

**Castallack Farm, nr. Penzance, Cornwall**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**

Planning Reference: PA12/03836

AB Heritage Project Number: 10123

Date: November 2012

## Castallack Fram, nr. Penzance, Cornwall

NGR SW 4501 2538

### Archaeological Watching Brief

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AB Heritage Project Number: **10123**

Planning Reference: **PA12/03836**

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Approved by: **Andy Buckley**

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
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## CONTENTS

1.	Executive Summary.....	1
2.	Introduction.....	2
3.	Archaeological & Historical Background.....	3
4.	Objective & Methodology.....	4
5.	Results of Work.....	5
6.	Conclusions.....	6
7.	Archive Quantities.....	7
8.	References.....	8

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1     Context Register

Appendix 2     OASIS Form

## FIGURES

Figure 1        Site Location Plan

Figure 2        Proposed Development Location

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited were commissioned by Mr. Nick Hood to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Castallack Farm, nr. Penzance, Cornwall. These works were required as a condition of the planning permission issued by Cornwall County Council (Condition 8 and 9, Planning Ref. PA12/03836) associated with the development of a 5kw Evance R9000 wind turbine and cable installation.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development included construction of a 10-metre high turbine tower and associated groundworks, situated within an open field under permanent pasture. Topsoil and subsoil was stripped across the footprint of the turbine base (an area measuring approximately 2 m by 2 m) and hand cleaned to expose an open area of unmodified natural subsoil. A cable trench approximately 150 m in length and 0.45 m in width (leading from the proposed turbine base to the existing farm building) was also excavated to assess the potential for archaeological features.
- 1.1.3 No archaeological deposits or features were identified during the watching brief. Given the excellent conditions in which these observations were made, the potential for significant archaeology surviving on the site is low.
- 1.1.4 This report constitutes compliance with planning permission issued by Cornwall County Council, with a requirement for an archaeological watching brief and report on groundworks. This condition was due to the site's close proximity to a number of heritage receptors recorded on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record. All recommendations outlined here are subject to the approval of the Local Planning Authority and their advisors, the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO), Cornwall County Council.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at the site of a proposed wind turbine, at Castallack Farm, near Penzance, Cornwall (TR19 6NL; NGR SW 4501 2538 – Figure 1). Archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Rubicon Heritage, associated of AB Heritage Limited (herein AB Heritage), on behalf of the landowner (Mr. Nick Hood).
- 2.1.2 The Site is located in a rural area of enclosed farmland, and lies on a southeast-facing slope at an approximate height of 105 m OD. The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record identifies the Scheduled remains of a prehistoric settlement and field system (DCO1612 & CO807) c.150m from the proposed turbine location. Condition No. 8 and 9 of the planning permission issued in relation to this development by Cornwall County Council (Planning Ref. PA12/03836) specified that all construction works at the site should be carried out subject to an archaeological watching brief, due proximity of a suspected prehistoric settlement site.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AB Heritage, 2012). The WSI specified the strategy, techniques and methods to be employed by Rubicon Heritage’s archaeologists during the fieldwork. It was submitted for approval to Mr. Phil Markham (Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO), Cornwall County Council prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists’ Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2008).
- 2.1.4 The proposed development involves the construction of a 5kw Evance R9000 wind turbine and associated groundworks. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the turbine footprint and cable trench. A mechanical excavator was used under constant archaeological supervision between 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012. No archaeological features or deposits were identified at the site.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1.1 The Site is located in the hamlet of Castallack, close to Penzance, Cornwall, and is defined by a single entry road and a collection of residential, agricultural and elegant tourist buildings. The proposed turbine is situated on a 14 Hectare mixed-use farm and residential tourist amenity currently under permanent pasture.
- 3.1.2 The work was predominantly confined to a single field to the rear of the present farm. A walk-over assessment prior to works showed significant signs of landscape improvement and remodelling of smaller in-field boundaries to create the current large open field, with a relict green lane still defining the western edge of the site.
- 3.1.3 The British Geological Survey records superficial deposits comprising argillic brown earths and arenaceous clays overlying granite bedrock parent material (Lands End Igneous Intrusion) (BGS 1982).

#### **3.2 General Background**

- 3.2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings on the site; however, isolated prehistoric finds have been recorded from the wider site environs, with stone tools dating from the lower Palaeolithic to the Neolithic.
- 3.2.2 The earliest known monument in the immediate vicinity of the proposed turbine dates to the Iron Age and is listed on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record as a prehistoric settlement and field system (DCO1612 & CO807), c.150m from the site of proposed development. This was described in nineteenth century antiquarian literature as a prehistoric roundago of elliptical plan with a single entrance to the east.
- 3.2.3 Although partly destroyed in the nineteenth century, Castallack Roundego still remains a locally significant example of an Iron Age-Romano-British round. The monument is characterised by large granite facing stones, with approximately half of the original enclosure wall surviving in-situ. This was recoded by J.L. Blight in the mid-nineteenth century as 'one of the best examples of Cyclopean masonry in West Cornwall' (Quinnell and Thomas, 2003, p.194).
- 3.2.4 The monument was also detailed by the German philologist and Orientalist, Fredrich Max Muller (1871) suggesting that a double boundary wall was evident, stone work that was also captured in a drawing in the 1920s. This has likely tumbled due to root action and been reused to strengthen boundaries in the adjacent fields. The monument is currently listed 'At Risk' by English Heritage due to the damaging effects of shrub and tree growth.

#### **3.3 Recent Archaeological Works**

- 3.3.1 Limited previous archaeological investigations have been carried out in the vicinity of Castallack Farm. In 2002 remedial work to consolidate the Roundago was undertaken by Adrian Thomas and David Cutting (Quinnell and Thomas, 2003, 194). Following an assessment of the upstanding structure, fallen slabs were replaced and unstable slabs levered back into place, and damaging scrub growing directly on the wall was cut back.
- 3.3.2 No further intrusive archaeological works or survey has been undertaken at Castallack Farm or in the immediate vicinity.

## 4. OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

4.1.1 The objective of the archaeological monitoring programme was to provide a watching brief during topsoil and subsoil removal at the site for the purpose of identifying any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts that might be present at the site and which could be impacted on by the developed. The purpose of this work was:

- To determine or confirm the presence or absence and the general nature of any archaeological remains present that may be threatened by development;
- To identify the potential for remains not anticipated by previous research or record.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual, sedimentological, environmental or other evidence where development is proposed;
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on the Site; and
- To inform and provide information for any future mitigation for the Site in compliance with the planning condition.

4.1.2 A site inspection was undertaken in advance of any groundwork to ensure that remnants of any upstanding earthworks would not be damaged through the removal of top soil and sub soil, and to ensure the engineering team were fully aware of the archaeological monitoring programme.

4.1.3 The watching brief monitored the footprint of the proposed wind turbine (2m x 2m) and the associated cable service trench extending from the turbine to the main complex of farm buildings (c 150m x 0.45m). An archaeological presence was then maintained during all groundwork on the site and subsequent ground reduction. A 0.25 tonne, tracked minidigger machine fitted with a 0.45m wide toothless grading bucket conducted topsoil stripping. The resulting surface was cleaned to ensure that any potential features would be identified. Only once the monitoring archaeologist had signed off the total area did construction on the cable commence.

4.1.4 All recording was undertaken using Rubicon Heritage's pro forma recording system. A unique site code (CFWB12) was used throughout, and a site accession number (TRUR1: 2012.25) by the Royal Cornwall Museum. A photographic record, which contains digital images, was maintained throughout the investigation, illustrating both the detail of the excavated area and the Site as a whole.

4.1.5 All work was subject to a Health and Safety Risk Assessment, and carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

## 5. RESULT OF WORKS

- 5.1.1 The following section details the results of the watching brief, with detailed descriptions of the contexts recorded included in Appendix 1. Figure 1 presents the Site Location, with Plates 1 to 4 showing the site during various phases of the ground works and a representative photographic section of the soil stratigraphy.
- 5.1.2 Once the topsoil and subsoil had been removed, a total area of 4 m<sup>2</sup> was exposed from the footprint of the proposed turbine (and a cable trench approximately 150m long) to a depth of 0.7m (Plate 1).
- 5.1.3 The stratigraphic sequence (Plate 3) was relatively homogenous across the site, and with strata showing considerable evidence of agricultural improvement.
- 5.1.4 It consisted of dark brown silty clay topsoil (100), overlaying mid brown silt subsoil (101) to a depth of 0.45m. Beneath the subsoil, light orange sandy clay natural (102) was recorded, marking the limit of excavation at 0.7m below ground level. This surface was cleaned by hand, and potential features properly investigated.
- 5.1.5 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the monitoring of the development works.
- 5.1.6 No artifactual evidence was recovered from the exposed area or from the excavated spoil.
- 5.1.7 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the archaeological investigation.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

6.1.1 This report constitutes compliance with Condition 8 and 9 of the planning permission issued in relation to this development by Cornwall County Council (Planning Ref: PA12/03836).

### **6.2 Summary of Archaeological Findings**

6.2.1 Monitoring of the proposed development at Castallack Farm revealed no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

6.2.2 It is likely that the land has been subject to considerable agricultural improvement in recent years that would have significantly impacted on any extant or sub-surface archaeology associated with the Prehistoric Roundago that may have survived.

6.2.3 Given the excellent conditions under which site work was completed, this report supports a high degree of confidence that archaeological features or significant deposits would have been recognised and recorded if present.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

6.3.1 No further archaeological work should be required in connection with this development.

6.3.2 Please note this recommendation is subject to approval of Cornwall County Council, archaeological advisors to Penzance LPA.

## 7. ARCHIVE QUANTITIES

7.1.1 The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Record Sheets	3
Photographs	6
Registers	1
Notebooks	(10 Sheets)
Copy of the WSI	1

7.1.2 The archive material is contained within an A4 ring-bound file.

7.1.3 Storage of the archive in a suitable format and location is required in order to provide for any future archaeological research. The archive is currently stored in the offices of Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd., 17 Ensign House, Admirals Way, Canary Wharf.

7.1.4 Following completion of post-excavation the project archive will be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum under the accession number TRUR1: 2012.25. As no artifactual evidence was recovered no agreement from the landowner is required in relation to the deposition of the archive.

7.1.5 AB Heritage under Copyright, Designs and Patents Act will retain the full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site with all rights reserved. The recipient museum (and all other applicable researchers) will be granted licence for educational and research purposes.

## 8. REFERENCES

AB Heritage, 2012. Castallack Farm, nr Penzance. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Ref 10123

British Geological Survey, 1998, 1:50,000 series Sheet No 270: South London

English Heritage 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects. London, English Heritage

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Max Mueller, F. 1871. Chips from a German Workshop: Essays on Literature, Biography and Antiquities. Charles Scribner and Company: New York

Quinnell, H and Thomas, C. 2003. Recent work by Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service. Cornish Archaeology Vol 41 & 42. pp194

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context no.	Type	Fill of:	Filled by:	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	Deposit	-	-	-	-	0.20m	Dark-brown silty clay	Topsoil
101	Deposit	-	-	-	-	0.45m	Mid-brown sandy silt subsoil	Subsoil
103	Deposit	-	-	-	-	0.70m+	Light orange sandy clay	Unmodified natural subsoil

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: abherita1-138193

### PROJECT DETAILS

Project name: Castallack Farm Archaeological Watching Brief

Short description of the project: AB Heritage Limited were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Castallack Farm, nr. Penzance, Cornwall. The proposed development comprised construction of a 5kw Evance R9000 wind turbine and cable installation. No archaeological deposits or features were identified during the watching brief.

Project dates: Start: 30-10-2012 End: 31-10-2012

Previous/future work: No / No

Any associated project reference codes: 10123 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes: TRURI:2012.25 - Museum accession ID

Type of project: Recording project

Site status: None

Monument type: NONE None

Significant Finds: NONE None

Investigation type: "Watching Brief"

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### PROJECT LOCATION

Country: England

Site location: CORNWALL PENWITH  
PENZANCE Castallack Farm

Postcode: TR19 6NL

Study area: 0 Square metres

Site coordinates: SW 4501 2538 50 -5 50 04 22  
N 005 33 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth: Min: 0.70m Max: 0.70m

### PROJECT CREATORS

Name of Organisation: AB Heritage Limited

Project brief originator: Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator: AB Heritage Limited

Project director/manager: AB Heritage Limited

Project supervisor: Rubicon Heritage Limited

Type of sponsor/funding body: Developer

### PROJECT ARCHIVES

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient: Royal Cornwall Museum

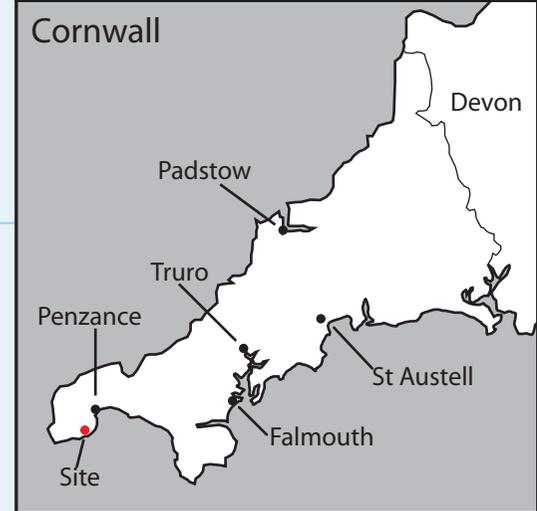
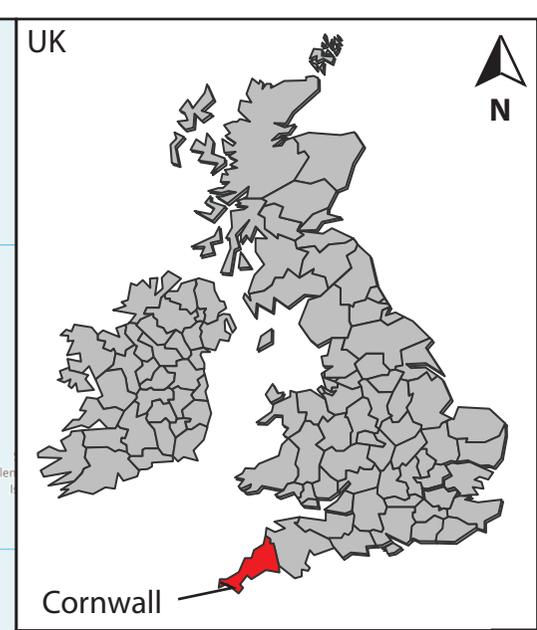
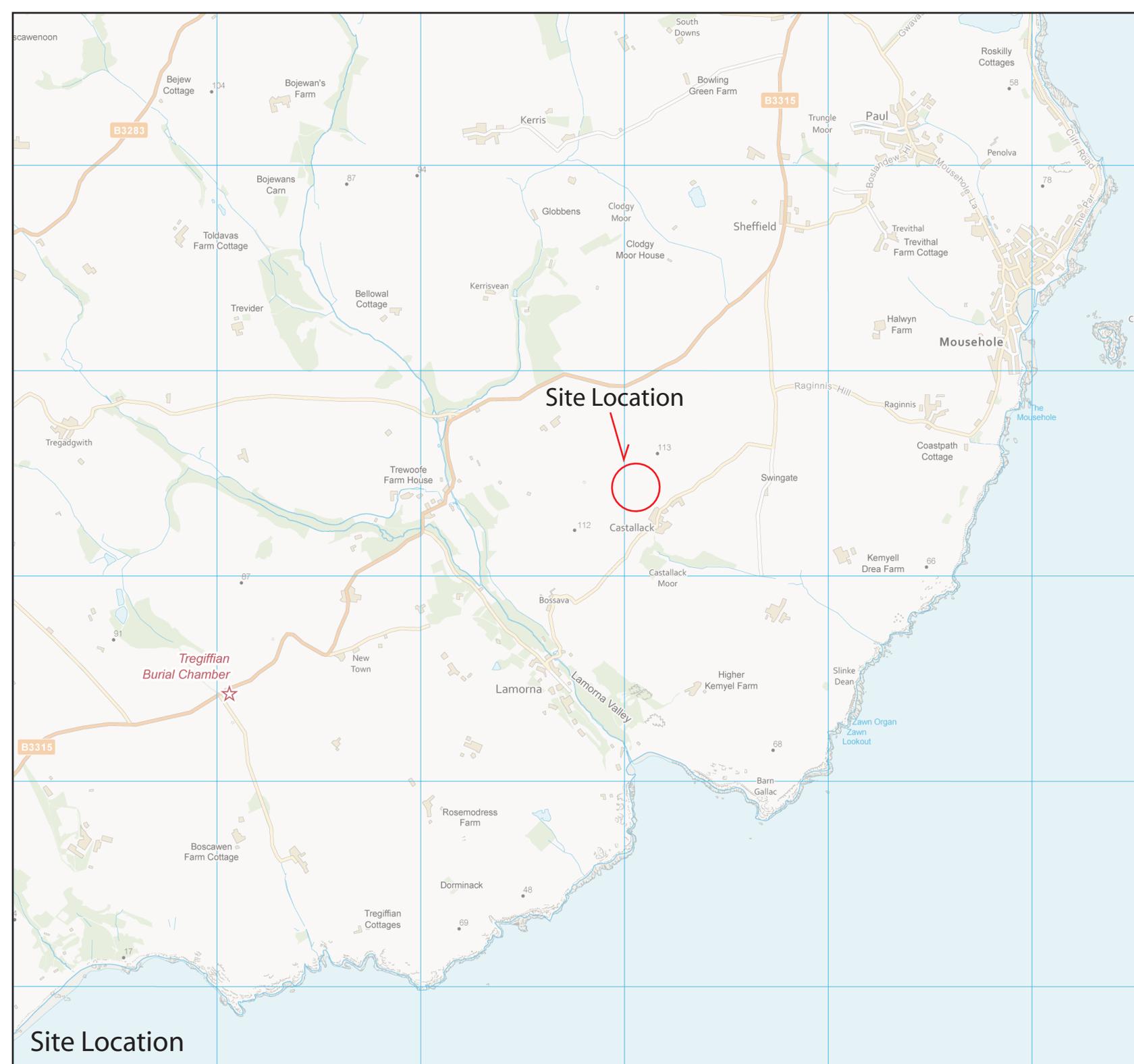
Paper Archive ID: TRURI:2012.25

Paper Media available: "Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Report"

### ENTERED BY

Entered by: Andy Buckley  
(info@abheritage.co.uk)

Entered on: November 2012

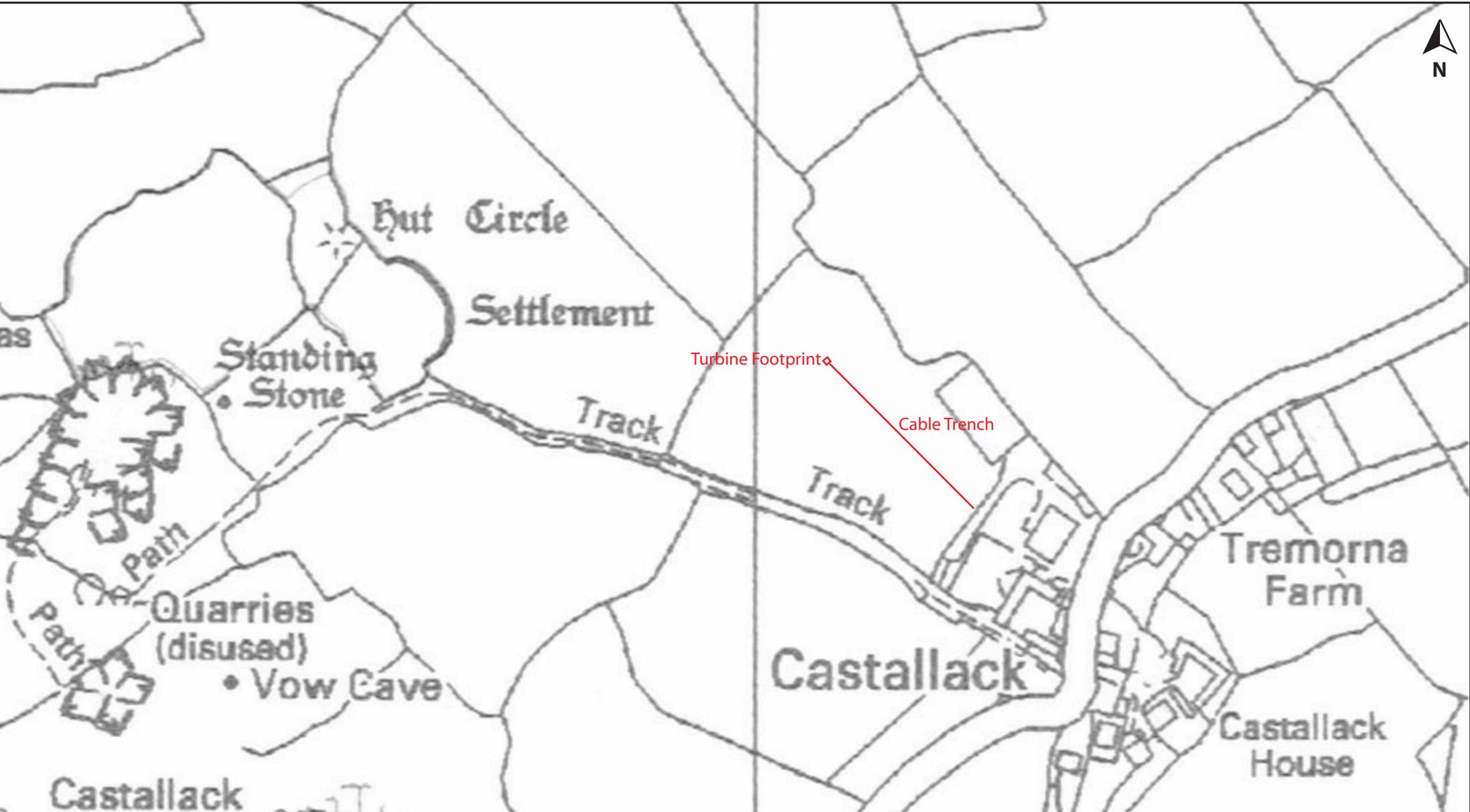


**Figure 1: Site Location Plan**

**Project:** Castallack Wind Turbine Watching Brief  
**Scale:** 1:20,000 **Date:** November 2012  
 Based on Ordnance Survey Opendata Mapping



Site Location



**Figure 2:** Detailed Site Location Plan

**Project:** Castallack Wind Turbine Watching Brief

**Scale:** Not To Scale | **Date:** November 2012

Based on Ordnance Survey Opendata Mapping

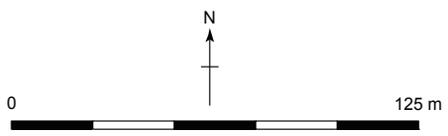




Plate 1 - Footprint of proposed turbine and cable trench



Plate 2 - Footprint of Turbine Trench.



Plate 3 - Representative Section .

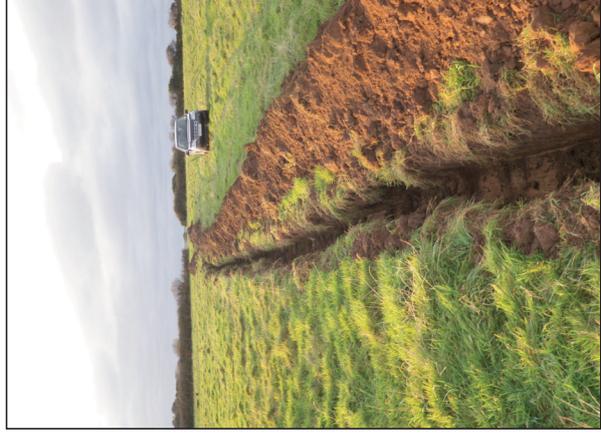


Plate 4 - Total length of cable trench looking North West.



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