



Gorran Haven Multi-use Trail, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief



Historic Environment Projects

Gorran Haven Multi-use Trail, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Historic Environment Projects and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Cover illustration

Section through Boundary B2 showing the large boulder incorporated into it.

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Abbreviations

CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage
HBSMR	Historic Buildings, Sites, and Monuments Record
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

1 Summary

In March and April 2012 Historic Environment Projects undertook a watching brief along the route of the Gorran Haven Multi-Use Trail. The route of the trail starts just to the south-west of the school at SW 99805 41831 and runs broadly south-eastwards, following field boundaries within agricultural land, and terminates at SX 00514 41774.

The majority of the scheme did not involve penetration of the ground surface to depths at which archaeological features were revealed, but where this did occur the project identified a number of cut features, the majority of which were field divisions of Medieval and post Medieval date.

Finds from the project were limited, but an artefact of interest was recovered from one of the field divisions: an inscribed slate bearing the traces of at least four arcs of circles, two of which are lightly incised, and two slightly deeper. The slate had been reused as roofing material, probably in the late Medieval or early post Medieval period, and the earlier markings probably date to the Medieval period.

Sections of three field boundaries were recorded where the scheme required their breaching. Evidence of earlier phases of hedge building and buried soils beneath them were identified in some of the boundaries. One boundary had been aligned so as to incorporate a massive earthfast boulder.

Beyond the footprint of the scheme two stone monoliths were identified in addition to one already recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly HBSMR. It wasn't possible to determine whether these were prehistoric standing stones or post medieval livestock rubbing stones but the evidence seems to point towards the former.

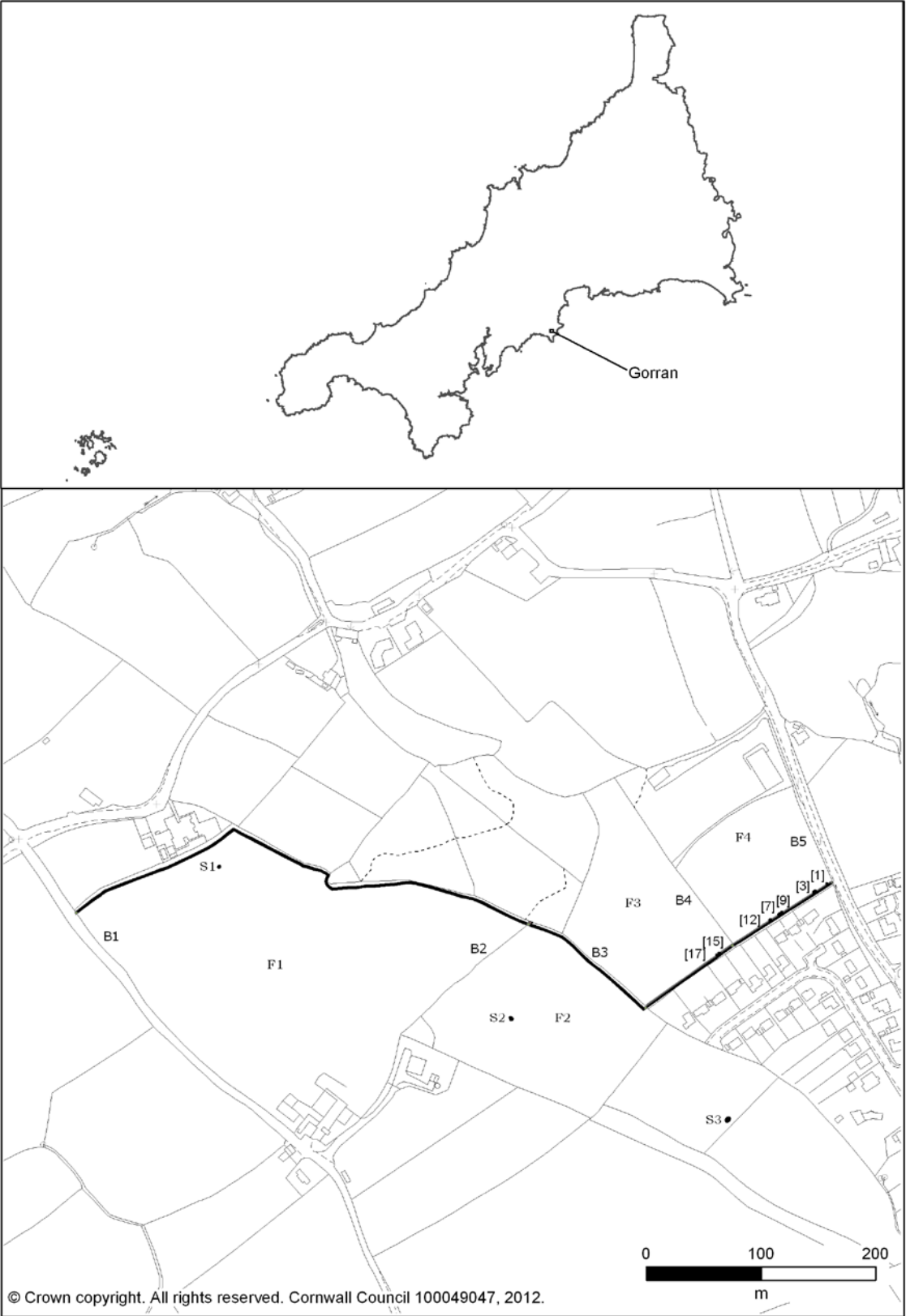


Fig 1 Location map showing the project location (above) and the route of the scheme, sites ([1]-[17]), field boundaries (B1-B5), and stone monoliths (S1-S3) (below).

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

The project relates to the creation of a multi-use (walking, cycling, and horse riding) trail linking Gorran County Primary School to Gorran Haven (Fig 1). The route of the trail starts just to the south-west of the school at SW 99805 41831 and runs broadly south eastwards, following field boundaries within agricultural land, and terminates at SX 00514 41774. The project is part-funded by the school, Cornwall Council, Gorran Parish Council, and Sustrans.

The project involved the removal of topsoil to an approximate maximum depth of 0.1m along the length of the scheme, the excavation of a ditch to a depth of 0.4m alongside the trail in the easternmost field of the scheme, and the breaching or widening of gaps through four Cornish hedges. A stockproof fence, to be constructed along the edge of the route, also had the potential to damage sub-surface archaeological features.

2.2 Aims

The principal aim of the study was to gain a better understanding of the historic environment through which the trail is to run in order to meet the requirements set out in Planning Policy Statement 5 (Department of Communities and Local Government, 2010, policies HE6, HE7, HE8 and HE12).

The specific aims of the watching brief were to:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the areas to be disturbed
- 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 Gorran Haven from any archaeological remains encountered.

2.3 Methods

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

2.3.1 Desk-based assessment

A brief desk-based assessment was carried out to inform the fieldwork stage. This comprised the study of:

- Historic maps, including
 - Joel Gascoyne's map of Cornwall (1699)
 - Thomas Martyn's map of Cornwall (1748),
 - OS 1 inch survey (c1810)
 - St Gorran Tithe map (1842),
 - 1st and 2nd Editions of the Ordnance Survey 25 inch maps (c1880 and c1907)
- Modern maps

- GIS data curated by Cornwall Council and by Historic Environment Cornwall Council

2.3.2 Fieldwork

The site archaeologist was present during the groundworks associated with the development. During archaeological recording the archaeologist identified and recorded any archaeological features that were revealed in exposed areas; the level of recording was appropriate to the character/importance of the archaeological remains. The project passed through four fields (numbered F1 to F4 from west to east), cut through five field boundaries (numbered B1 to B5 from west to east, the route through B4 used a pre-existing gap), and recorded nineteen distinct archaeological contexts in addition to thirteen contexts from three field boundary sections (the fourth being unavailable for recording at the time of the archaeologist's visit).

2.3.3 Post-fieldwork

The results from the fieldwork have been collated as an archive in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006) upon completion of the project.

3 Location and setting

The project is on land recorded by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record as being 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (AEL), sub-category Farmland Medieval, the fields through which the trail passes being derived from fossilised Medieval strip fields. However, a quartz standing stone of probable Bronze Age date (MCO7409) survives at SW 99952 41850 just to the south of the proposed trail route, possibly raising the potential for the sub-surface survival of archaeological remains of prehistoric date along the trail route. These could be associated with ceremonial, settlement, or agricultural activities.

The Cornwall Landscape Assessment (Cornwall County Council 1994) describes AEL as follows:

Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Much important archaeological material will survive below the surface, including the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British settlements and fields of the farmers who originally cleared this zone. (142)

Potential for historical and archaeological research

Considerable. Each farming settlement will contain a wealth of historical, architectural and archaeological information. Surveys of field systems yield considerable agricultural, social, and tenurial information. Buried archaeological features can be expected virtually anywhere in this zone. (143)

The project lies on a southeast-facing slope, falling from just above 100m OD at the western end of the scheme to 75m OD to the east. The underlying geology is of the Devonian Roseland Breccia formation, which incorporates massive Ordovician quartzite boulders (Bristow 1996, 59). This gives rise to poorly drained stagnogley soils. Springs in the eastern corner of F1, the northern edge of F2, and the north western corner of F4 have created boggy conditions in these areas. In F3 and F4 these have been ameliorated by the construction of large drains and ditches (possibly dating to the 1980s) alongside the field boundaries, these feeding into a large culvert running alongside the southern edge of these fields. The boggy area in F2 has recently (during the works) been bisected by a large ditch intended to improve the drainage in this field.

4 Designations

No designations of an historical nature apply to the project area.

5 Site history

5.1 Prehistoric and Roman

The northernmost field (F1) crossed by the trail contains a stone orthostat recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly HBSMR as a standing stone of prehistoric origin (MCO7409; Fig 2). Such stones are generally held to be of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date but may have been erected at any date as ritual or agricultural (livestock rubbing post) features. The chronology of such features, particularly in the agriculturally improved lowlands of Cornwall, is poorly understood and the distinction between monuments of this type dating to different periods and having different functions is not often easy to discern. In the course of the project two more such stones were identified in the fields to the south. A fuller discussion of these monuments is presented below (Section 6.3).

The higher ground fringing Gorran Haven and Gorran Churchtown to the north, west and south contains a series of barrows of Bronze Age date. Lines of barrows run westwards from the coast to the north west of Pabyer Point towards Trewollock, from Cotra south west towards Treveor and then south to the coast beyond Boswinger, and a third group are found on the Dodman. The linearity of the first two groups is striking and, although they for the most part follow natural scarps, it is possible that they mark territorial or spiritual boundaries.

The name of the settlement of Carvinick (MCO24032), the fields of which the trail passes through, suggests its origins lie before the Medieval date of its first documentary reference of 1331 (Institute of Cornish Studies 1987). The name contains the Cornish elements *ker*, 'fort' or 'round', and *men*, 'stone' (Padel 1985), indicating the site of an Iron Age or Roman-British enclosed settlement – a stone fort - (MCO24032.1). It is possible that the element *men* refers to the standing stones or to the use of the locally available large angular quartzite stone blocks in the construction of the round. It is likely that the Medieval and post Medieval farm complex lies on the site of the earlier settlement and that most traces of the latter will have been destroyed. It might be expected that the external ditch which formed a component of such features could survive beneath the settlement or beneath the surrounding fields and boundaries.

The coastal plateau above Turbot Point to the east of the project area is home to a suspected Roman signal station (MCO24016). This monument takes the form of a low rectilinear earthwork with a raised internal mound. The signal station monument would have provided a navigational and communication aid to Roman military shipping and would have been one of a series of such sites situated around the south west peninsula, the sites of several of which are known or suspected (Mason 2003, 88).

5.2 Medieval and post medieval

As mentioned above, the first documentary reference to the settlement of Carvinick is in 1331 (Institute of Cornish Studies 1987). The surrounding fields are relatively large and open and it is possible that these may have been sub-divided during the Medieval period into thin, narrow strip fields. Alternatively, and perhaps more likely given the lack of curvilinear boundaries associated with the edges of these fields, at least parts of this holding may have been unenclosed downland. The St Goran Tithe Map of 1842 (Fig 2, top) shows F1 subdivided into four fields with angular straight-sided boundaries; these had been removed by the time of the c1880 OS survey (Fig 2, bottom). A small enclosure surrounding what is likely to be a spring in the western corner of F2 had been modified by this date also.

The long boundary forming the north eastern sides of F1 and F2 is clearly a tenement boundary between the holdings of Carvinick and another settlement, probably Menagwins. This settlement is said by Gover (1948) to be first referred to in the late nineteenth century. However, it appears on the 1809 OS mapping and an online search of the National Archives website revealed Medieval references to the settlement, the earliest dating to 1311 (AR/1/287; Appendix 14.3), when it was spelled *Meneguens*. Gover (*ibid*) attributes the name to the Cornish elements *meneth*, 'hill', and *gwins*, 'wind' but the elements are close to *men*, 'stone' and *gwin*, 'white', possibly a reference to the standing stone in F1, a conclusion reached by Whetter (1990 and forthcoming). The tenement formed part of the manor of Nansladron, acquired in 1431 by the Arundell family (National Archives). The arrangement of the fields within this holding are much more characteristic of a Medieval or even earlier field system. The St Goran Tithe Map (Fig 2, top) shows F3 and F4 each subdivided into two fields along a north west - south east axis.

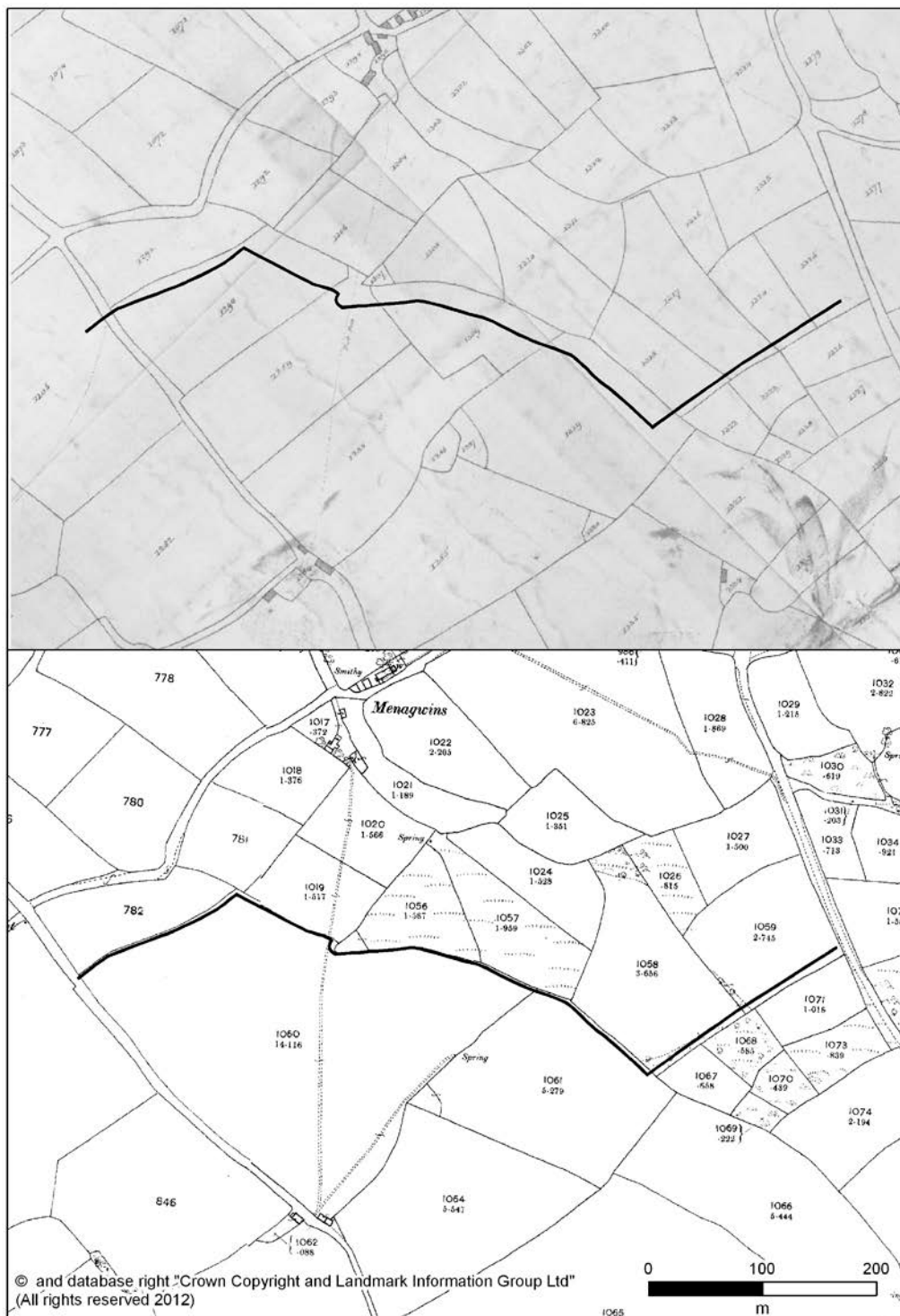


Fig 2 St Goran Tithe Map 1842 (top), Ordnance Survey First Edition 25in : 1mile c1880 (bottom). The offset of the trail line between the two maps is due to differences in the original map projections.

5.3 Modern

Carvinick farm, a holding of Cornwall Council, was taken over by the family of the present tenant, Mr Bunney, shortly after the First World War. During the Second World War, American servicemen stationed nearby dug a series of field drains within F1, which improved the drainage in this field for a considerable time but which have in

recent years silted up. As a result the land has reverted to bog in the lower-lying areas (Mr Bunney pers. comm.).

6 Archaeological results

The results of the archaeological watching brief were somewhat limited by the shallow nature of the intervention, and the majority of features identified were in F3 and F4, encountered during the excavation of the French Drain. Sections through three field boundaries (**B1-B3**) were recorded and two standing stones were identified in addition to the known stone in F1 (**S1-S3**).

6.1 Buried contexts (Fig 1)

Posthole **[1]** was discovered at the eastern end of F4, close to an electricity supply pole. Its vertical sides probably indicate that it is of recent origin, either agricultural or associated with the electricity supply.

Four ditches, all following the extant field boundary alignment of north west – south east, were identified in F4. Ditches **[3]** and **[12]** were single features likely to belong to a period of Medieval strip field division. The fill of ditch **[3]** contained a whole limpet shell as well as the remains of less well-preserved shells. These may be an indication of a period of soil improvement through the application of beach sand and/or seaweed prior to the silting up of the ditch.

A broken roof slate was recovered from the primary fill of ditch **[12]**. The form of the slate and the presence of a nail hole suggest a late Medieval or early post Medieval date for its use. Interestingly though, it appears to have been used for a different purpose prior to its use as a roofing slate. A series of inscribed arcs and other scratches hint at its employment as a cutting board or a graffitied surface. The marks are not dateable but must be earlier than the slate's use for roofing and therefore a Medieval date seems likely (see Thorpe below and Figs 5 and 6).

Ditches **[7]** and **[9]** formed a pair separated by a distance of 1.6m: these are likely to be the remains of a post Medieval Cornish hedge boundary where the upcast from the two ditches formed the bulk of the material for the central bank. It is possible that the boundary followed the line of an earlier, Medieval, strip field division. The boundary appears to be that shown on the St. Gorran Tithe Map.

Features identified in F3 were limited to two shallow pits or posthole bases, **[15]** and **[17]**, at the eastern end of the field. This limitation was due to the presence of a deposit of redeposited clay that had been dumped over topsoil **(5)**, probably during the excavation of a large ditch that runs along the south eastern edge of this field. This meant that the bottom of the excavation only reached buried topsoil **(5)**. The two pit/posthole features produced no finds and no interpretation of them is attempted. Topsoil **(5)** produced two sherds of post Medieval pottery from this area of F3.

6.2 Field boundaries (Fig 1)

A total of four field boundaries were breached by the scheme. Of these one, **B4**, had been re-faced before the archaeologist could record it in section. The others were recorded by measured survey.

B1 is an earth bank, stone-faced to the east (into the field). One earlier episode of bank-building could be seen: this low earth bank, **(114)**, may be of Medieval origin. It overlies a buried land surface, **(115)**.

B2 is an earth bank. The bulk of the bank at the point it was breached was taken up by a large earthfast quartzite boulder, **(125)**, 3m across, at least 1m wide, and 0.43m high. It is unlikely (given its size) that the boulder had been moved to its current position and it is likely that either **B2** or **B3**, or both, had been purposely built around it. Prior to the construction of these boundaries the boulder would have been visible in

the landscape and may have formed part of the group of stone monoliths to the west (see below). A deposit of redeposited clay, **(122)**, over the boulder is likely to have resulted from the excavation of ditches on one or both of sides of the boundary. Another deposit beneath this, **(123)**, may represent a buried land surface.

B3 is an earth bank, stone-faced to the west. Only one episode of bank building was recorded and no evidence for ditch excavation was identified.

6.3 Stone monoliths (Fig 1)

Three monoliths were identified in fields adjacent to the scheme. Of these **S1** (Fig 3) was previously known and recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly HBSMR (MCO 7409). This is a squat quartzite block measuring approximately 1m high, 1.6m wide, and 0.4m thick resting, or 'propped', on a massive earthfast quartzite boulder, probably part of the underlying breccia geology. It is similar in appearance and form to **S3** (see below).



Fig 3 S1, facing east (0.5m scale)

S2 (Fig 4) lies towards the centre of F2, on the western side of a linear boggy patch which bisects this field (and which has recently been drained by a trench dug by the contractors during the works phase of the project). Unlike the other two monoliths it is earthfast and surrounded by packing stones at its base. It is a sub-angular quartzite boulder 1.12m high, 1.2m wide, and 0.53m thick, and sits on a slightly raised plinth probably caused by erosion of the surrounding area by livestock. Its existence has now been recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly HBSMR (MCO 56442).



Fig 4 S2, facing west (0.5m scale)



Fig 5 S3, facing northeast (1m scale)

S3 (Fig 5) lies towards the centre of the long narrow field to the southeast of F2 (this field lay outside the project area), at the top of a break of slope falling to boggy ground to the southeast. It is similar in appearance and form to **S1**, being a squat quartzite boulder 1.1m high, 1.5m wide, and 0.4m thick resting on a massive earthfast quartzite boulder. Additional stones have been placed around the base of the monolith, some earthfast, some bare, and the immediate vicinity of the stone has suffered livestock erosion. It has now been recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly HBSMR (MCO 56505).

The three stones form an alignment 500m long along a northwest-southeast axis and would be intervisible in the absence of two intervening field boundaries, which they are likely to predate.

7 Chronology/dating evidence/discussion

Dating evidence from the features identified during the project was fairly limited. The earliest dateable feature is ditch **[12]**, which contained a broken late Medieval or early post Medieval roofing slate in its primary fill. The slate had been previously used, possibly as a cutting board, indicating earlier activity in the vicinity but no other evidence of what that might have been was forthcoming.

The evidence for the application of beach sand and/or seaweed from the fill of ditch **[3]** suggests a late Medieval or later date. Although there have been suggestions of Roman period soil improvements using beach sand (Quinnell 2004, 224-5) the bulk of the evidence for the introduction of such improvements comes from the late Medieval period and later (Kirkham in prep). The single ditches, **[3]** and **[12]**, identified within F4 are likely to be part of a Medieval strip field system whilst the double ditch **[7]/[9]** is more likely to represent a post Medieval field division. However, **[9]** may have originally formed part of the Medieval strip field system as its fills bear comparison with **[12]**.

The presence of post Medieval pottery in the buried ploughsoil in F3 is unremarkable.

No artefacts were recovered from the field boundaries, but at least two of them are likely to be of some antiquity. **B1** flanks the lane leading to Treveague via Carvinick, both settlements of at least early Medieval date, although this area may have been unenclosed downland until the post Medieval period. **B3** marks the boundary between two tenements, Carvinick and, probably, Menagwins, also of at least early Medieval date.

The stone monoliths are of uncertain date without excavation, and even if the stones are of some antiquity such features are notoriously difficult to date. For instance, excavation of the socket hole for a menhir at Eathorne, Mabe, produced a Roman period radiocarbon date, although the majority of excavated sites have been dated to the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age (c3000-1000 cal BC) (Hartgroves *et al* 2006). The farmer gave mixed messages about these features, at first claiming that the stones had always been there and then that his father had set them up as rubbing stones (Mr Bunney pers. comm.). However, the stones are a little low to be of much use as rubbing stones for cattle, although livestock have caused erosion around **S2** and **S3**. Two of the stones, **S1** and **S3**, are situated on top of large earthfast boulders, in effect outcrops of bedrock, and this gives the impression that they may have been placed there as markers to prevent plough damage over these spots. Dr James Whetter (pers. comm.) is of the opinion that they are likely to be rubbing stones and has given the author examples of nearby stones, both extant and removed, that he thinks were sited to serve this function, as well as one that he has erected himself. However, similar monuments, of a similar geology and in similar landscape settings, have been identified near Polruan. Here, excavation has provided indirect evidence that the stones are associated with features and artefacts of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date (Taylor 2012).

8 Significance

The identification of two stone monoliths, if of prehistoric date, is of national importance. If they are of later date they are of local significance. The Medieval and post Medieval field divisions in F3 and F4 are of local importance.

9 Recommendations

It would be useful to identify any additional undocumented large boulders or monoliths in the surrounding fields and boundary hedges and to assess whether these form part of the stone alignment identified in this report, or of other alignments. This might be an interesting project for the local school or members of the Cornwall Archaeological Society or other local enthusiasts to undertake.

10 References

10.1 Primary sources

Gascoyne's map of Cornwall, 1699

Martyn's map of Cornwall, 1748

OS 1 inch survey, c1810

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

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10.2 Publications

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Whetter, J. 1990. *The history of Gorran Haven: Part 1 0-1800AD*, Lyfrow Trelyspen, Gorran

Whetter, J. forthcoming. Old parish names, *St Goran parish magazine*

10.3 Websites

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

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/default.htm> The National Archives online catalogue

11 Project archive

The HE project number is **2012033**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE768).
3. Electronic drawings stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (CAD)\CAD Archive\Sites G\Gorran Multi-use Trail 2012033
4. GIS mapping stored in the directory L:\Historic Environment (Data)\HE_Projects\Sites_G\Gorran_Haven_multi_use_trail_2012033
5. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 2246
6. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.E-H\Gorran Multi-Use Trail 2012033
7. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-126914

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Artefacts and environmental material retrieved during the project are stored at the Royal Cornwall Museum, River Street, Truro. The site code is GH12

12 Appendices

12.1 Context index

Context Number	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
[1]	F4	C	Cut of a small rectilinear posthole, vertical-sided, 0.22m by 0.17m by 0.22m deep. Cuts natural (6). Filled by (2). Probably a modern fence post or associated with nearby overhead power lines.	Notebook (NB)	NB
(2)	F4	D	Fill of [1]. A dark greyish brown soft clay. Appeared to be sealed by topsoil (5).	-	NB
[3]	F4	C	Cut of linear feature crossing the trench NW - SE. Steep-sided to the east, more gradual slope up to the west, 1.6m wide at the top and 0.3m deep. Cuts natural (6). Filled by (4). A removed field division, probably of Medieval origin.	4	3
(4)	F4	D	Fill of [3]. A dark greyish brown soft clay from which a whole limpet shell was recovered. Flecks of white indicated the presence of more decayed shell within the fill, likely to be indicative of soil improvement from beach sand and/or seaweed prior to the silting up of the ditch.	-	3
(5)	F4	D	Topsoil in F3 and F4. A dark brownish grey soft silty clay 0.1m to 0.2m thick. A section 65m long in F3 had been buried beneath spoil thrown up from the construction of a culvert along the south eastern edge of this field, probably during the 1980s. Two post Medieval potsherds were recovered from this section.	-	3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14
(6)	F4	D	Natural in F3 and F4. A light yellowish grey soft clay. A compacted iron pan has built up between this layer and topsoil (5) in localised patches.	4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15	3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14
[7]	F4	C	Cut of linear feature crossing the trench NW - SE. Steep-sided to the west, more gradual slope up to the east, 0.8m wide at the top and 0.32m deep. Cuts natural (6). Filled by (8). Eastern ditch of a removed Cornish hedge, a field boundary shown on the 1842 Tithe Map. The distance between this and the western ditch, [9] is 1.62m. It is probably of post Medieval construction but possibly follows the line of an earlier Medieval strip field boundary.	7	6
(8)	F4	D	Fill of [7]. A mid greyish brown soft silty clay containing occasional mottled charcoal. The deposit was sealed by a thin lens of redeposited natural clay.	-	6
[9]	F4	C	Cut of linear feature crossing the trench NW - SE. Steep-sided to the east, more gradual slope up to the west, 0.92m wide at the top and 0.52m deep. Cuts natural (6). Filled by (10) and (11). Western ditch of a removed Cornish hedge, a field boundary shown on the 1842 Tithe Map. The distance between this and the eastern ditch, [7] is 1.62m. It is probably of post Medieval construction but possibly follows the line of an earlier Medieval strip field boundary.	9	8
(10)	F4	D	Primary fill of [9]. A light yellowish brown soft clay 0.18m thick.	-	8

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Context Number	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
(11)	F4	D	Upper fill of [9]. A mid greyish brown friable silty clay 0.34m thick containing frequent sub-angular stones and occasional pieces of charcoal.	-	8
[12]	F4	C	Cut of linear feature crossing the trench NW - SE. Steep-sided to the east, more gradual slope up to the west, 0.8m wide at the top and 0.46m deep. Cuts natural (6). Filled by (13) and (14). A removed field division, probably of Medieval origin.	11	10
(13)	F4	D	Upper fill of [12]. A mid greyish brown soft silty clay 0.3m thick with occasional mottled charcoal and/or mineralised material.	-	10
(14)	F4	D	Primary fill of [12]. A mid greyish brown soft silty clay 0.16m thick containing abundant sub-angular stones and one piece of broken roof slate with drill mark visible.	-	10
[15]	F3	C	Cut of small shallow sub-circular pit or posthole visible at northern edge of trench. Concave base and sides, 0.5 m in diameter and extending into the trench for 0.25m, and 0.15m deep. Cuts natural (6). Filled by (16).	13	12
(16)	F3	D	Fill of [15]. Mid greyish brown soft clay.	-	12
[17]	F3	C	Cut of small shallow sub-circular pit or posthole visible at northern edge of trench. Concave base and sides, 0.35 m in diameter and extending into the trench for 0.25m, and 0.2m deep. Cuts natural (6). Filled by (18).	15	14
(18)	F3	D	Fill of [15]. Mid greyish brown soft clay with lenses of redeposited natural clay within and above it.	-	14
(111)	B1	D	Topsoil over B1. A dark brownish red loose silty clay 0.56m thick.	-	2
112	B1	B	Stone facing of B1. Almost exclusively confined to the eastern face of the wall (facing the field) and consisting of small sub-angular stones of the local geology. One facing stone was recorded at the base of the west face (facing the road).	-	2
(113)	B1	D	Bank material beneath (111) and 112. A mid reddish brown friable clay, mottled with light brownish yellow clay 0.62m thick representing redeposited natural material.	-	2
(114)	B1	D	Bank material beneath 112 and (113). A mid reddish brown friable silty clay 0.2m thick.	-	2
(115)	B1	D	A buried land surface beneath B1. A dark reddish grey friable silty clay at least 0.18m thick (not fully excavated).	-	2
				-	
(121)	B2	D	Topsoil over B2. A dark greyish brown loose silty clay 0.4m thick over the top of the bank.	-	1

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Context Number	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
(122)	B2	D	A layer of redeposited natural lying over boulder (125). A light reddish brown friable clay, mottled with grey clay, and similar in nature to the surrounding natural clay substrate.	-	1
(123)	B2	D	Deposit beneath (121) and (122). A mid reddish grey friable clay. Possibly a buried land surface.	-	1
(124)	B2	D	Deposit beneath (123). A light grey plastic clay. Waterlogged alluvial clay, probably a natural deposit but may represent the fill of a ditch on the northern side of B2.	-	1
(125)	B2	D	Large boulder of quartzite at least 3m across and 0.43m high with quartz inclusions. It was unclear as to whether this was a piece of upstanding bedrock or a free standing boulder. B2 had been built around it and it was no doubt a conscious decision to incorporate the boulder within the field boundary so as to remove it from the field. The rock is also incorporated within the long NW - SE boundary that B2 intersects.	-	1
(131)	B3	D	Topsoil over B3. A light brown loose silty clay up to 0.8m thick.	-	5
(132)	B3	D	Bank material below (131). A mid reddish brown friable silty clay up to 0.23m thick.	-	5
133	B3	B	Stone facing of B3. Recorded on western face only. Quartzite rubble up to seven courses high (visible in elevation view).	-	5
S1	F1	B	HBSMR PRN 24144. The HBSMR listing gives the following description: 'A large white quartz menhir. It is found in a field, south-east from the school in Gorran Churchtown'. The stone is in fact quartzite, of the local breccia formation, is approximately 1m high, 1.6m wide, and 0.4m thick, and rests on a massive earthfast quartzite boulder.		
S2	F2	B	Quartzite orthostat, 1.12m high, 1.2m wide, and 0.53m thick, sat on an upstanding plinth of soil and packing stones 0.12m high caused by erosion of the surrounding area by livestock.		
S3	-	B	Quartzite boulder, 1.1m high, 1.5m wide, and 0.4m thick, resting on a massive earthfast quartzite boulder. Some additional stones have been placed under the boulder, some earthfast, some bare. The ground around the stone had been eroded by livestock. The stone lay above (to the north of) a break of slope that descended into boggy ground to the south.		

12.2 Finds report C. M. Thorpe

A total of three artefacts and a shell were recovered during this project. Two of the finds are pottery sherds whilst the other item is a slate fragment.

The finds were initially cleaned before sorting to greatly simplify the task of identification and cataloguing. Currently all the artefacts are temporarily stored in the HE finds store, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Truro, Cornwall.

The artefacts were collected as tray finds by context. The total number of finds from each are summarised in the tables below.

Context No: (4) Fill of ditch [3]. Removed hedge boundary. F4

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Mollusca				
Marine	1g	1		

1 limpet shell

Context No: (5) Topsoil in F3

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Post medieval	36g	2		

1 sherd North Devon post Medieval calcareous ware (Barnstaple Ware), seventeenth to eighteenth centuries.

1 sherd post Medieval glazed red earthenware (GRE), eighteenth to nineteenth centuries.

Context No: (14) Primary fill of ditch [12]. Removed field boundary. F4.

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Slate	261g	1		

1 sub-rectangular roofing slate fragment measuring 130mm x 125mm and 7mm thick. Both surfaces have traces of graffiti or scratches consisting of parallel curvilinear lines. Size and shape of slate suggest a later Medieval or early post Medieval origin.

12.2.1 Discussion

The artefact of most interest is the roofing slate. Its current size, shape, and the presence of one suspension hole for use with an iron nail suggest a later medieval or earlier post medieval date (Allan 1984).

Surface A (Fig 6) bears the traces of at least four arcs of circles two of which are lightly incised, and two slightly deeper. The two that are deeper are concentric and set 11mm apart. All have been scribed by a compass with a fine U-profiled point. One pivot centre point for the compass can be seen (Fig 6, point A). Various linear and curvilinear scratches suggest that this slate may also have been used as a cutting surface.

Surface B (Fig 7) bears at least two incised arcs, and a couple of deeper incised lines.

Unfortunately not enough survives of the original slate to determine what these incised lines represent. It may be that they originally formed an element of artwork done as graffiti (such as a medieval cross of arcs) or as a trial piece, or it could be that the original slate acted as a cutting board on which circular shapes were marked and then cut out (for instance the circular clay bases for pots were often made as separate pieces).

There is no evidence for the dating of these lines though it must pre-date the slate's trimming for use as a roofing slate. This suggests sometime in the Medieval period.

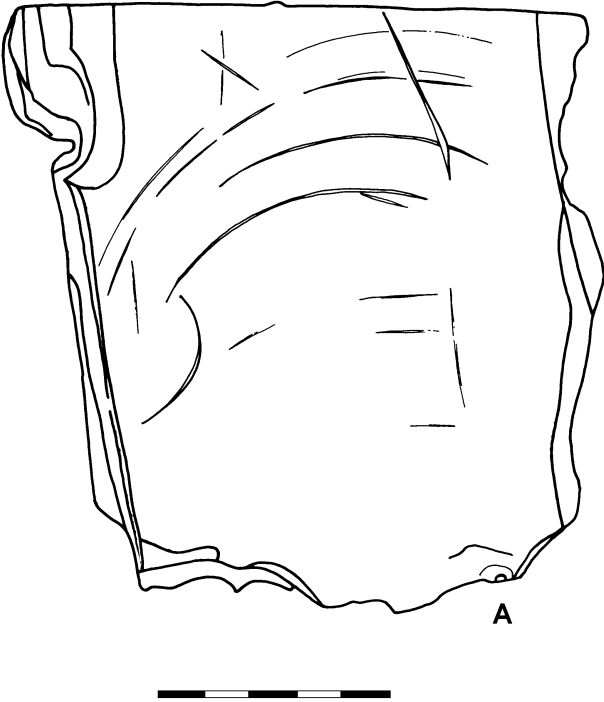


Fig 6 incised slate - surface A (0.05m scale)

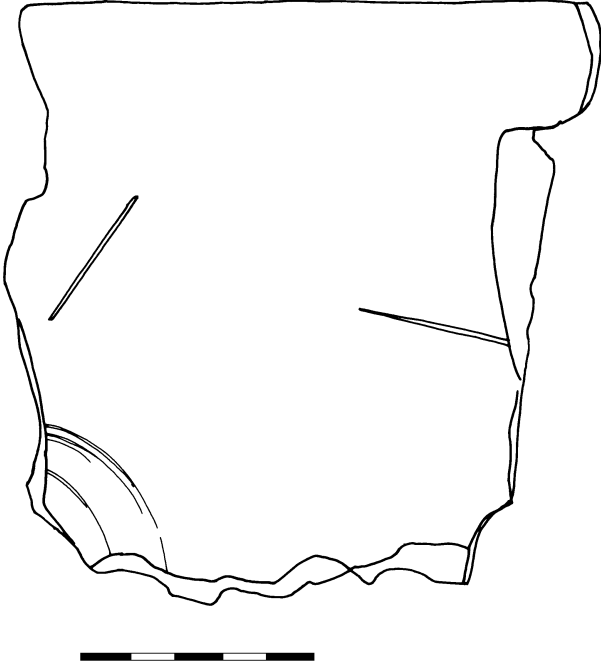


Fig 7 incised slate - surface B (0.05m scale)

12.3 Transcript of document AR/1/287

(Friday after St Augustine, bishop, 4 Edw II); at Nansladron
Mortgage Serlo de Nansladron, knight = (1), John de Treuaygnon = (2)

(1) to (2), all his land of Meneguens, which John and Luke, sons of Droco Wyxi, hold there and in his demesne of Sanctus Goronus, with houses, gardens, meadows, moors, pastures, etc., and common pasture for all beasts and animals of them and their tenants throughout (1)'s land of Crogtyes when made open (tempore aperto); for (2) and his heirs to hold as a pledge of 9 marks silver for 1 rick of corn (pro uno tasso bladi) bought and received from him, to be paid to him at Treuaygnon at Michaelmas and the Invention of the Cross next, without further postponement. (2) shall make allowance to (1) of all that he receives from the land before that date. If (1) fails in payment, then (2) and his heirs shall hold the land for ever, in accordance with a charter which (1) has made for him, by which he delivered seisin of the tenements and lands. Whenever (1) does make payment within the term stated, he may repossess the tenements without contradiction. Thomas Peticru, Thomas de Treliuer, Walter le Graunt de Tregenueu, Henry de Nansladron, William de Rostourec, Alfred de Tretheuyl. Seal of (1) [same matrix as on AR/1/255, 1/286 and 1/288-9].

Meneguens [Menagwins, Goran; manor of Goran] Crogtyes [lost (Cotna?), Goran; cf. AR/1/294] Tretheuyl [probably Trethewall, in St Just in the Roseland. rather than St Eval]. Date could alternatively be Friday 4th Sep 1310, if St Augustine the Great was intended; but that would be less plausible, giving John only 3 weeks to hold the tenement.

Cf also AR/1/286, which is close in date (if this deed is 1311) and with identical witnesses.