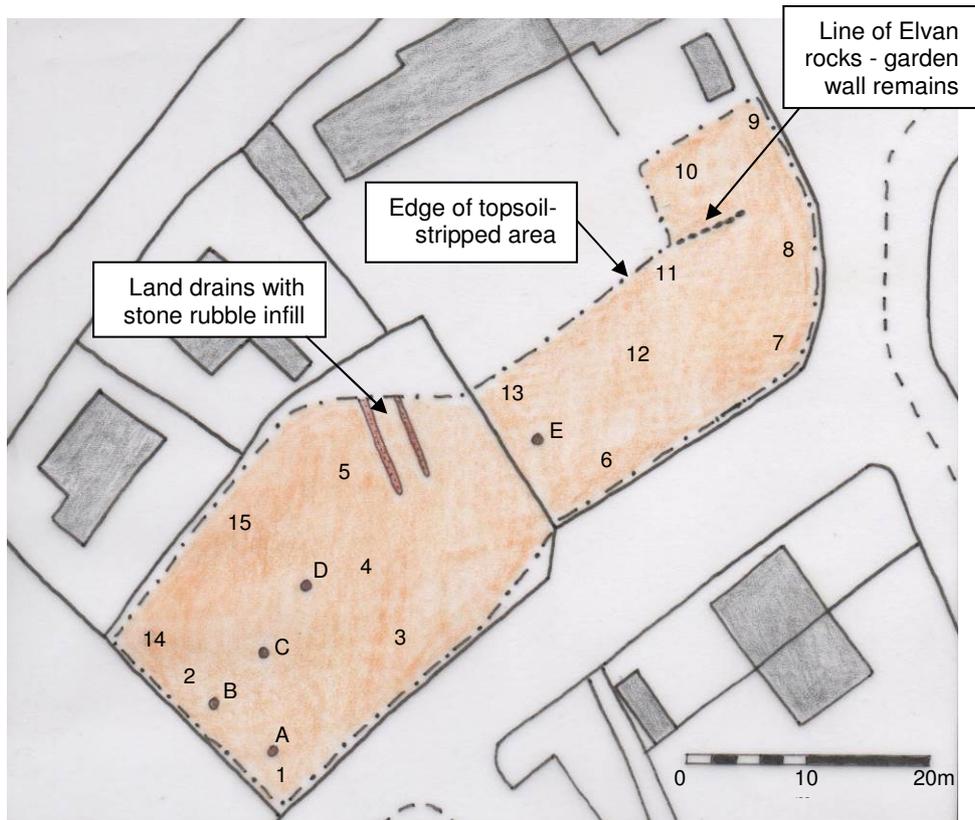


Figure 8. Plan of site showing features identified during the archaeological watching brief (A-D are tree throws; E is a modern fire pit; soil profiles recorded at locations 1-14)



Figure 9. Front of Trenwith House, from NW



Figure 10. Eastern boundary wall, with doorway into garden (looking W)



Figure 11. Southern boundary, looking SW from entrance into Pen-an-Gwel Road



Figure 12. Western part of the site prior to vegetation clearance, looking NW



Figure 13. Western half of the site during topsoil strip, looking NW, with N-S boundary remains to right of photo.



Figure 14. Eastern part of the site during topsoil strip, looking N, with Trenwith House beyond



Figure 16. View over site towards end of topsoil strip, looking SW



Figure 15. Modern fire pit (Location E in Figure 8)

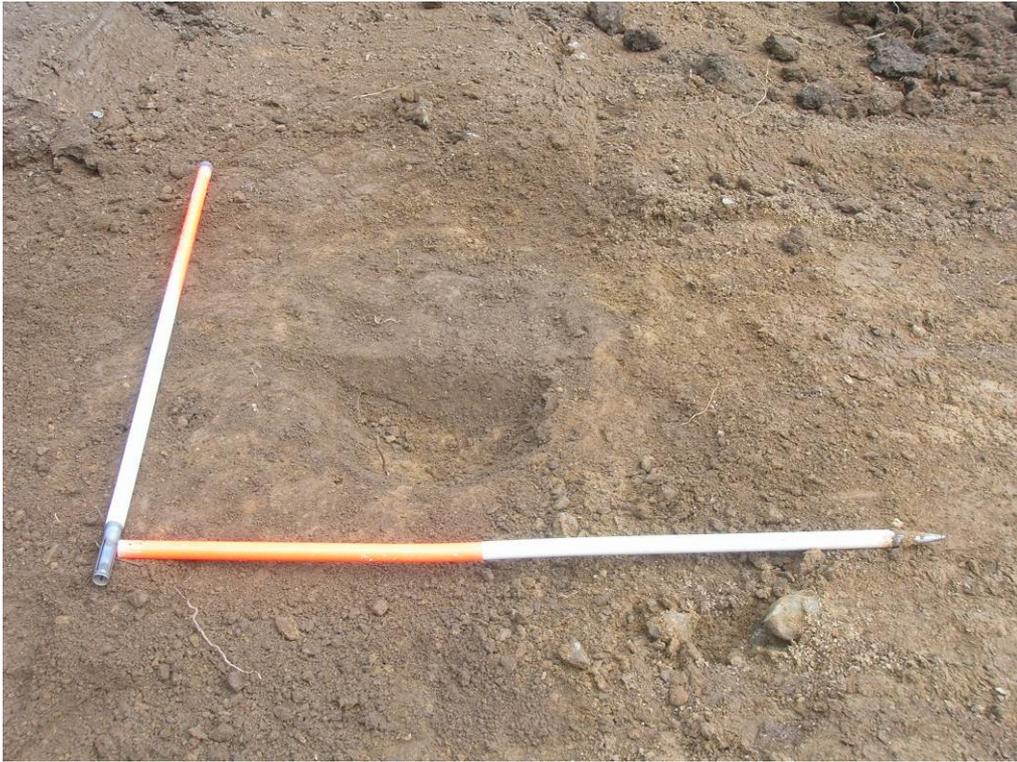


Figure 16. Tree throw D, half excavated, showing section through soil infill



Figure 17. Western land drain, looking E



Figure 18. Boiler bars, anvil and pick