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County Cornwall	
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**Plusha
A30 Junction**

An archaeological Assessment

By Anna Lawson Jones

**Cornwall Archaeological Unit
(Cornwall County Council)**

1998

Acknowledgements

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I would like to thank Paddy McCready for assistance in locating the Listed Buildings, Andrew Young for scanning the aerial photographs and Peter Rose of the CAU for his valuable comments and the editing this report.

(Cover illustration ; Looking south-west across Plusha towards Bodmin Moor showing the primary modern day land use).

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Abbreviations used in text

CAU Cornwall Archaeological Unit

CCC Cornwall County Council

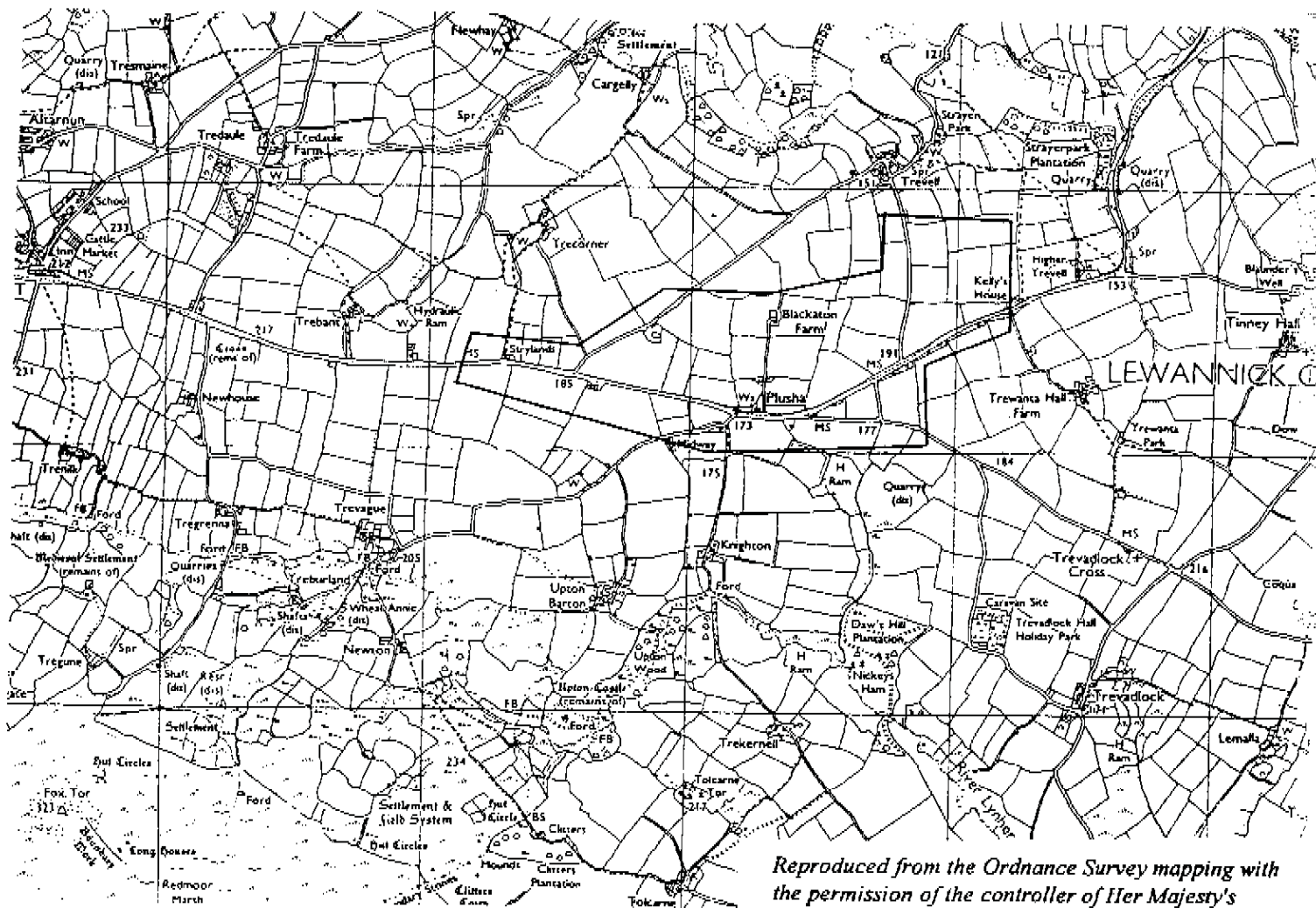
OS Ordnance Survey

PRN Primary Record Number

SMR Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Sites and Monuments Record

1.0 Summary

A desk based study, followed by three days of fieldwork established that the corridor of the proposed A30 / Plusha junction improvements is primarily within Anciently Enclosed Land. The western end of the corridor falls on the periphery of Recently Enclosed Land. There are six Listed Buildings within the assessment area and a further two sites feature within the SMR, in addition a number of new potential sites have been added. Medieval and post medieval sites dominate the site inventory (section 6.0), but prehistoric sites and remains should probably be expected due to its proximity to Bodmin Moor (see location map below). This report recommends the avoidance of some of the sites flagged up and suggests further archaeological evaluation and recording for others.



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Fig. 1. Modern OS map extract, showing the assessment corridor and immediate environs. (SX28)

2.0 Introduction

This section outlines the background to the assessment, and the objectives behind it. It also includes a brief topographical and geological description of the area.

2.1 Background

The CAU was asked by CCC's Transportation and Estates Department to provide an archaeological assessment of the proposed A30 Plusha junction improvements. This report presents the results of the desk based assessment in conjunction with the walk-over which was primarily concerned with the pre topsoil stripping identification of upstanding historical / archaeological remains.

The corridor falls within the two parishes of Lewannick and Altarnun, in eastern Cornwall. The corridor itself is elongated, angular, irregular, and east to west aligned. It has an approximate 2150m length, and an 800m width. It is centred upon Plusha and extends west to just beyond Strylands, east to the western edge of Kelly's House, north to just south of Trevell and to the immediate south of Plusha.

2.2 Objectives

The purpose of this assessment is to identify archaeological remains within the historic landscape to guide design proposals for the junction and outline further stages of archaeological recording.

2.3 Topography, geology and soils.

The western edge of the corridor is within the fringe area of Bodmin Moor, (Countryside Commission, 1996). As the land drops down from the eastern side of Bodmin Moor it becomes more domesticated in appearance and is dissected by narrow, frequently wooded river valleys. The Recently Enclosed Land in this part of the corridor consists of large, rectilinear, regularly shaped fields. The eastern majority of the corridor lies within the North Caradon area - as characterised by the Countryside Commission (Countryside Commission, 1996). This area is primarily composed of remnant Anciently Enclosed Land. Fields are in general slightly smaller and are less regular in shape. Relatively steeply cutting valleys are a natural feature of the area, and there are pockets of woodland, particularly around the earlier settlements. The whole area around the corridor contains small, isolated farming hamlets surrounded by primarily pastoral fields and interlinked with winding lanes which contrast strongly with the broad, fast, sweeping new developments of the A30.

The landscape in this part of Cornwall is varied, occasionally dramatic and frequently beautiful - oscillating as it does between the wildness of Bodmin Moor and the green managed lands skirting it. This landscape is in part a reflection of the underlying geology, its dependent soils and past human intervention. Bodmin Moor itself is situated on a raised, intrusive, granite mass with a surrounding hard metamorphic aureole mixed with softer killas, (Countryside Commission, 1996). The assessment corridor is located within the metamorphosed rock and killas area, and is primarily characterised by rolling, convex hills and incised valleys. The soils are generally acidic but well drained brown earths.

3.0 Methods

The following section briefly details the types and sources of information consulted during this assessment and the methodology employed in the field for the recording of sites and features found.

3.1 Desk study

The first stage of this assessment comprised a desk based study. The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Sites and Monuments Record (housed at the CAU) provided a list of all known sites of historical / archaeological importance within the corridor, and the place name evidence for all site types was also looked at since it can frequently provide a site's date of origin and sometimes function. The Listed Buildings list showed that there are six sites listed within the assessment area while the SMR revealed a further two sites of significance.

Early cartographic sources form an invaluable part of any area assessment. It allows the development of a landscape to be traced back in time. Land clearance and division in the form of boundaries and frequently distinctive field patterns, as well as the emergence of later settlements can be recorded. Similarly the neglect, alteration and shrinkage of past sites and features can be seen. Frequently cartographic sources may represent the only surviving source of information for abandoned and / or lost sites. John Norden's map of 1584, Joel Gascoyne's map 1699, Thomas Martyn's map of 1748, the Ordnance Surveyor's drawings dated to 1805 and 1808, the First Edition OS map of 1805-10, the Tithe map of 1840 and the Apportionments, the 1880 OS map, the 1907 OS map and the 1960's OS map were all looked at. Sections of some of these maps are reproduced in this report.

Aerial photographs of the area were also consulted. These show upstanding remains and surface traces of features when clear of vegetation. Subsurface remains in the form of a variety of crop marks or discolourations in the ploughed soils also form a very valuable source of information. Changes in land use can also be shown and may be of use when accounting for a site's state of preservation, for example, damage caused by ploughing. The aerial photographs looked at for this assessment were JAS / 5288 / 103 - 105(1988), BKS / 9546 / 216 - 218 (1995), and the RAF aerial photographs CPE / 3121 +2, 5012 +3 and 3230 - 3232 (1904). (No new sites were found).

3.2 Walk-over survey

Three days were spent walking over land contained within the assessment corridor. The recording of newly located or suspected archaeological / historical remains involved:

- a) the measured positioning of the site / feature on to a large scale map of the field or fields.
- b) a written description regarding the state, nature and basic dimensions of the site or feature concerned, plus an interpretation as to its type or function.
- c) and the taking of photographic (monochrome and colour) record shots of the site or feature.

the arrangement of fields shown is the result of centuries of development, much of it medieval in date, some of it quite possibly fossilizing older arrangements. Today only parts remain of this earlier landscape character. There are three main factors affecting the historic character of the landscape as seen today:

- * The medieval-derived pattern of settlements, fields and lanes.
- * The influence of the main road, resulting in the establishment of 18th and 19th century roadside settlements and smithies and, most obviously, in the form of the present A30 and associated features.
- * The effect of Trebartha Hall, leading to ornamentalising of the landscape (plantations and lodge).

The assessment corridor lies amidst medieval derived fields, lanes and settlements, collectively termed 'Anciently Enclosed Land'. Surrounding the corridor are the medieval settlements of Trewanta, Trevell, Trecorner, Trebant and Knighton (sites 11-15) and within it Blackaton and perhaps Strylands (sites 6 and 7). Associated with the settlements are networks of tiny lanes which frequently cut down deeply into the surrounding pattern of fields. The basic patterns of fields within this area are typically medieval or earlier in origin. Land within the corridor primarily consists of fields created between the 14th and 17th centuries. The majority continue to have early, substantial, stock proof, sinuous boundaries which even now continue to have material added to them. The majority are notably well maintained, although tight tree and bush trimming is altering their appearance. Originally these systems of fields would have supported hamlets of co-operating families, plus occasional lone farms, (Countryside Commission, 1996). Today, almost without exception the fields are grass planted and pastoral. Blackaton itself may be the result of enclosure and settlement of upland roughground during the medieval period, being on relatively high ground and having an English name, unlike the Cornish-named settlements on lower ground surrounding it. There may still have been some open downland here as late as the 18th century as Martyn's map of 1748 (Fig 3) shows an unenclosed track west of Blackaton; some fields and enclosures here may be 18th or 19th century in origin.

The majority of sites found relate to alterations etc. to medieval and post medieval roads, un-metalled tracks and boundaries of variable size and age (Sites 8,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,26 and 28). The main road has, characteristically, drawn settlements to it in the 18th and 19th centuries: smallholdings and roadside houses such as Strylands, Plusha, Webber Down House and Kelly's House. Also characteristic of a main routeway are the smithies (sites 29 and 30) and the milestones (sites 1-3). Today's A30 instead has a modern garage development (Site 32) associated with its route.

Though located more than 2km south of the corridor, Trebartha Hall appears to have had an impact through the ornamentalising of the land on its approaches with plantations and lodges; these may be seen on the OS 1880 map (Fig 8) and some features survive: the lodge and gateposts (site 4), a signpost (site 23) and some plantations (site 24).

The remaining sites and site types to be looked at include the modern bungalow developments which now scatter the landscape (Site 31), and two probable earthwork sites - Sites (25) and (27), which are both potentially medieval in date.



Fig.5. 2" OS Surveyor's Drawings, dated 1808, showing the northern portion of the assessment corridor.

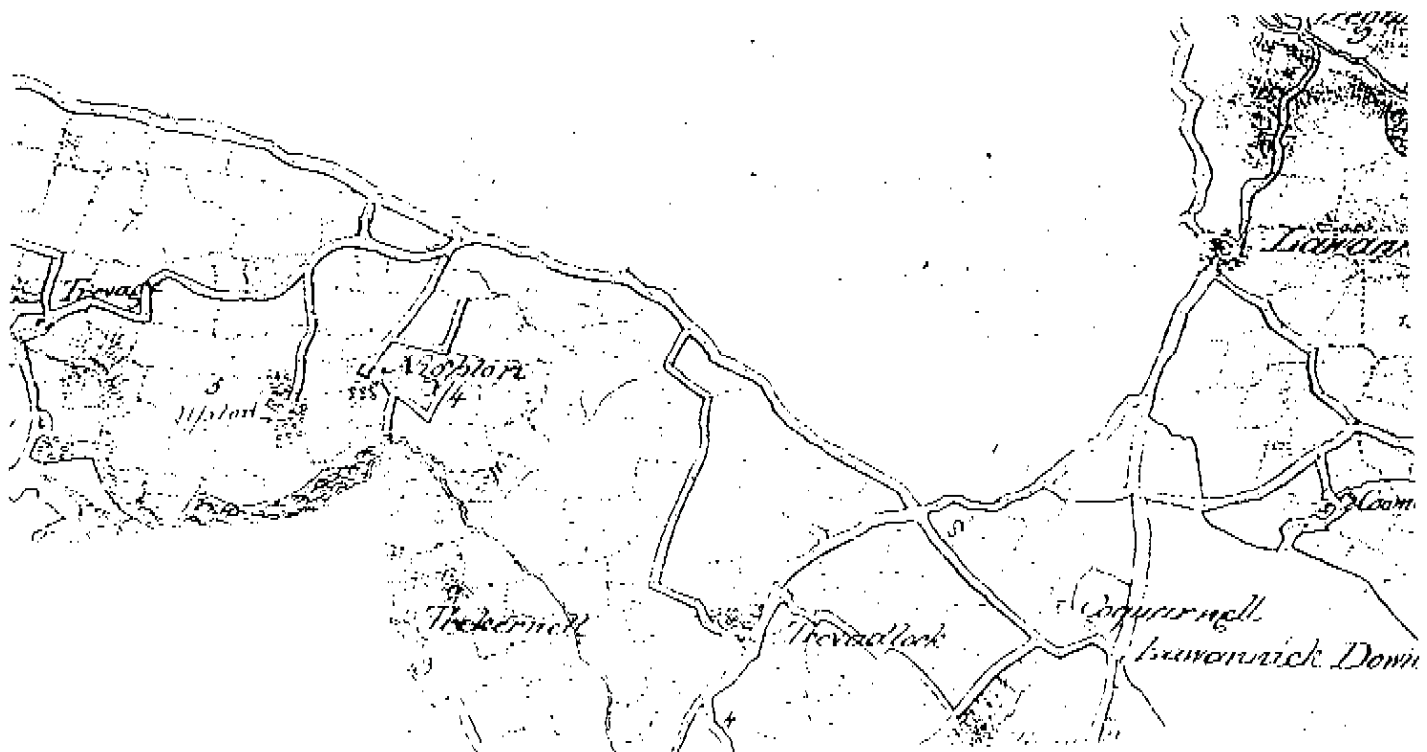


Fig.6. 2" OS Surveyor's Drawings, dated 1805, showing the southern portion of the assessment corridor.

Very little in the way of specifically prehistoric activity was found. The earthwork sites (Sites 25 and 27) are likely to be later. However, the possibility of prehistoric sites, flint scatters, lost field boundaries etc. being found must not be ruled out. They are likely to be uncovered during topsoil stripping associated with the proposed junction improvements. At least some of the current boundaries are likely to have fossilized earlier boundary alignments. This can sometimes be seen during boundary section recording. Buried land surfaces can also occasionally be recognised in section. Sampling of these can provide useful palaeoenvironmental information concerning the past environment; including the effects of human activity and more rarely, dateable or artefactual material.

4.2 Summary of archaeological potential

Historical Designations

- * Scheduled Monuments: none within the corridor.
- * Listed buildings: six within the corridor.
 - three milestones (Sites 1, 2, 3)
 - Trebartha Hall Lodge and gate-piers (Site 4)
 - Kelly's House (Site 5)
 - Meadowside House, Plusha (Site 9).
- * Areas of Great Historic Value (Structure Plan): none.
- * Historic Settlements (Structure Plan): none.

Identified sites

- * Settlements of medieval origin: Blackaton (Site 6), Strylands (Site 7). There are further medieval settlements a little beyond the corridor: Trewanta Hall (Site 11), Trevell (Site 12), Trecorner (Site 13), Trebant (Site 14), Knighton (Site 15). In some cases fields associated with these settlements lie within the corridor.
- * Field boundaries, parish boundaries and removed boundaries (Site 22); parish boundary (Site 8).
- * Roads and trackways: Post medieval road development (Sites 17 and 18), Lost roads (Sites 19 and 20), A30 alterations (Site 21), Probable medieval derived roads (Sites 26 and 28); milestones (Sites 1, 2 and 3).
- * Post-medieval settlements: Kelly's House (Site 5), Plusha (Meadowside House, Site 9), Midway (Site 10), Webber Down House and Smithy (Site 30), the Smithy at Kelly's House (Site 29).

- * Sites associated with Trebartha Hall: lodge and gate piers (Site 4); Trebartha Hall signpost (Site 23); plantations (Site 24).
- * Modern settlements: Dolphin, Petmarian and Trehaven and the first garage / bungalow (Site 31).
- * Additionally there is the recent re-routing of the A30 and the associated development of a large new BP garage (Site 32) located within the assessment corridor.
- * Earthworks (various): Unknown (Site 25), Potential boundaries (Site 27).

Further archaeological potential

Further archaeological remains may be anticipated in this area in addition to those identified in this assessment:

- * Evidence for prehistoric activity may be expected, including scatters of flints and other artefacts, and later prehistoric settlements and field boundaries surviving below ground.



Fig.7. Extract from the 1842 Tithe map showing the assessment corridor.



Fig.8. Extract from the 1880 OS map of Cornwall showing the assessment corridor.

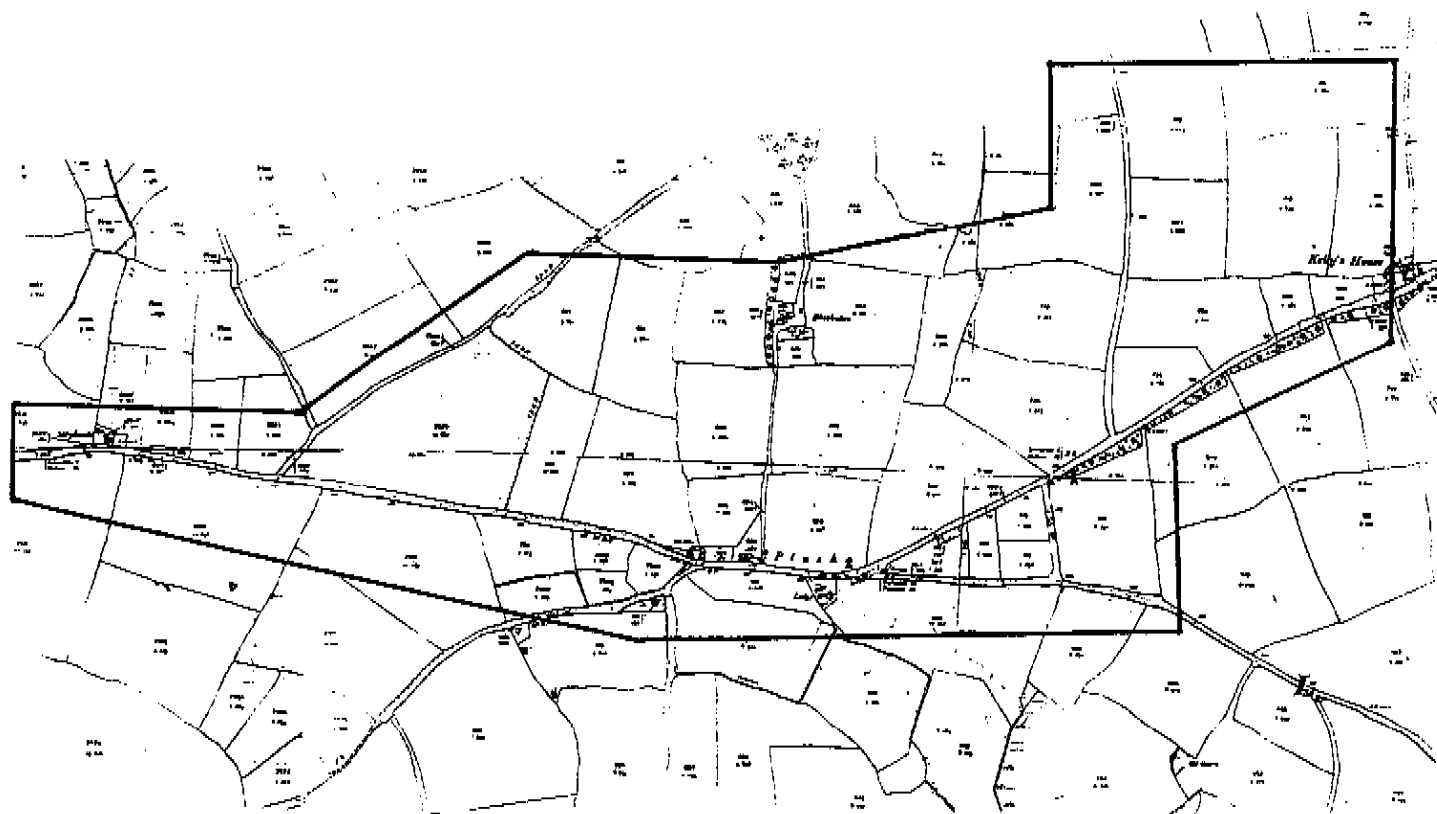
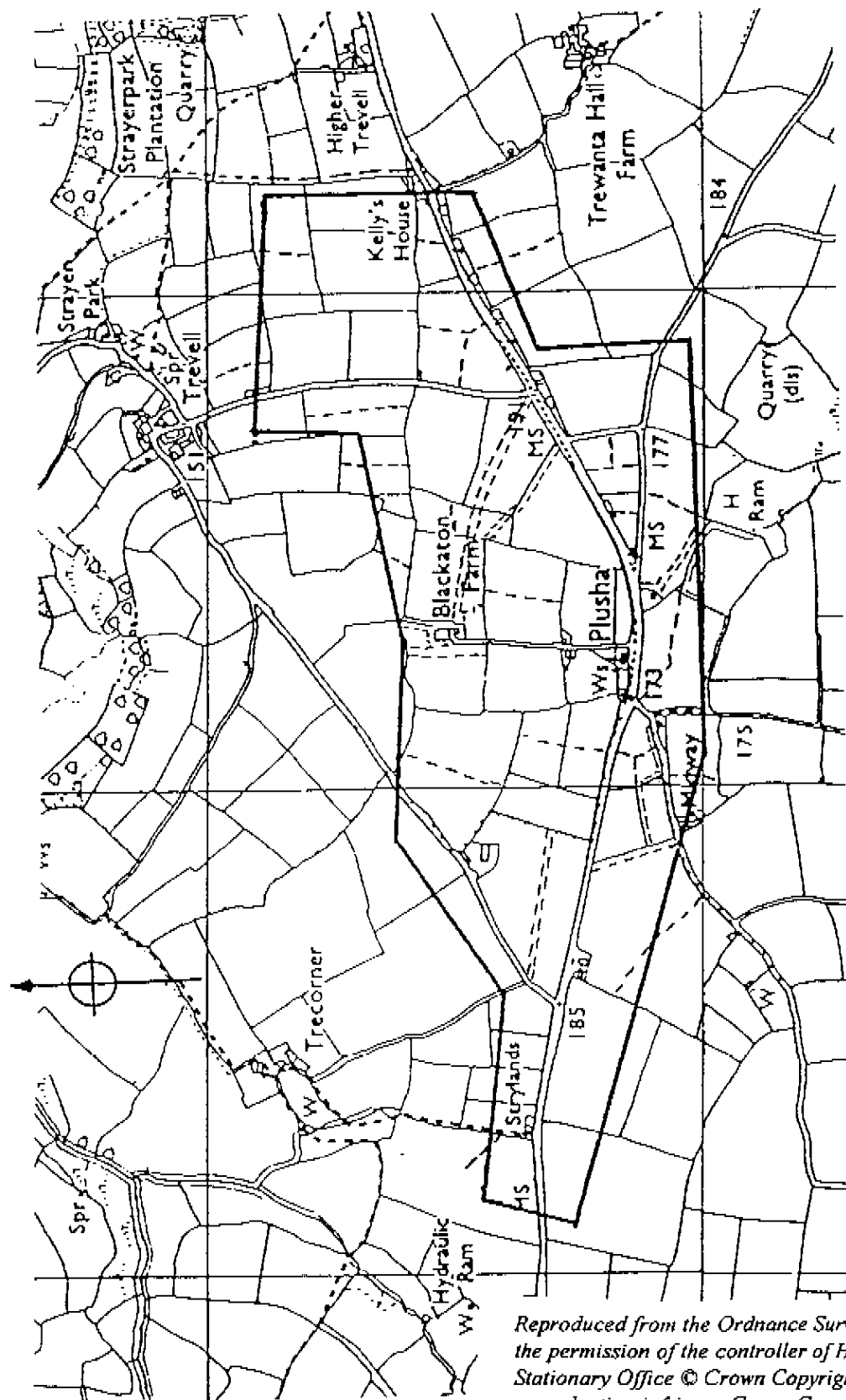


Fig.9. Extract from the 1906 OS map of Cornwall showing the assessment corridor.



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Fig.10. Extract from the 1960s OS map of Cornwall showing the assessment corridor and all known lost boundaries.

5.0 Recommendations

These stages should be followed:

- * Assessment (this report).
- * Integration of the results of the Assessment into the initial road design, to avoid areas of high archaeological potential. Known sites to avoid within the assessment corridor are: Kelly's House, Trebartha Hall lodge and gate piers, Blackaton and vicinity, Strylands and vicinity, and Meadowside (Plusha).
- * Further evaluation: in response to design proposals there should be a programme of evaluation to assess the impact of the proposals and design a programme of archaeological recording. The evaluation may include geophysical survey, trial trenching and documentary research. Transportation and Estates should consult the County Archaeologist for advice on the scope of the evaluation.
- * Archaeological recording: a programme of fieldwork may be necessary according to the results of the evaluation. The requirements and costs of the programme should be established at an early stage and incorporated into the overall project programme.



Fig. 11. Looking west-south-west across Plusha towards Bodmin Moor.

6.0 Inventory of Sites

Site 1

Milestone

SX 2577 8032

Grade 2

A mid 19th century granite post milestone, painted white. Located 500m to east-north-east of Plusha (within Lewannick Parish). It has a cranked top. Upper case inscription:

LAUNCESTON

6

BODMIN

16

Recommendations

If this site is affected the stone should be carefully removed to a safe store and then set up again as near as possible to its original site.



Fig.13. The Plusha milestone (Site 1).

<u>Site 2</u>	Milestone	SX 2547 8013	Grade 2
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A mid 19th century granite post milestone, painted white. Located 200m to the east of Plusha (within Lewannick Parish). It has a cranked top. Upper case inscription:

CALLINGTON
10
PLYMOUTH
23

Recommendations

If this site is affected the stone should be carefully removed to a safe store and then set up again as near as possible to its original site.

<u>Site 3</u>	Milestone	SX 2421 8034	Grade 2
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A probably early to mid 19th century milestone. A painted granite post. Located 80m to the east of Strylands (within Altarnun Parish). It has a pointed top. Upper case inscription:

LAUNCESTON
7
BODMIN
15

Recommendations

If this site is affected the stone should be carefully removed to a safe store and then set up again as near as possible to its original site.

<u>Site 4</u>	Trebartha Hall Lodge and gate-piers	SX 2538 8010	Grade 2
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This site is the northern lodge or gate-house of Trebartha Hall, which is located to the south. Trebartha is first recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 and later became the site of a post medieval country house, which was destroyed soon after 1907. The lodge has two gate piers to the front, and is circa mid to late 19th century in date, (there is also a third one to the immediate west). The slate roof is steeply pitched with crested ridge tiles and pierced wavy barge boards. There is a central axial stack of stone with three diagonally set chimney pots. The lodge has a 'T' shaped plan with entrances through 19th century porches on the left and right hand sides. It is Gothic in style.

Trebartha Hall, are of ashlar stone with moulded triangular granite caps of unusual design (although similar to others used at Trebartha Hall). The 'approach' ran through managed park land (shown on the 1880 OS map) and hugged early curvilinear boundaries. It also crossed the River Lynher. It is shown on the 1880 OS map but not on the preceding Tithe map which shows arable and pastoral fields. Today the 'approach' is no longer visible. Gascoyne's map of 1699 shows *Trebatha* as the 'ancient Seat of the Spurrs' family, also shows other roads and entrances related to the Hall. See also Site 23).

Recommendations

Junction improvement work should be designed to avoid disturbing the lodge or the gate piers since they are under Listed Building protection, while immediately related boundaries if disturbed will require rapid recording.



Fig. 14. Trebartha Hall Lodge and Gate Piers.

Site 5	Terrace of houses at Kelly's House	SX 2621 8055	Grade 2
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This terrace consists of a row of probable mid to late 18th century listed houses which were extended in the mid 19th century. They represent an attractive terrace of houses, located within the parish of Lewannick at the far eastern edge of the assessment area. They are stone built with slate roofs and have a hipped end on the eastern side, returning to a wing at the rear. A higher slate roof with gable ends is located on the west. Each has axial stacks and is two storeys high. The original arrangement is uncertain. As a whole the terrace comprises four houses, all built at different stages. The western house is the latest. Today Kelly's House is divided into three separate dwellings - named from west to east, Kent's Cottage, Kelly's House and Kelly's Barn.

Kelly's House is shown on Martyn's map of 1748, the 1808 Ordnance Surveyors Drawings and on the 1st edition (1805-10) OS map. Both the (named Kellys) OS maps show two structures in a single plot at this point. The Tithe map additionally shows at least one structure to the south (see Smithy Site 29) on the opposite side of the road. The road at this point cuts deeply down into bedrock. As there are no early references to the settlement it probably takes its name from the name of an occupant rather than containing a Cornish place-name element such as *Kellys* ('lost' or 'hidden') or *Kelli* ('grove' or 'wood') (Padel 1985).

Recommendations

This site is situated right at the eastern edge of the corridor, and is protected by Listed Building regulations. It should not be affected by junction improvements. If the immediate vicinity is to be affected in any way then note should be taken of recommendations for Sites 29 and 22.



Fig.15. Kelly's House from the south-east.

Site 6 Blackaton settlement SX 2530 8050 PRN 17609

This small medieval-derived settlement within the parish of Lewannick, is first recorded as 'Blakedon' in 1261, (Gover, 1948) an English place-name referring to a black or dark hill. It is shown on Martyn's map of 1748. The 1808 OS drawings show Blackaton as having three distinct and separate structures, along with a southern entrance lane and an additional eastern track lining up with the then southern entrance of the settlement of Trevell. Changes were made to the roads by the time of the 1840 Tithe Maps. Today, at least one of the earlier buildings still exists in a ruinous form amidst the working farmyard. A number of late post medieval and modern structures have also been inserted in to this area. To its south on the

western side of the old southern entrance to the farm is a nice, but ramshackle stone built, single floored farm building seen during the walk over and shown on the 1880 OS map.

Disproportionately dark coloured soils can often mark the position of past human activity, including burning, middens, and topsoil build up through ploughing etc). During the walk over, the field to the immediate west of the farm was noted as containing quite frequent stone and old roofing slate etc, including some post medieval pottery concentrations. This was probably spread with farm waste and rubbish to manure the fields. Additionally, this field is approximately 1m higher than the now greatly reduced southern field that has been sheered away by the recent A30 road re-routing.

Blackaton is located within the assessment corridor and has seen many alterations since at least 1803 - including some definite shrinkage. It is possible that other alterations occurred prior to this date which may imply that there is some considerable archaeological potential for the vicinity of the farmhouse and perhaps the whole knoll on which it is located.

Recommendations

Traceable alterations, such as shifting and shrinkage etc. would suggest that there may be archaeological remains at risk from top/subsoil disturbance in the area. Any work within the vicinity of Blackaton Farm will require further evaluative work and any topsoil stripping will require an archaeological watching brief.

Site 7 Strylands settlement SX 2430 8030 PRN 17694

A small medieval farming settlement, located within the parish of Altarnun. It is first recorded in 1464 (Gover, 1948). However, it is not shown on Martyn's map nor on the OS 1808 surveyors drawings nor the 1805-10 1st edition OS maps; the single building shown within a field ('Home Park') on the 1840 Tithe map is not necessarily a farmstead. It is possible that the original, medieval settlement had been abandoned but that the name Strylands remained in use for this general area, to be used again when a settlement was re-established in the 19th century. The OS 1880 map shows a farmstead with three buildings.

Today Strylands is located on the northern verge of the busy A30. It is a stone built farm house with two stone built outbuildings to its west. One is a long, single storey animal shed while the other is a taller, large, square built barn. The house itself appears to have had at least two extensions (one of which is fairly early). It appears to have retained its 1880 garden layout.

As regards the fields themselves, entrance ways demarked by the original gateways have gradually cut down quite steeply into the ground surface ie. up to a 40cm maximum depth, while the north-south running boundary located c100m to the east of the house appeared older, showing marked collapse, burrowing and relatively substantial plant growth. It barely reaches 0.8m in height and is more frequently 0.4m high. The map evidence shows that this boundary predates the ones on either side by at least forty years and potentially considerably more. This is also the boundary that shows the deepest cutting entrance way. Some of the fields show a relatively distinct ridge running approximately east to west through them. It is uncertain as to whether these correlate to a removed, curvilinear boundary or are simply a natural contour. A similar raised area was recorded behind Strylands house (to the west)

which again may be a natural knoll and the reason behind the location of Strylands ie. on a slight hillock of better drained land, or it could reflect a possible past building or levelled platform.

Recommendations

It is possible that the medieval settlement of Strylands, which appears to have been abandoned at some stage, was in a different position from the present, 19th century, settlement. This implies that the potential for disturbing buried historical / archaeological remains is substantial. Further evaluation would be appropriate if works are proposed in this general area.



Fig. 16. Strylands from the east.

Site 8

Altarnun / Lewannick Parish boundary

SX 2485 8021

Altarnun is first recorded in 1100, and Lewannick in c. 1125. The parish boundary separating Altarnun from Lewannick follows an angular, approximate north to south alignment to the immediate west of Plusha. It cuts across, and partly follows the roads before following early field boundaries. The parish boundary probably reflects an ancient land division, (many parish boundaries were established before the Norman Conquest).

The boundary itself has a width of 2m-3m at base and an approximate height of 1m-1.5m, while the profile shows a broad near flat top. It was a stone faced earth and stone boundary but over the years has seen some considerable slumping, collapse repair work etc. It has also seen the removal of at least some large trees in the past. Today it has trimmed / maintained bushy vegetation along its length and a wide variety of different plant species in evidence. It is not noticeably any more substantial than a number of other boundaries looked at - particularly in the eastern part of the corridor.

Recommendations

Since this boundary is likely to be breached during the proposed junction improvements it is recommended that at least two sections should be archaeologically recorded. One section should perhaps be recorded along a road (other than the A30) and another section perhaps in the vicinity of eastern Petmarian.

<u>Site 9</u>	Plusha - Meadowside House	SX 253 802	Grade 2
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The dispersed settlement of Plusha is of 19th century origin. The name is Old English and means 'puddle' or 'marshy pool', (Gover, 1948, 163). The 1805 and 1808 OS Surveyors' drawings do not show any structures, but the Tithe map shows a house and garden (un-named but listed as being a part of Blackaton in the Tithe Map Apportionments). This house, now called Meadowside House (at SX2518 8018) is a listed building (Grade 2). (Unlike many post medieval settlements this house still has its orchard). The house is located just to the east of the parish boundary (in Lewannick). During the 1840s it had five associated fields (just within Altarnun parish) which all included the name Plusha within their names. This would imply that the house gave its name to Plusha. Additional houses a little to the east (SX2524 8016) appear for the first time on the OS 1880 map. Today these consist of three houses within a single long, whitewash and grey slate fronted building. Two of the three entrances are located at the front, while the third is on its eastern side. At the front is a sweeping pull-in reminiscent of a slight main road re-alignment. Located to the immediate east, on the eastern side of the old Blackaton Farm entrance is a small concrete block and stone built shed.

Since 1880 all the maps of the area show Plusha as the settlement's name. It does not appear to have started to develop until after the re-arrangement of lands etc. during the period between 1808 and 1842. Prior to this the vicinity consisted of Anciently Enclosed fields which would have been of at least medieval date.

Today Plusha is a rather pretty, scattered settlement, surrounded by pastoral fields and substantial well maintained boundaries. Since the diversion north of the A30, Plusha has reverted to being a relatively 'quiet' rural hamlet.

Recommendations

If the original 'Plusha' Meadowside House or its immediate area is affected by the proposed junction improvements then further recording work will need to be carried out. Selected boundary and road sections will also require recording - see individual sites.

Site 10**Midway****SX 2492 8005**

The place-name Midway is late and English in origin. None of the maps predating the 1880 OS map show any type of settlement in the vicinity. However, the 1880 OS map shows two structures, the larger one probably representing the house while the smaller one represents a farm building. The loss of a road running north from Midway, and the alteration of boundaries in the vicinity means that the remnants of these features are likely to be exposed during topsoil stripping in the area. Today Midway is a working farm combining a mix of original nineteenth century buildings and modern agricultural structures.

Recommendations

There is some potential for the exposure of a lost road / track and field boundary remains in the immediate area of Midway. Since the settlement is just beyond the southern confines of the assessment corridor it should not be affected by junction improvements.

Site 11**Trewanta Hall****SX 2650 8022**

Trewanta is a settlement of medieval origin; first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. Today it is called Trewanta Hall farm. This site is located beyond the eastern edge of the assessment corridor. There are at least some surviving medieval boundary alignments

Recommendations

This medieval site is situated beyond the eastern edge of the corridor, but should it be affected in anyway it would require further evaluation, recording, potentially excavation and certainly a full watching brief.

Site 12**Trevell****SX 2575 8115**

Trevell is a settlement of medieval origin first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Today Trevell is a quiet and secluded settlement. The 1808 map clearly shows that today's main western approach to Trevell is post 1808 in date, while the north-south road pre-dates this. Both lanes cut deeply down into the surrounding fields in places. The main western approach, for example, cuts down into the fields in the vicinity of the parish boundary, while at its eastern end it is slightly raised above the remnant triangular area of field at its junction with the new A30.

Recommendations

Trevell should not be affected by junction improvements since it is located beyond the corridor. If it is affected in any way, further evaluative and recording work would be required, potentially excavation and certainly a watching brief.

Site 13**Trecorner****SX 2440 8088**

Trecorner is first recorded as *Tregornou* in 1262. The 1808 map indicates two or three structures contained within a rectangular enclosure with a southern lane running down to what became the original A30. The boundaries that demark today's lane to Trecorner consists of massive grounders, and large trees have been planted along its length.

Recommendations

Trecorner should not be affected by junction improvement works, since it is well beyond the corridor. Further work will be required should this alter.

Site 14**Trebant****SX 2370 8050**

Trebant is first recorded as *Bant* in 1201, (Gover, 1948).

Recommendations

Trebant is outside the assessment corridor and should not be affected by junction improvements. If it is, further evaluative archaeological work will need to be undertaken.

Site 15**Knighton****SX 2510 7960**

Knighton is positioned to the south of the corridor. It has an English place-name and is first recorded in 1394 when it was known as *Netherton*, (Gover, 1948). The name actually means Lower Farm, while the 'tun' element would suggest an early medieval origin. It is marked on Gascoyne's map of 1699 as *Nervton*, and as Knighton on the 1808 OS surveyors' drawings. The 1808 drawings are not particularly clear as regards number of houses etc. but it is quite clear that some alteration of roads etc. took place between 1808 and the making of the Tithe map.

Recommendations

Knighton is located beyond the edges of the corridor and should not be affected by junction improvements. If it is further evaluation and recording work etc. will be required.

Site 16**Strayer Park****SX 2590 8120**

The 1808 Ordnance Surveyors drawings show a settlement at this location called Stray Park. It consisted at this point of two individual structures within their own plots, on opposing sides of the road. In the Tithe Apportionments it is called *Strayer Parks* and there is a reference to an enclosure or pound for stray animals - indicating a quite different working environment to today. It is located to the north of the assessment corridor.

Recommendations

Strayer Park is located to the north of the assessment corridor and should not therefore be affected. If it is a watching brief will need to be carried out during the topsoil stripping and further evaluative work would be required.

Site 17 **Road development to the south of Kelly's House.** **SX 2620 8052**

The development / extension of a road running from Trewanta Hall northwards towards Kelly's House can be seen on the maps. The 1805-10 1st edition OS map does not show this road / track at all, nor does the 1808 Surveyors Drawings. By 1842 the Tithe map shows the piece-meal development of a route running along field boundaries to within a couple of fields south of Kelly's House. By 1880 this road links up with the southern side of Kelly's House. It continues to exist and has since been up-graded.

Recommendations

Only the northern end exists within the assessment area. If affected, the character of the road make-up could be recorded.

Site 18 **Lost track - to the north of Kelly's House.** **SX 2624 8058**

The 1880 OS map shows a track running north from Kelly's House. Prior to this the Tithe map shows disjointed segments of field tracks following field boundaries. The 1907 OS map shows the track to have been down-graded again. (It may well never have been metalled). Its course, marks the eastern extent of the assessment area. It no longer exists.

Recommendations

Only the southern portion of this site is located within the assessment area. If affected, a brief record of its character could be made.

Site 19 **Lost road - to the west of Plusha.** **SX 2490 8008 - 2484 8022**

Martyn's map of 1748 shows a short stretch of road linking the two main roads running west from Plusha, (as it is today). It is also clearly shown on the OS 1805-10 1st edition maps, but is missing on the 1842 Tithe map. The field boundaries along which it ran still survive. (Midway is located at what was its southern end) Today there is no sign of this track or road.

Recommendations

The entire length of this site is located within the assessment area. If affected, a brief record of its character should be made.

Site 20 **Lost track - running east from Blackaton Farm**

SX 2530 8043 - 2580 8030 (approx.)

The 1st edition OS map of 1805-10 shows a road (or track) running east from Blackaton Farm. It connected up with what later became the A30, at its junction with the Trevell turning. This track is not shown on Martyn's preceding map of 1748, nor is it shown on the subsequent 1842 Tithe map. The 1808 Surveyors Drawings, the 1805-10 First Edition OS map and the 1880 OS map all show a track or lane following the field boundaries eastwards, away from Blackaton Farm. It would never have represented more than a secondary entrance or exit to the farm. The main entrance to Blackaton farm ran due south and continued to do so until the

recent re-routing of the A30 which forced Blackaton to have a new eastern approach (located slightly to the south of the original one). No sign of this earlier track entrance was seen during the walk over.

Recommendations

If the route of the original track is to be affected, then a section through it could be used to record its character since it is a potentially early track linking Blackaton to Trevell.

Site 21

The old A30 (and road alterations).

SX 2548 8015 - 2572 8025

The old A30 originally ran through Plusha and past Kelly's House, etc. It was very much smaller than today's northern equivalent, and can be traced back in map form to at least 1748. At some point between the making of the 1st edition OS map and the 1842 Tithe map the stretch of main road, to the immediate east of Plusha, was straightened. Prior to this it had made two right angled turns, (following the field boundaries), before continuing on to Kelly's House. This earlier 19th century improvement to the course of the then main road created a triangle of land caught between roads. Located within this triangle of land is the later post medieval Webber Down House. A number of now lost, post-medieval field boundaries can also be traced within this triangle, see the 1880 OS map extract.

The triangle of land is markedly lower than the 'new' 19th century road. There is at least a 1m difference in height. It may be that the original course of the road deliberately avoided this slightly lower area and that subsequent re-routing demanded a building up of the area. It was noted that to the west this same 1m build up of the road in comparison to the fields to the south occurs. This would suggest a more generalised re-newal or improvement along the length of the main road through Plusha.

Recommendations

Much of the central and eastern portion of the assessment corridor contains the original route of the A30. Since it is bound to be affected at some point during the proposed junction improvements it is recommended that sections through the road be drawn to record its changing character. One of these should perhaps be through the 'new' portion (to the immediate north of Webber Down House), and another should be through an 'un-altered' section ie. further east towards Kelly's House. Around Kelly's House the road becomes a sunken way - cutting deeply into the surrounding bedrock etc. It has been further exaggerated by construction work on the opposite side of the road (see Site 29).

Site 22

Field Boundaries

Various locations

The general character and pattern of boundaries found within the assessment area has changed very little since drawing up of the Tithe Maps in the 1840s. The majority of boundaries fall within an area defined by the Cornwall Landscape Assessment (1994) as Anciently Enclosed Land. Anciently Enclosed Land dates to the Medieval period or earlier and is characterised by frequently fairly massive, somewhat irregular boundaries associated with medieval settlements and early lanes and roads. The western periphery of the assessment area just falls within that characterised (1994) as Recently Enclosed Land. This is characterised by straighter, squarer

boundary divisions, which like the Anciently Enclosed Land, forms a very distinctive field pattern, and usually results from the intake of heathland or downland.

Boundaries within the Anciently Enclosed Landscape include the parish boundary, a series of similarly aligned north to south running boundaries forming the majority of the fields within the Anciently Enclosed Landscape, and a massive east to west aligned boundary running from Kelly's House to just north of Blackaton (and on towards Trecomer). The parish boundary has a 2m to 3m width and an average 2m height along much of its length. Massive stone grounders were recorded at various points. Grounders are large natural unshaped boulders which form the basal part of a boundary and may well have helped define the boundary course, (either through being too large to move or through being too large to break or split conveniently). Where visible it is a stone faced earth and stone cored boundary with closely trimmed, frequently bushy vegetation and numerous flowering species including various bulbs, primroses, ferns, foxgloves etc. The major east to west boundary mentioned above, probably represents the medieval division between lands belonging to Blackaton and Trevell. Today it has a 2m plus width, a 1.8m height and (where visible beneath the bushy, varied vegetation, slumping and later build-up) is a stone faced earth and stone boundary overlying occasional massive grounders. The associated field boundaries are of a similar form, although often not quite so massive. Typically they measure 1.6m to 2m wide and 1.4m to 1.9m high.

Within the Anciently Enclosed Landscape a number of boundaries can be seen to have been removed since the 1840s. This has primarily had the effect of enlarging field size, for example around Plusha itself. In some cases the removal of boundaries has left kinks in the remaining boundary, for example in the boundary to the immediate south and west of Kelly's House. The reverse can be seen in the vicinity of Strylands, where very large fields have had later subdivisions incorporated (since the 1840s). These previously large fields almost certainly represent remnant medieval open fields. Perhaps surprisingly no obvious differences could be seen during the walk over between the earlier and the later boundaries around Strylands.

Boundaries representing either frontages or approaches to wealthier settlements ie. Trecomer in the north west of the area and Trebartha Hall to the south of the assessment area add another 'type' of boundary to those already summarised. Characteristics of this boundary type include regularly or decoratively laid stonework and the planting of trees along the boundary alignments - either in the form of mini-plantations or as regularly spaced individual trees.

Recommendations

The following boundaries in particular are considered to warrant individual section recording should they be affected by junction improvements.

- * The boundary which runs west from the immediate north of Kelly's House to just north of Blackaton farm.
- * The parish boundary (at a point where it has not been interfered with through recent A30 improvements), perhaps where it runs north-east to south-west along the main western approach to Trevell.
- * One of the field boundaries associated with Site 24.

- * The boundaries defining the medieval trackway running north to Trevell through the assessment area - at a point where it has not been affected by recent A30 improvements, (see site no. 28).
- * One of the boundaries on the road that runs south towards Knighton. (see Site no. 26).
- * The potential strip field banks located to the north and east of Blackaton Farm (Site 27).

Site 23 Trebartha Hall Sign post SX 2572 8028

There is a stone marker located at the northern end of the north-south lane (in the east of Plusha) linking the old A30 to the Callington road with 'Trebartha Hall' engraved onto it. This marker is identical in size, shape, stone type and script to the milestones marked as Listed Buildings at the start of this section and may well have been erected at the same time ie. the early to mid nineteenth century.

Recommendations

Assuming that this marker is still located within its original location, it is preferable that it should not be removed, since it relates to a medieval house which has long since been dismantled (see Site 4).

Site 24 Plantations (South west of Kelly's House) SX 2572 8027 / 2620 8055

To the west-south-west of Kelly's House, on the opposite side of the road and hugging the southern edge of the road is a series of four or five narrow plantations. All are defined by neglected and decaying field boundaries. They first appear on the OS 1880 map, on which they are shown as wooded, and this pattern continues today. The plantation nearest to Kelly's House was scattered with large fallen tree trunks and tree holes, while the next two to the west have variably aged coniferous trees.

These plantations represent deliberate landscaping , providing shelter for livestock (and users of the old main road) and forming small scale timber reserves, but most importantly presenting a 'park-like, moneyed' appearance to the periphery of lands owned and run by a large, local and presumably influential house - such as Trebartha Hall. (The Trebartha Hall sign post is actually located on the western edge of these divisions).

The banks or boundaries themselves have basically very similar dimensions and appearances. They are up to 1.3m wide maximum at base and have a maximum height of 0.6m - although large sections are rapidly collapsing due to the effects of livestock looking for shelter. Root damage and past animal burrowing has contributed towards this collapse. The main constituent of each of these banks is a sticky loamy clay. The stone element appears fairly minimal and frequently is of quartz.



Fig.17. Plantations and boundaries (Site 24).

Recommendations

The plantations form a visually prominent feature which is a significant survival of the designed landscape associated with Trebartha. The plantations should be avoided.

Site 25 Potential earthworks (South-east of Plusha) SX 2575 8010

One of the most south easterly fields within the assessment corridor was recorded as having a number of lumpy anomalies of unclear form or origin. None have sharp edges or rises, and all have presumably been at least partially softened by ploughing in the past - at the time of survey the field was under pasture. The maximum height of earthworks did not appear to exceed 0.5m. The majority are actually located beyond the southern limits of the assessment corridor. It is considered possible that they relate to some form of extractive, industrial (?) activity - perhaps quarrying (there are quarries further to the east etc.), or mining. They gave the preliminary impression of being oval excavations with occasional, associated, ephemeral dumps. An alternative explanation might be that they represent very much earlier activity - perhaps of prehistoric date (?) However, this is felt to be a dubious explanation, since it is highly unlikely that this particular field could have avoided prolonged ploughing and thus allowed for the preservation of what would have to have been relatively massive features.

Recommendations

Further evaluation of the area may be necessary if it is affected, including ground survey and geophysical survey.

Site 26 Northern road to Knighton SX 2514 8008

This little used, un-metalled track represents the main road into Knighton. Today a further road runs south from Knighton, across a ford on the River Lynher and on south towards Trekernell etc. It is not shown as extending beyond the river on the 1805-10 First Edition OS map or on the 1808 Surveyors Drawings - implying that either the river was navigable (?), or that the river formed a late natural boundary. The track as it is today is located within a long but broad stretch of land, with the result that the track is bordered by wide grassy verges which themselves are defined by large, wide, stable, tree lined stone faced earthen banks. Only the northern end lies within the assessment corridor.

Recommendations

No specific recommendations.

Site 27 Earthworks (North-eastern Blackaton) SX 2540 8065

It was noticed while carrying out the field work, that to the south east of Blackaton Farm two (and perhaps more) north-east to south-west aligned earthworks were visible - on the northern edge of the brow of the hill. At Least one of these would appear to represent a now lost boundary. It consisted of two parallel running sunken lengths and an intervening 2-3m space. The sunken areas did not exceed 5-10cm in depth, and were only visible due to the excellent light and low position of the sun in the sky. A boundary cannot be found to correspond with this alignment on the maps consulted.

There were additionally some two or three single ridge-like alignments - possibly remnant strip field bank boundaries (?), possibly dating to the later medieval period. Only the far southern ends of these features fall within the assessment corridor. Alternatively they could perhaps represent deep mole ploughing.

Recommendations

It is recommended that a ground survey and watching brief is carried out in this area if it is to be affected.

Site 28 Southern Trevell road SX 2585 8085

At the far north of the corridor is the old north-south road to Trevell. A good proportion of this has seen recent alteration in relation to the new A30. However, the northern most section closest to Dolphin (a modern bungalow settlement) is much as it was. While carrying out the fieldwork it was recorded that this tiny lane cuts down deeply into the surrounding fields. The fields to the west are at least 1m higher. The fields to the east show a slight drop in height as compared to the road.

The boundaries demarking this road (with the exception of the recently re-built portions) are fairly massive in size in excess of 2m wide at base. They are probably medieval in date, and are shown on the 1808 OS map.

Recommendations

If any part of the unaltered portion of this road is affected by junction improvements then a recorded section through both the sunken road plus the boundaries and differential field heights on either side is recommended.

Site 29

The Smithy - Kelly's House.

SX 2625 8057

To the immediate south of the terrace of houses at Kelly's House (on the opposite side of the road), is a now ruinous stone built structure, depicted on the 1880 and the 1906 OS maps as a Smithy. The site appears to have been present during the 1840s - the Tithe map shows at least one and possibly two structures opposite Kelly's House). Today only the shell remains of this structure. The roof and all timber fittings have gone.

Located a few metres to the east of the 'Smithy' building an area of build-up or platforming, reminiscent of a demolished structure was noted. This would almost certainly relate to the second structure hinted at on the Tithe map of 1842. The remains are not particularly obvious until one climbs up from the road.



Fig. 18. Kelly's House Smithy, from the west (Site 29).

Recommendations

If either the Smithy or the second, eastern structure are to be affected by proposed junction works then further recording work would need to be carried out and both buildings would require a watching brief during earth moving activity.

Site 30 Webber Down House and near by Smithy SX 2546 8015

Webber Down House was constructed sometime between 1842 and 1880 in the triangle of land created during straightening work on the old A30. In the south eastern corner of its garden are the remains of an exterior, ramshackle stone and slate loo - representing an original nineteenth century feature of this house. Located to the west, in the apex of the triangle is a small rectangular, granite built structure which is shown on the 1880 and the 1906 OS maps as a Smithy. Today it seems to be used as a fodder store and tack room.

Recommendations

Recording, in the form of notes and a photographic record would need to be carried out if either structure were to be affected.



Fig. 19. Webber Down House with the Smithy in the foreground.

Site 31**Modern settlements****SX 2580 8090, 2590 8050 and 2529 8028**

Dolphin, Petmarian, Trehaven and the 'old' garage / bungalow / cafe establishment are all post 1960 built bungalow sites (etc.). The 'old' garage and its associated bungalow and cafe are relatively obtrusive but have now been swamped by the much larger BP garage development (Site 32).

Recommendations

A photographic record would need to be made of these settlements should they be affected by junction improvement work, in addition to a plan of post OS mapped structures related to these sites.

Site 32**BP garage (and modern A30 route)****SX 2465 8030**

The current BP garage, located at the western junction of the old Plusha A30 to the current A30, only postdates the original garage by some 30 years. The older garage, bungalow and cafe (Site 31) are now only accessible by following the old A30 to its far western extent. The new BP garage has been constructed within a previously unoccupied field. At its northern end it has seen some considerable building up - due to the underground fuel stores.

The current, post 1960s dual carriageway A30 road, (as mentioned elsewhere in this report), sweeps through the centre of the assessment corridor. It has brought about a number of alterations to small and frequently fairly early tracks and roads; either through necessitating their raising or sinking to feed into or pass under the current A30, or to actually alter or re-route them.

Recommendations

None. It is unlikely that either the A30 or the BP garage will be substantially affected by junction improvements. In the case of smaller roads feeding on to the A30, the individual sites should be referred to.

Site 33**Recent soil storage field****SX 2492 8040**

Located to the east-south-east of Petmarian is a triangular fragment of field formed by the re-routing of the A30. It has been used to store tonnes of excess topsoil and subsoil amassed during these improvements. On the northern side it has a depth of at least 2.5m while to the south it is well in excess of this. The parish boundary itself has not been affected in any way. Today this soil dump has been grassed over and is used as pastoral land. The stored soil did not extend right up to the parish boundary in the west, and as a result it was possible to record a 1m drop in field height to the west as compared to the east.

Recommendations

If this field is to be affected during the proposed junction improvements the underlying buried ground surface will need to be looked at archaeologically since this could not be done during the walk-over.

7.0 Archive

The project number is 1997040

The colour slides from the walk over are stored as GCS: 22582 - 22621

The monochrome photographs are stored as GBP:755/12-22

Field drawings are stored as GRE: 273/2

Other illustrations are stored within the archive box.

This report has been stored under file name:

G:\DOCUMENT\SITES.M-P\PLUSHA.SAM

8.0 Appendix : Field names recorded on the Tithe map and Apportions.

<u>Field no.</u>	<u>Field name.</u>	<u>Land use.</u>	(In Alternun parish).
264	Higher Queen Park	(arable and coarse pasture)	
265	Lower Queen Park	" "	
266	Down	(Fir Plantation)	
298	Home Park	(arable)	
300	Great Park	(arable and coarse pasture)	
374	Tom's Park	(arable)	
1803	Plusher	(arable occasionally)	
1804	North West Plusher	" "	
1805	Middle North Plusher	" "	
1806	Middle South Plusher	" "	
1807	Corner South Plusher	" "	
1818	Great Borough Park	(arable)	
1822	Corner Borough	(arable and coarse pasture)	
1823	Great Meadow	" "	

<u>Field no.</u>	<u>Field name.</u>	<u>Land use.</u>	(In Lewannick parish).
382	Higher Down	(arable)	
383	Five Acres	"	
384	Five Acres	"	
385	Outer Lower Down	"	
386	Homer Lower Down	"	
387	Lane Park	"	
390	GardenHouse	(garden and house)	
393	Undertown	(arable)	
394	West Town	"	
396	Well Field	"	
397	Middle Down	"	
402	Outer East Park	"	

<u>Field no.</u>	<u>Field name.</u>	<u>Land use.</u>
403	Homer East Park	(arable)
404	Church Park	"
405	Yard and House	-----
406	Meadow	(pasture)
407	Mowhay	(mowhay)
408	Garden	(garden)
409	Meadow	(pasture)
410	Homer South Park	(arable)
411	Lower south park	"
412	Outer south park	"
413	-----	-----
414	Strip	(arable)
415	Higher Trevell Down	(arable occasionally)
417	Homer Higher Broad Park	(arable)
418	Higher Broad Park	"
419	Higher Middle Broad Park	"
420	Outer Broad Park	"
423	Great Broad Park	(arable occasionally)
433	Lower Canna Park	"
436	Higher Down	(arable)
437	Lower Down	"
438	Gratton	"
439	Higher Meadow	(arable occasionally)
440	Great Close	(arable)
441	West Five Acres	"
448	East Five Acres	"
450	Lower Meadow	(meadow / pasture)
451	Orchard	(orchard)
452	House, yard and garden	(garden etc.)
723	House and orchard	(orchard)
726	Brake	(arable and furze)
727	Little Down	(arable)
728	Homer Down	"
729	Middle Down	"
730	Outer Down	"
731	Lower Gratton	"
777	Pinends Marsh	(pasture)
778	-----	-----
779	Outer Down	(arable)
783	Homer Down	"
784	Long Meadow	"
785	Great Meadow	(meadow)
789	Homer Croft Park	(arable)
790	Outer Croft Park	(plantation)

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