



Sunny Bank, Sennen, Cornwall

Archaeological assessment and geophysical survey



Historic Environment Projects

Sunny Bank, Sennen, Cornwall

Archaeological assessment and geophysics

Client	Martin Page
Report Number	2012R079
Date	9 November 2012
Status	Final
Report author	Adam Sharpe BA MIfA
Approved by	Dr. Andy Jones

Historic Environment, Cornwall Council

Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY

tel (01872) 323603 fax (01872) 323811 E-mail hes@cornwall.gov.uk

www.cornwall.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Martin Page and carried out by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council.

The geophysical survey was carried out by GSB Ltd.

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.

Freedom of Information Act

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.



Historic Environment, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the
Institute for Archaeologists

Cover illustration

A view of the site proposed for the development at Sunny Bank, Sennen.

© Cornwall Council 2012

No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the publisher.

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	3
2.1	Project background	3
2.2	Aims and objectives	3
2.3	Methods	3
2.3.1	Desk-based assessment	3
2.3.2	Fieldwork – walkover survey	4
2.3.3	Fieldwork – geophysical survey	4
2.3.4	Post-fieldwork	4
3	Location and setting	5
4	Project extent	5
5	Designations	5
5.1	International	5
5.2	National	5
5.3	Regional/county	5
5.4	Local	5
5.5	Rights of Way	6
6	Results of desk-based assessment	6
7	Results of site walkover	7
8	Results of geophysical survey	8
9	Synthesis	8
10	Policies and guidance	8
10.1	National Planning Policy Framework 2012	8
10.2	Former Cornwall Structure Plan	9
10.2.1	Policy 1	10
10.2.2	Policy 2	10
10.3	Former Penwith Local Plan	10
10.4	Hedgerow Regulations	11
11	Likely impacts of the proposed development	11
12	Mitigation Strategy	11
12.1	Archaeological recording	11
13	References	12
13.1	Primary sources	12
13.2	Publications	12
13.3	Websites	12
14	Project archive	12

List of Figures

Fig 1. The location of Sunny Bank, Sennen.

Fig 2. The extent of the site proposed for the development at Sunny Bank, Sennen.

Fig 3. The proposed development site and its surroundings, as shown on John Norden's Map of Cornwall, published in 1724 but drawn circa 1600.

Fig 4. The project area and its surroundings, shown on Joel Gascoyne's 1699 Map of Cornwall. The route from Sennen to Sancreed is also clearly visible.

Fig 5. The project area and its surroundings, as shown on Martyn's 1748 Map of Cornwall.

Fig 6. The project area and its surroundings as shown on the circa 1809 1st Edition OS mapping.

Fig 7. The project areas as shown on the circa 1840 Sennen Tithe Map. The open area to the west of the road was known as Escalls Green, whilst that to the east of the road was Sennen Green.

Fig 8. The project area as shown on the circa 1877 1st Edition OS 25" to the mile mapping. The fields to the west of the road on Escalls Green had been created since 1840.

Fig 9. The project area as shown on the circa 1877 1st Edition OS 25" to the mile mapping. Some subdivision of the Escalls Green fields had occurred, a homestead had been created in one of them and the fields had been extended onto Sennen Green to the east of the road.

Fig 10. The project areas as shown on a 2005 CCC aerial photograph.

Fig 11. Historic Landscape Character mapping indicating that the project area derives from land enclosed during the modern period.

Fig 12. Sites recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site. These include the sites of two prehistoric barrows and a standing stone, a prehistoric settlement site, lithics findspots and a medieval field system.

Fig 13. Archaeological sites within the vicinity of Sunny Bank recorded from aerial photographs by the NMP team include removed boundaries and earthwork features which may relate to earlier settlement and agricultural activities.

Fig 14. OS contour data for the area immediately surrounding the proposed development shows its site located on a gently south-west facing slope.

Fig 15. A view of the proposed development site from the north, showing the existing entrance to Sunny Bank.

Fig 16. The proposed development area at Sunny Bank from the south, showing its current character and location adjacent to the A30.

Fig 17. Magnetometer data plots from the geophysical survey at Sunny Bank, Sennen.

Fig 18. Interpreted results from the geophysical survey at Sunny Bank, Sennen. No archaeological remains were detected.

Abbreviations

HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey

1 Summary

HE Projects was requested by Mr Martin Page to provide a project design and an estimate for an archaeological assessment and geophysical survey of the proposed site for new build at land on the outskirts of Sennen (PA12/06128). Overall the development covers an area of 0.3126 Ha.

The project comprised a desk-based assessment, analysis of a geophysical survey of the site and a walkover survey.

The site was laid out on the eastern side of Escalls Green adjacent to a group of 19th century flower fields and to the A 30. These fields were extended to the east of the A30 at the end of the 19th century, and the site at Sunny Bank occupies one of these later plots. The surrounding landscape contains the sites of a number of Bronze Age barrows, a standing stone and a possible Bronze Age settlement, whilst within the wider landscape away from the coast, the sites of a number of late prehistoric enclosed farm settlements are suggested by cropmarks and place names. Considerable reorganisation of the agricultural landscape during the medieval period is indicated by the fossilisation of strip field boundaries within the modern fieldscape.

No archaeological features were revealed through the geophysical survey, which was dominated by ferrous responses thought to be of modern origin.

A report summarising the results of the assessment and its conclusions was prepared for the client.

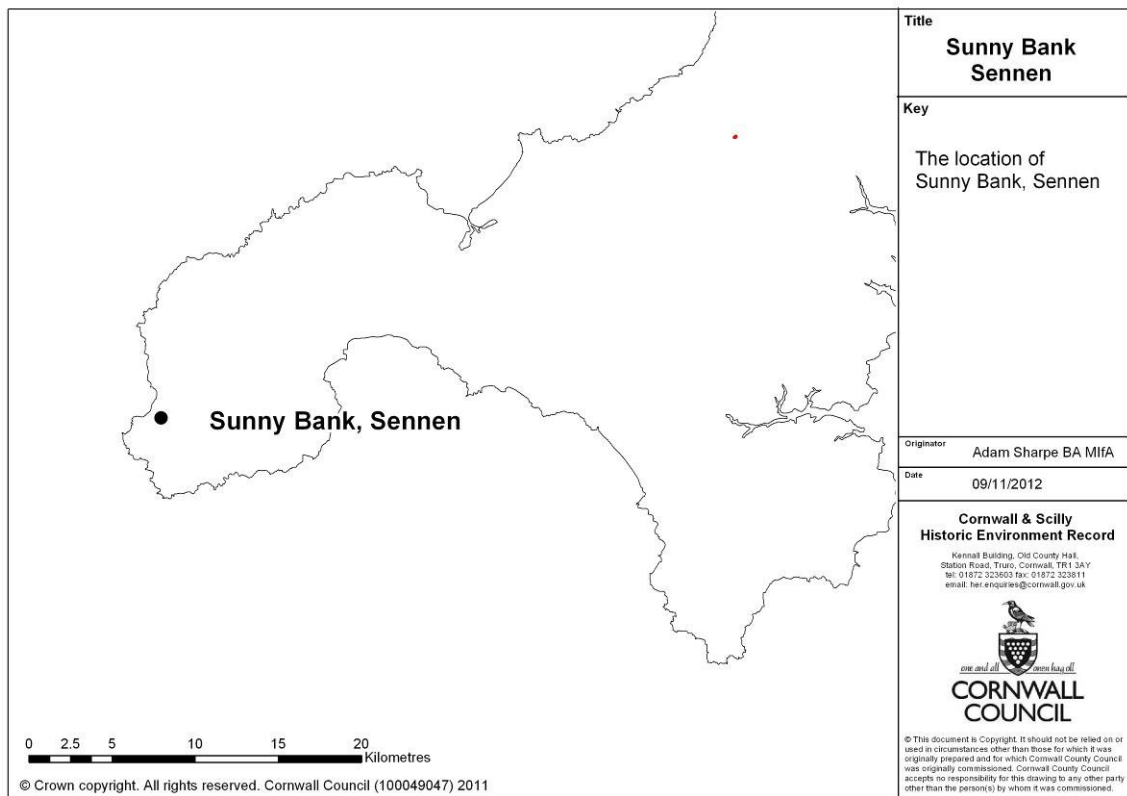


Fig 1. The location of Sunny Bank, Sennen.

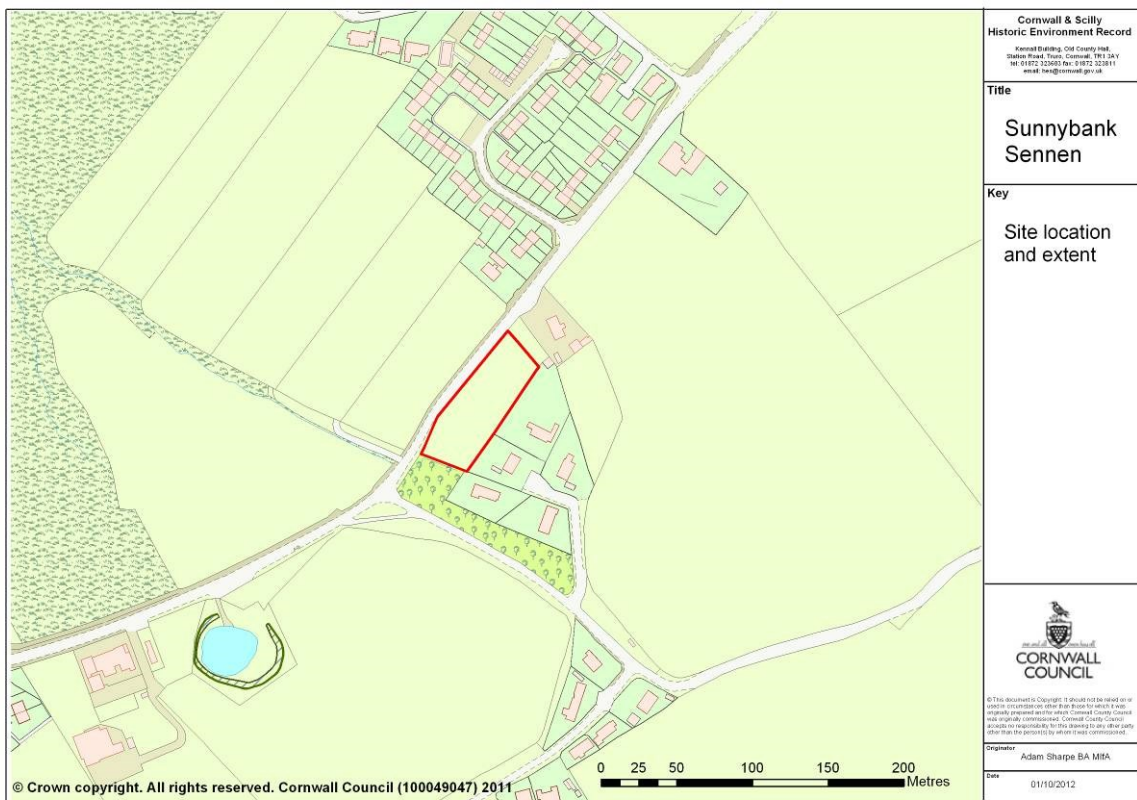


Fig 2. The extent of the site proposed for the development at Sunny Bank, Sennen.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

Planning application PA12/06128 is for the erection of six affordable dwellings and four open market dwellings. A response from Phil Markham, Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (West) dated 7th August 2012 to the application requested that an archaeological geophysical survey should be undertaken to inform the applicant and planners of the buried archaeological potential of the site, given the numerous prehistoric sites within its vicinity, and the potential for the development to have an adverse impact on any buried archaeology within the site boundary. These sites include extant Bronze Age barrows and the site of a Bronze Age standing stone. A proposed planning condition was set out in the response to the application requiring an archaeological assessment of the site in advance of development, this to incorporate a geophysical survey.

A model brief prepared by Mr Phil Markham, Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council, was used to guide this archaeological assessment (Appendix 1).

HE Projects was requested by Mr Martin Page to provide a project design and an estimate for an archaeological rapid assessment and geophysical survey of the proposed site for this new build at land on the edge of Sennen Cove (Appendix 2). Overall the development will cover an area of approximately 0.32 Hectares (Figs 1 and 2).

The project consisted of a desk-based assessment, analysis of a geophysical survey of the site and a walkover survey.

The geophysical and archaeological survey were undertaken on 18 October 2012.

2.2 Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the impacts which would result from the construction of new build dwellings on land adjacent to Sennen Cove.

The overall project aims are to:

- To identify and describe the archaeological resource.
- To assess the significance of the resource.
- To assess the impact of the proposal on the importance and integrity of the resource.
- To identify ways of minimising impacts upon the archaeological resource.
- To make recommendations for archaeological recording during the development and construction of the scheme.

The objective of the project is to produce a report setting out the likely range of impacts of the development on heritage assets within the site.

2.3 Methods

2.3.1 Desk-based assessment

As part of the desk-based assessment (DBA), historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and its surroundings, and the structures and features recorded within the site boundaries. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Published sources available in the Cornwall and Scilly HER.
- Historic maps including
 - Norden's Map of Cornwall (printed in 1728 but mapped *circa* 1600)
 - Joel Gascoyne's map of Cornwall (1699)
 - Thomas Martyn's map of Cornwall (1748),
 - OS 1 inch survey (*circa* 1810)
 - Sennen parish Tithe Map (*circa* 1839),
 - 1st and 2nd Editions of the OS 25 inch maps (*circa* 1880 and *circa* 1907).
- Modern maps.
- National Mapping Programme transcripts from aerial photographs.
- Other aerial photographs in the Cornwall and Scilly HER.
- Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping.
- Cornwall and Scilly Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR).
- Information held as GIS themes as part of the Cornwall and Scilly HER.
- The Structure Plan and Local Plan will be consulted for historic designations, for example World Heritage site, Conservation Areas, Areas of Great Historic Value, etc.
- The Cornwall Landscape Assessment has been consulted to identify the historic landscape character types in which the proposed development is located.

2.3.2 Fieldwork – walkover survey

A walkover survey of the site at Sunny Bank, Sennen was carried out to examine the site for upstanding archaeology and to record the nature of the boundary types which might be impacted upon during the development. This provided for:

- The identification of existing or previous land use that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential sites.
- The identification of any archaeological sites within the proposed development area and make recommendations for their recording.
- The identification of areas which could contain buried archaeological remains.
- The identification of areas which might require further archaeological mitigation (excavation/watching brief, etc).

2.3.3 Fieldwork – geophysical survey

A magnetometer survey of the area proposed for the housing development was undertaken by GSB Ltd. The survey results have been incorporated into this report.

Ahead of the survey the HE Projects liaised with the geophysical survey contractor to:

- Arrange access to the site.
- Supply mapping of the survey area.
- Notify the contractor of any significant risks.

2.3.4 Post-fieldwork

On completion of the project and following review with the HE Project Manager the results of the study were collated as an archive in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006*. The site archive will initially be stored at ReStore, with the eventual aim of deposition at Cornwall Record Office.

An archive report (this report) has been produced and supplied to the Client. This report will be lodged with the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available for public consultation once a planning application for the site has been made. A copy of the report will be supplied to the National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon, to the Courtney Library of the Royal Cornwall Museum and to the Cornish Studies Library. All digital records will be filed on the Cornwall Council network.

An English Heritage/ADS online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) record has been made covering this assessment project.

3 Location and setting

The site at Sunny Corner, Sennen is centred at SW 36522 26255 and consists of a single sub-rectangular enclosure on the eastern side of the A30 near its junction with the road to Sennen Cove. The site is abutted to the south east by a small modern development, to the north east by the guesthouse known as Sunny Corner and to the south west by a small conifer plantation (Fig 10).

The site measures 0.32Ha in extent, averages 87m above OD and is on gently south-west sloping land (see Fig 16).

The development area is characterised in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) as 'Recently Enclosed Land – Farmland 20th Century', that is land whose boundary arrangements were laid down during the modern period (Fig 11). Map regression confirms this conclusion, the fields to the west of the A30 and a (very short lived) cottage and garden within them being created between 1840 and 1878 (Figs 7 and 8), the plots to the east of the road being added between 1878 and 1907 (Figs 8 and 9).

The parent bedrock underlying the application site consists of granite, whilst the soils are recorded as being of the Moretonhamstead series loams over granite. No superficial (drift) deposits are recorded by the British Geological Survey.

4 Project extent

The archaeological assessment was focussed on those heritage assets (whether designated or not) which might be physically impacted upon by activities associated with site preparation for the housing development at Sunny Bank, Sennen, including landscaping, trenching and other groundworks, as well as proposals for including the siting of temporary compounds, equipment, materials and any associated infrastructure.

5 Designations

5.1 International

None apply.

5.2 National

No national designations apply to the site proposed for the development.

5.3 Regional/county

No regional or county designations relate to the site.

5.4 Local

No local designations apply to the site proposed for the development.

5.5 Rights of Way

No rights of way traverse the site. This area is not registered as open access land under the CROW Act 2005.

6 Results of desk-based assessment

The site lies at the head of a small valley within which a stream flows westwards to the coast near Escalls Cliff. The evidence provided by sites in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) and that provided by sites and features recorded as cropmarks by the National Mapping Programme indicates that this landscape backing Whitesand Bay near Lands End sited a number of barrows and standing stones in its more coastal zones, with some evidence for Bronze Age settlement near Escalls. Later prehistoric settlement activity is attested to by both cropmark and place name indications of Iron Age/Romano-British defended settlements (Rounds) within the surrounding locality (Figs 12 and 13). However, although none of these sites fall within the boundaries of the development, it is possible that associated buried remains do.

The clifflands, especially those areas at sites such as Escalls Green, backing Whitesand Bay and its now-stabilised dunescape and exposed to the salt-laden westerly winds would probably not have been the most favourable land for agriculture during prehistory, and it appears also to have remained un-enclosed during the medieval period.

The patterns of field boundaries both to the north and the south of the site at Sunny Corner owe their character to the formalisation of boundaries defining groups of medieval strip fields – these boundaries tend to be elongated, slightly sinuous and parallel with one another. To the south west of the site, it is more likely that field boundaries follow and in part preserve those laid out in late prehistory.

The names of nearby farming settlements such as Trevorian or Treveor locate the sites of farmsteads which were probably established during the early medieval (pre-Conquest) period. The former was first recorded in AD 1296, the second in 1302, and both are composed of Cornish elements. The place name Escalls was first recorded in 1227. Its meaning is unknown.

Despite its exposure to wind, sand and salt, this coastal land, though unsuitable for arable crops provided useful resources to local farmers from prehistory through until the modern period in the form of rough summer grazing, gorse for fuel and rushes and bracken for animal bedding. The light, sandy soils at Escalls would have been particularly suitable for grazing sheep or goats.

The Domesday Book (1086) does not mention any settlements within this area, the nearest named manor being that of Brea held by Erchenbald (being held by Doda prior to 1066). The first known survey of this area, John Norden's map published in 1728, but drawn up *circa* 1600 (Fig 3) depicting the Hundred of 'Penwith', showed this area as lying at the western end of the West Penwith Moors. 'Scalls' (Escalls) was named on this mapping and shown as a small settlement, whilst the church was shown at 'Sennan'. Mining activity (shown by a cross surrounded by four dots) was indicated near the coast, though its location is uncertain.

Joel Gascoyne's late 17th century map of Cornwall (Fig 4) showed a network of roads in this area, including what was to become the A30 passing through 'SunninSenan' (Sennen churchtown), with 'Salthouse Mean' near the location of Sunny Bank. Martyn's map of 1748 (Fig 5) also mapped Sennen Churchtown, and labelled 'Mean' at this location. Salthouse Mean may refer to a small fishing settlement at Sennen Cove. The name has not survived.

The 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey 1" to a mile mapping (Fig 5), drawn up during the first decade of the 19th century, labels this area 'Sennen Green', a triangular area

surrounded by roads and tracks. The nearest farm settlements were at Trevorian and Trevean.

The *circa* 1840, the Sennen Tithe Map (Fig 6) clearly demonstrates the medieval origins of the fields to the north and east of Escalls Green. The Green itself, Plot 3 on the mapping is owned by *The representatives of Dionysius Williams, Mrs Sophia Praed (mother and guardian of William Backwell Praed Esq., a minor), Richard Portheras, Jonathon Humphrys, John and Willaim Vingoe and John Saundry*. The plot was described as *Escalls Common, Cliff and Green*. Described as '*Rocks and rough pasture*' it extended to 87 acres, 3 rods and 10 perches.

Just under four decades later, the 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25" to a mile mapping (Fig 7) showed that much of the Green had been enclosed as a series of narrow, elongated fields, probably laid out for early flowers or potatoes. These may well have been tenanted in much the same way as the '*Tenements in Escalls*' recorded in the 1840 Tithe Assessment by those who farmed Escalls Green. It is probable that one or two strips within this block of fields was assigned to one tenant. A sign of things to come is the appearance of 'Sea View' a little way back up the main road – one of the new holiday villas which were beginning to appear as part of Cornwall's nascent tourist industry.

The 1908 OS 25" mapping (Fig 8) shows that these fields had been extended a little way eastwards beyond the Lands End road to take in the remainder of the Green. A small cottage had appeared in one of the little fields. Named 'Green View' this may have been another holiday home. Sea View had evidently done well and had been expanded, whilst out towards the cliffs new developments included 'Heathercliffe', 'Atlantic Lodge' and 'Sunny Corner'.

The tourist industry is now the predominant employer within Sennen and Sennen Cove, and this is reflected in the types and occupants of many of the local houses. Whitesands Bay is justly well known for its safe bathing, whilst nearby Gwenver is renowned for its high quality surf breaks.

7 Results of site walkover

A site walkover was undertaken on 18 October 2012. The weather was fair and there were no impediments to survey, other than some waterlogging of the lower part of the site, which was in relatively short, rough grass with small patches of rushes in the damper areas. Occasional molehills showed the soil to be very sandy.

The site slopes gently to the south west and has the appearance of an informal garden associated with Sunny Bank to the north east. It is bounded to the west by a low bank averaging 1.2m wide and 0.7m high vegetated with nettles and bramble scrub. This boundary divides the plot from the line of the A30 trunk road. At its northern end, a breach has been made through this boundary to form a 3.5m wide gravelled vehicular entrance to Sunny Bank. The splayed sections of boundary flanking this entrance consist of a modern mortared granite wall, whilst the curving drive is edged with individual pieces of granite; Four palm trees flank this drive. The southern boundary of the enclosure consists of a low bank incorporating some stonework against a thicket of trees (mostly wind-dwarfed conifers) up to 6.0m high (Figs 15 and 16). The northern boundary of the plot is a clipped shrub hedge between 2.1 and 4.0m high. The eastern boundary of the plot is defined by an orthostatic granite wall averaging 0.6m high, though rising to 1.0m high in places. This has also been planted as a hedgeline which rises to 1.2m high.

The orthostatic wall forming the eastern boundary is identical in form to those subdividing the group of elongated fields to the west of the A30, suggesting that the plot at Sunny Bank was originally one of this group of enclosures. These fields are first mapped in 1878 and were originally longer in extent, having been in part, over-built at their northern ends, where their boundary lines have determined the layout of the

housing development now occupying this area. They were also in places, subdivided, as can be seen from the archive OS mapping and the two lynchets which cross them, confirming that they were laid out as a network of small rectangular plots on the cliffland which were extended to the east of the road between 1878 and 1907. A roughly triangular enclosure on the southern side of the small stream is of broadly similar date. Its original eastern boundary appears to be to the east of the present line of the A30. The highly sandy soil within these fields suggests either that they have been deliberately sanded to reduce the acidity of the granitic soils, or that this material has become incorporated into the soil through wind blow and they represent the eastern edge of the stabilised dunes which extend up from the coast at Whitesand Bay. In either case, the incorporation of the sand into the soils would have made them light, fertile and easily worked.

It seems most likely that the line of the A30 has been re-aligned from an original route to the east of the plot at Sunny Bank. An analysis of field boundaries suggests that the route north eastwards from the current junction of the A30 with the road to Sennen Cove would originally have skirted the south eastern corner of the plot at Sunny Bank and followed hedgelines running north east to Trevorian, then via a still-existing lane north eastwards to Newshop. Beyond Newshop, there are strong indications that the route again diverged from that currently followed by the A30, it running across the south eastern flank of Chapel Carn Brea and on via a series of farm settlements to Sancreed. This route is clearly shown on Gascoyne's map, and it seems likely that it represents one element in an extensive route network now preserved in a combination of roads, lanes, tracks and paths which was developed to link up West Penwith's churchtowns, and which is likely to be at least medieval in origin, though some elements may be earlier.

With the exception of the orthostatic boundaries, no upstanding features of archaeological interest were recorded within the plot at Sunny Bank.

8 Results of geophysical survey

No significant archaeology was revealed through the geophysical survey, which was dominated by ferrous responses, considered to be of modern origin (see Figs 17 and 18).

9 Synthesis

The results from the desk-based assessment, the walkover survey, the geophysical survey did not lead to the identification of any significant archaeological deposits or sites which might be directly impacted upon by the proposed development at Sunny Bank, Sennen.

10 Policies and guidance

The following section brings together policies and guidance (or extracts from these) used in the development of the assessment and its methodology.

10.1 National Planning Policy Framework 2012

The following paragraphs within the above document frame planning policy relating to the Historic Environment and are germane to this assessment:

128 *In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of*

the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. *Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.*

132. *When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

133. *Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:*

- the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

134. *Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.*

135. *The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.*

139. *Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.*

10.2 Former Cornwall Structure Plan

The following policies in the Cornwall Structure Plan relate to the historic environment are currently used to guide responses to applications.

10.2.1 Policy 1

'Development should be compatible with:

The conservation and enhancement of Cornwall's character and distinctiveness;

The prudent use of resources and the conservation of natural and historic assets;

A reduction in the need to travel, whilst optimising the choice of modes, particularly opportunities for walking, cycling and the use of public transport;

Through developing the principles of Policy 1 it is intended to integrate environmental values with land use and transport policies, achieving patterns of development that reflect strong environmental protection and stewardship of resources.'

10.2.2 Policy 2

'Throughout Cornwall, development must respect local character and:

- Retain important elements of the local landscape, including natural and semi-natural habitats, hedges, trees, and other natural and historic features that add to its distinctiveness;*
- Contribute to the regeneration, restoration, enhancement or conservation of the area;*
- Positively relate to townscape and landscape character through siting, design, use of local materials and landscaping.*
- The conservation and enhancement of sites, areas, or interests, of recognised international or national importance for their landscape, nature conservation, archaeological or historic importance, including the (proposed) World Heritage Site, should be given priority in the consideration of development proposals.'*

10.3 Former Penwith Local Plan

Although now part of Cornwall Council, Penwith District Council's policies listed in its local plan continue to be relevant. The Penwith Local Plan contains policies designed to protect the archaeological resource, using the following elements of policy framework:

Relevant Local Plan Objectives

Local Plan Objectives 1. To ensure that development does not have an adverse effect on landscape, nature, conservation, historic, archaeological and geological values;

Local Plan Objectives 2. To preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the built environment;

Local Plan Objectives 15. To provide a framework that supports initiatives for the management and enhancement of the countryside in terms of its landscape, nature conservation, historic, archaeological and geological values;

Coast and Countryside

Policy CC-1: Development will not be permitted where it would significantly harm the landscape character, amenity, nature conservation, archaeological, historic or geological values of the coast and countryside of Penwith.

Policy CC-2: Proposals which maintain, enhance and facilitate the enjoyment and understanding of landscape character, amenity, nature conservation, archaeological, historic and geological values in the coast and countryside will be permitted.

Policy CC-12: Proposals for development which would result in the loss or damage to trees, woodland, hedgerows and Cornish Hedges which make a significant contribution to the character of the landscape and nature conservation will not be permitted.

Policy CC-15: Proposals for development which would damage Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important archaeological remains, or their setting, will not be permitted.

Policy CC-16: Proposals for development within areas of great historic value and those affecting archaeological remains of County importance will not be permitted where it would harm:-

- (i) The historic character of the landscape; or
- (ii) The value, character or setting of the remains.

10.4 Hedgerow Regulations

Under the current, 1997 Hedgerow Regulations, owners wishing to remove all or part of a hedgerow considered to be historically important must notify the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Criteria determining importance include whether the hedge marks a pre-1850 boundary, and whether it incorporates an archaeological feature. The LPA may issue a hedgerow retention notice prohibiting removal.

11 Likely impacts of the proposed development

Archaeological impacts which might result from the proposed development at Sunny Bank are likely to arise from groundworks undertaken during the early stages of the development. These could have direct, physical impacts on any buried archaeological remains which may survive on the site through trenching associated with the provision of services or for foundations, landscaping activities resulting in a lowering of the present ground surface, through the provision of works compounds, access routes and temporary storage areas. Such impacts on the sub-surface archaeology of the site would be **permanent** and **irreversible**.

However, given that no archaeological remains were revealed by the techniques used during this assessment, the level of any such impacts is likely to be low or uncertain.

12 Mitigation Strategy

A range of means to mitigate the potential impacts identified in this assessment may be considered by the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, who may choose to recommend one or more of the following.

12.1 Archaeological recording

In a case where the finalised site design would seem likely to result in unavoidable impacts on below-ground or above ground features, a brief for work to mitigate these impacts would be prepared by Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Advice Officer (East), setting out its scope. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to meet the brief would need to be prepared and agreed to establish and direct a programme of mitigating archaeological work.

Archaeological recording in the form of the recording of upstanding elements of the site which might be negatively impacted upon by the works, or a watching brief (observation by an archaeologist during mechanical ground reduction activities) can be required either where any significant features or areas of ground are to be disturbed, in areas where significant features had been identified through the site walkover, or where the balance of probability suggested that sub-surface archaeology might survive. This approach provides for preservation by record of upstanding or buried archaeological features or artefacts and reduces any impacts on the archaeology of the sites.

In the instance of the site at Sunny Bank, Sennen, there seems to be low potential for at-present unrecorded below-ground remains being directly impacted upon by the development proposals. The Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer may, however, require an evaluation of parts of the site to determine the likely impacts and significance of any below ground remains before a recommendation for the granting of planning permission could be made.

13 References

13.1 Primary sources

Cornwall County Council 2005 aerial mapping of Cornwall.

Joel Gascoyne's 1699 Map of Cornwall

Martyn's 1748 Map of Cornwall

Ordnance Survey, 1809, *1 inch mapping* First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

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

Ordnance Survey, c1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1840. *Parish of Sennen* (digital copy available from CRO)

13.2 Publications

Herring, P. 1998, *Cornwall's historic landscape: presenting a method of historic landscape character assessment*, Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Norden, J. 1724, *Map of Cornwall*, reprinted University of Exeter 1972

Padel, O.J. 1988, *Cornish place-names*, Penzance

Thorn, C. and Thorn, F. (eds.) 1979, *Domesday Book, 10: Cornwall*, Chichester

13.3 Websites

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

14 Project archive

The HE project number is **PR146204**

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. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.Q-T\Sunny Bank Sennen geophysics
3. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-137724
4. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites S\Sunny Bank Sennen geophysics 2012\Report\ Sennen assessment and geophysics.doc



Fig 3. The proposed development site and its surroundings, as shown on John Norden's Map of Cornwall, published in 1724 but drawn circa 1600. The project area is circled in red.



Fig 4. The project area and its surroundings, shown on Joel Gascoyne's 1699 Map of Cornwall. The project area is circled in red. The route from Sennen to Sancreed is also clearly visible.

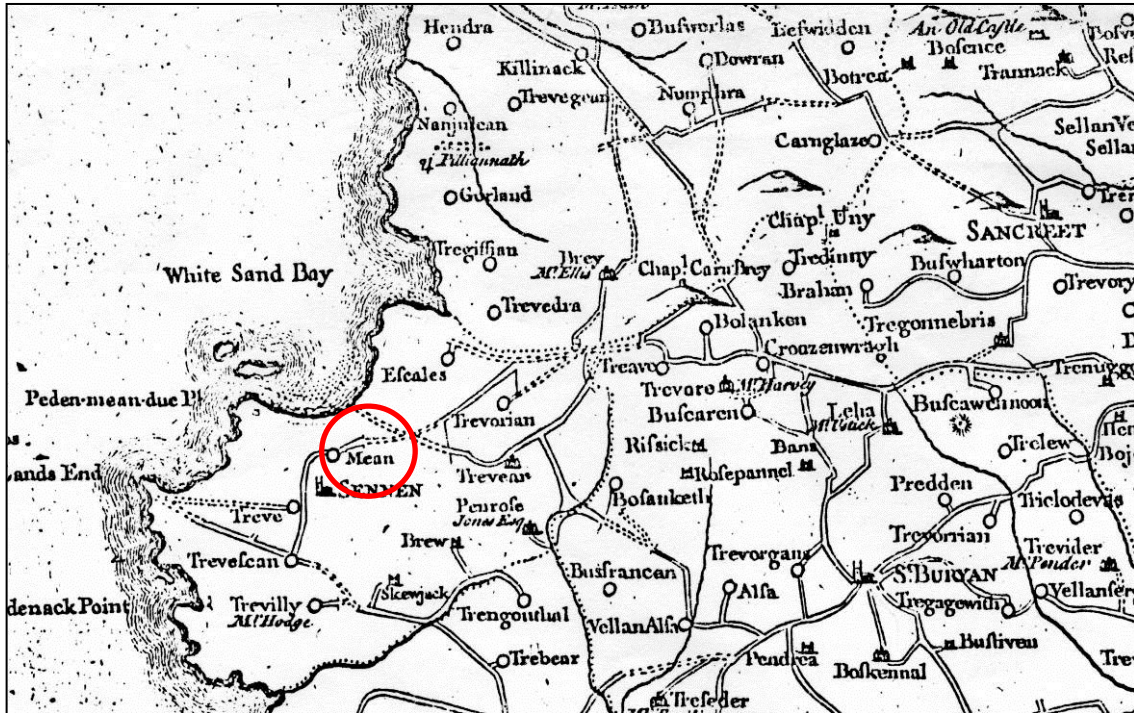


Fig 5. The project area and its surroundings, as shown on Martyn's 1748 Map of Cornwall. The project area is circled in red.

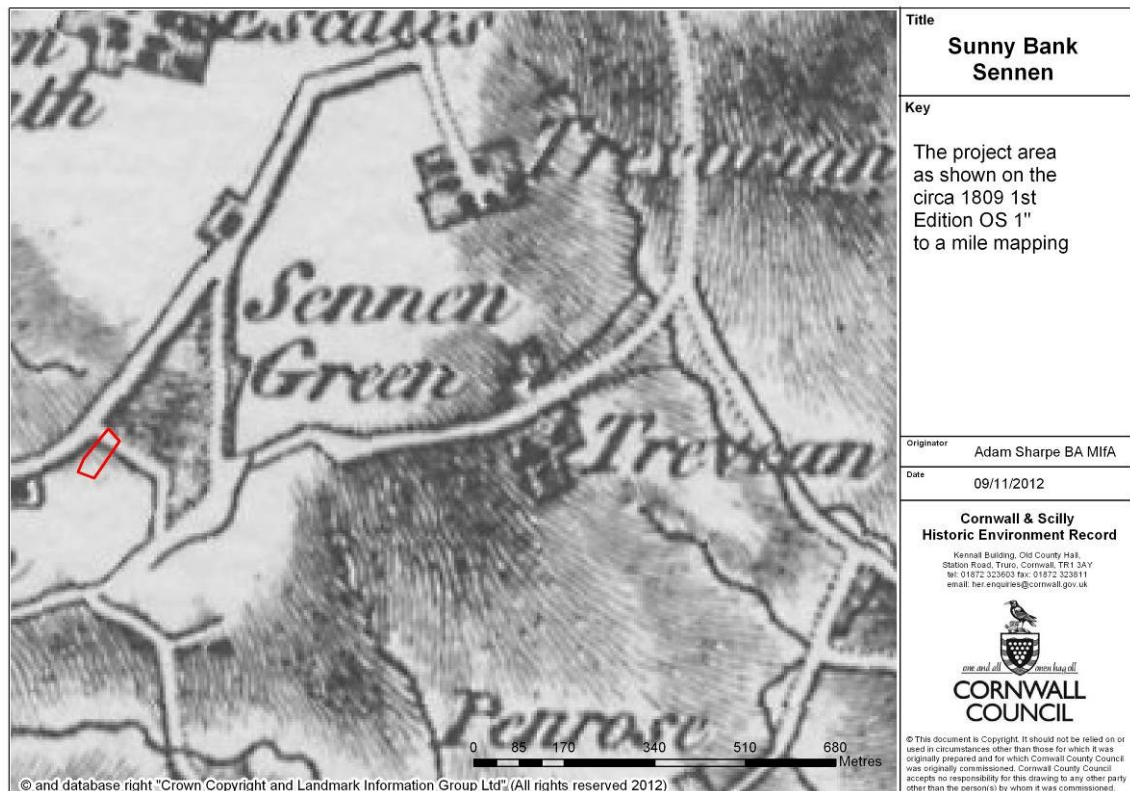


Fig 6. The project area and its surroundings as shown on the circa 1809 1st Edition OS mapping. The project area is offset to the south of its true location because of differences in the global model used by the OS in 1809 and today and would have been within the triangular plot.

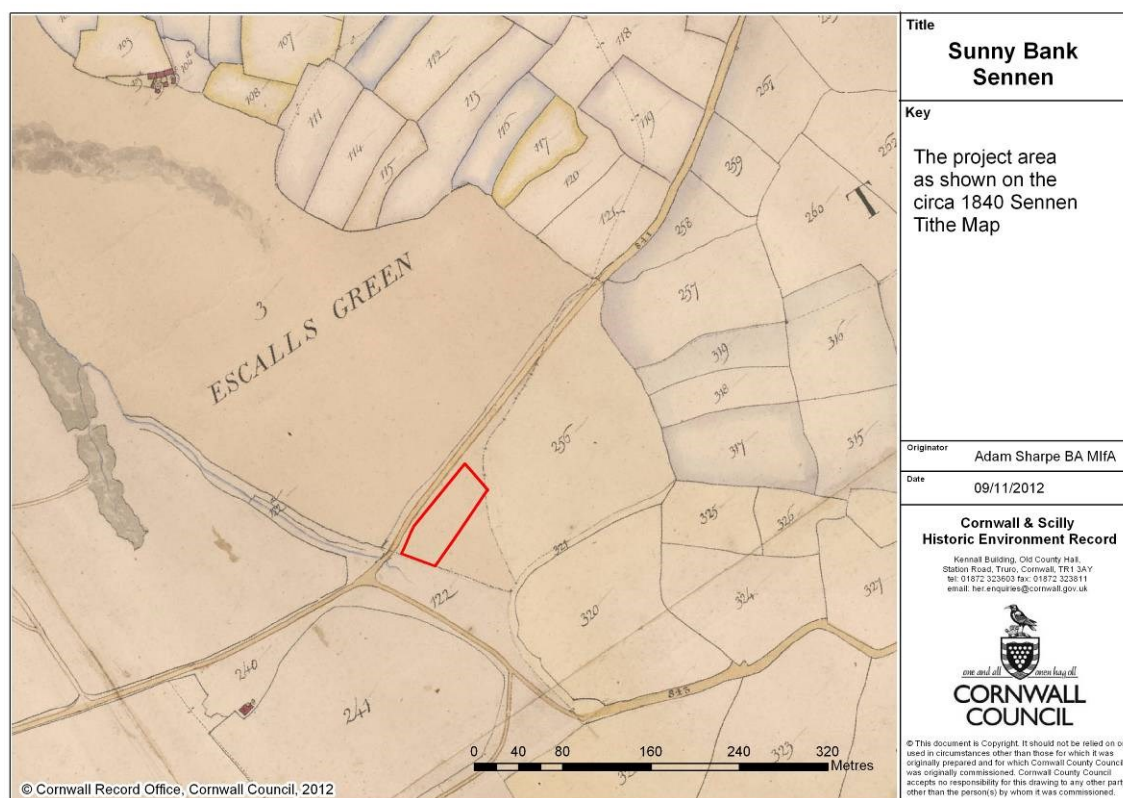


Fig 7. The project areas as shown on the circa 1840 Sennen Tithe Map. The open area to the west of the road was known as Escalls Green, whilst that to the east of the road was Sennen Green.

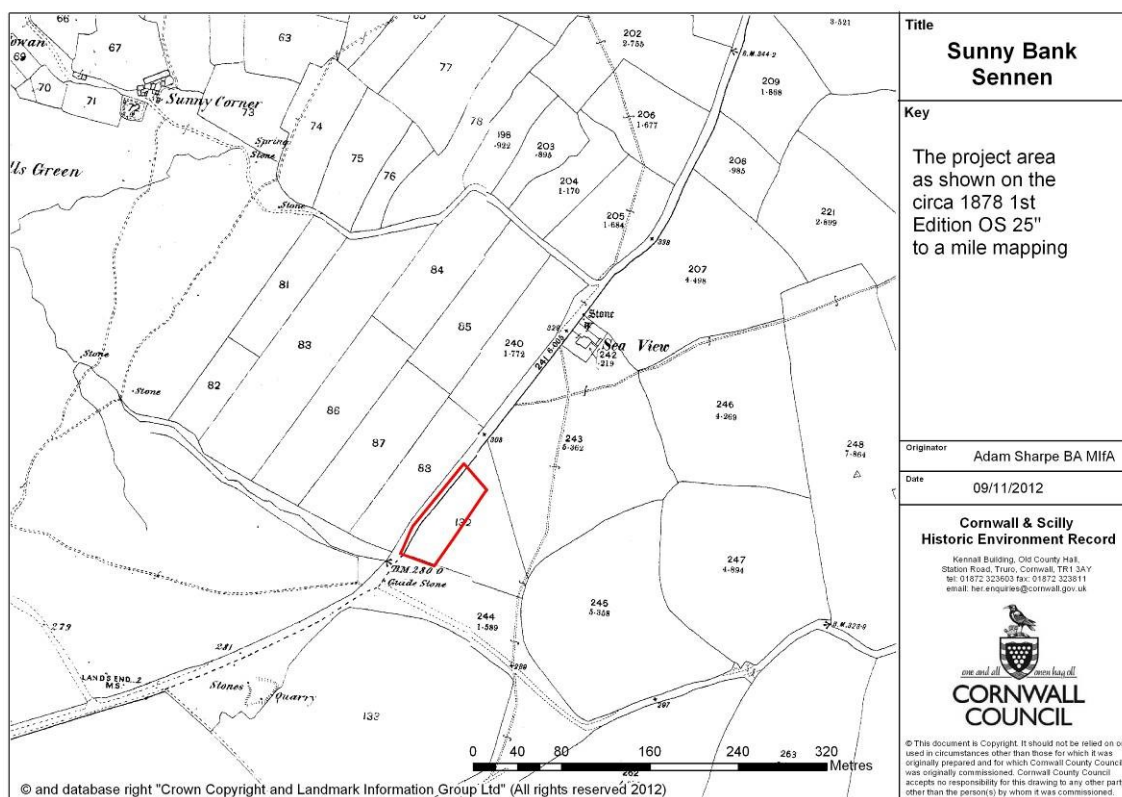


Fig 8. The project area as shown on the circa 1877 1st Edition OS 25" to the mile mapping. The fields to the west of the road on Escalls Green had been created since 1840.

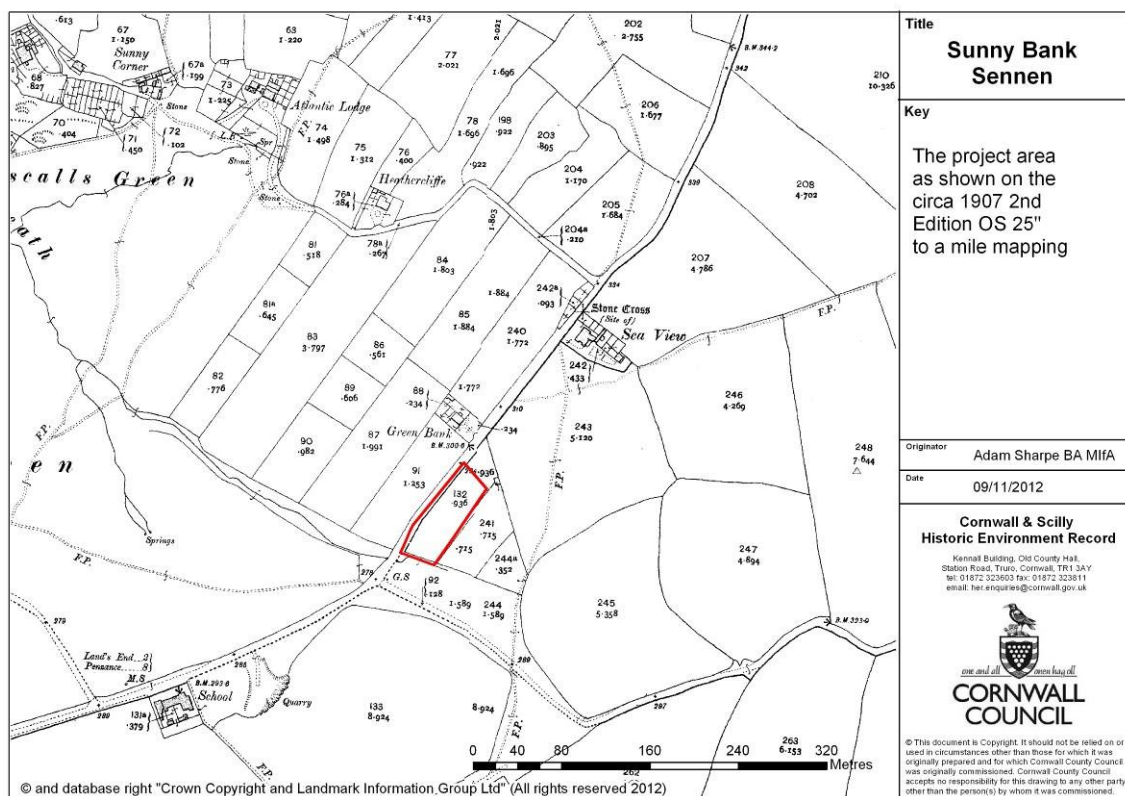


Fig 9. The project area as shown on the circa 1877 1st Edition OS 25" to the mile mapping. Some subdivision of the Escalls Green fields had occurred, a homestead had been created in one of them and the fields had been extended onto Sennen Green to the east of the road.



Fig 10. The project areas as shown on a 2005 CCC aerial photograph.

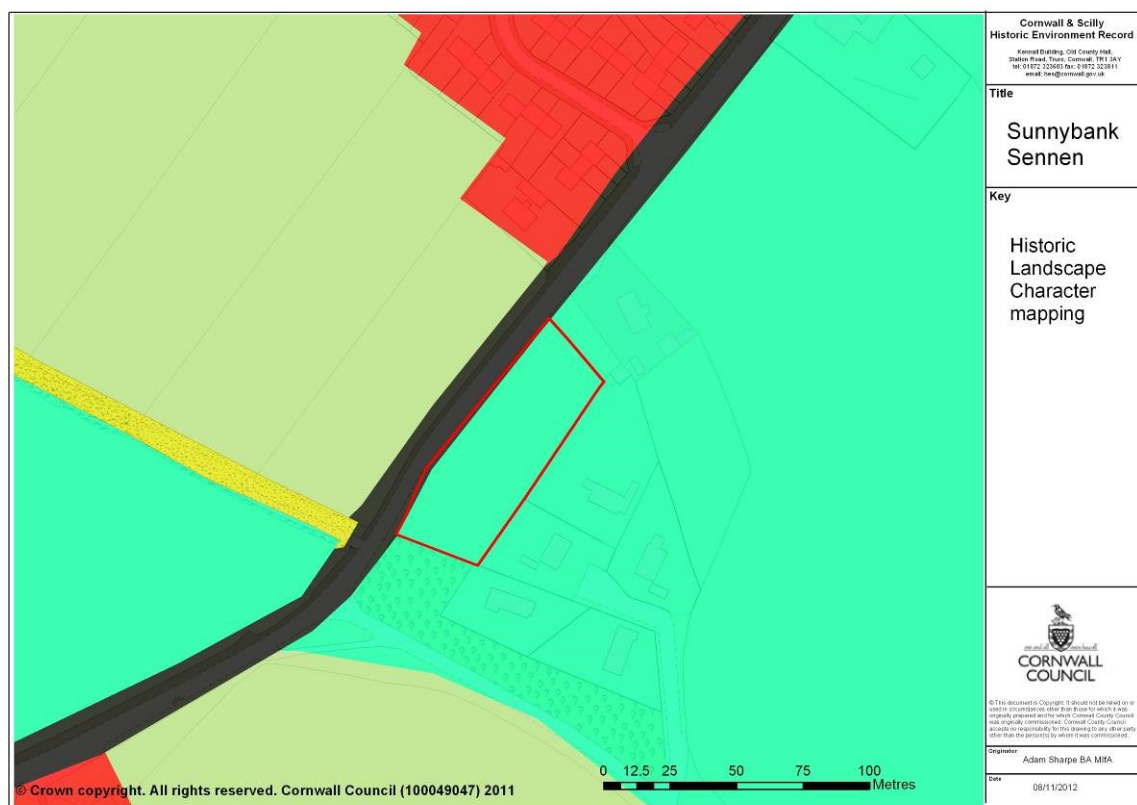


Fig 11. Historic Landscape Character mapping indicating that the project area derives from land enclosed during the modern period (blue).

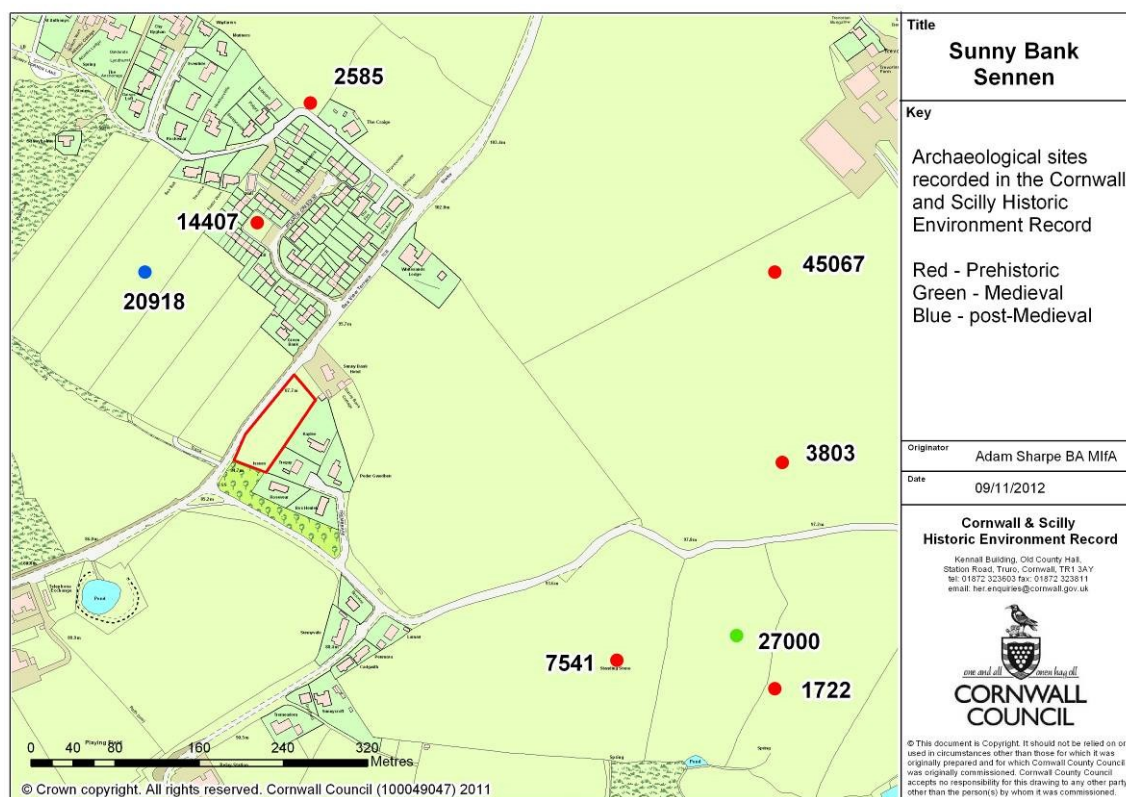


Fig 12. Sites recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site. These include the sites of two prehistoric barrows and a standing stone, a prehistoric settlement site, lithics findspots and a medieval field system.

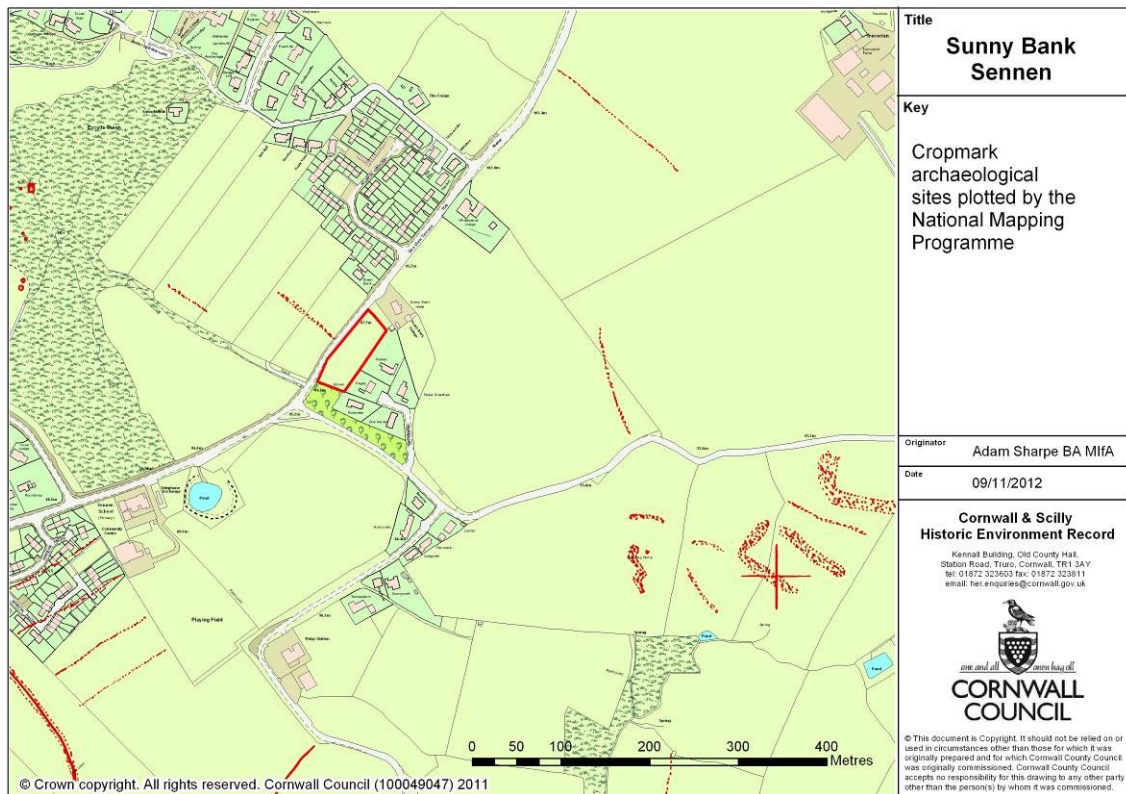


Fig 13. Archaeological sites within the vicinity of Sunny Bank recorded from aerial photographs by the NMP team include removed boundaries and earthwork features which may relate to earlier settlement and agricultural activities.



Fig 14. OS contour data for the area immediately surrounding the proposed development shows its site located on a gently south-west facing slope.



Fig 15. A view of the proposed development site from the north, showing the existing entrance to Sunny Bank.



Fig 16. The proposed development area at Sunny Bank from the south, showing its current character and location adjacent to the A30.

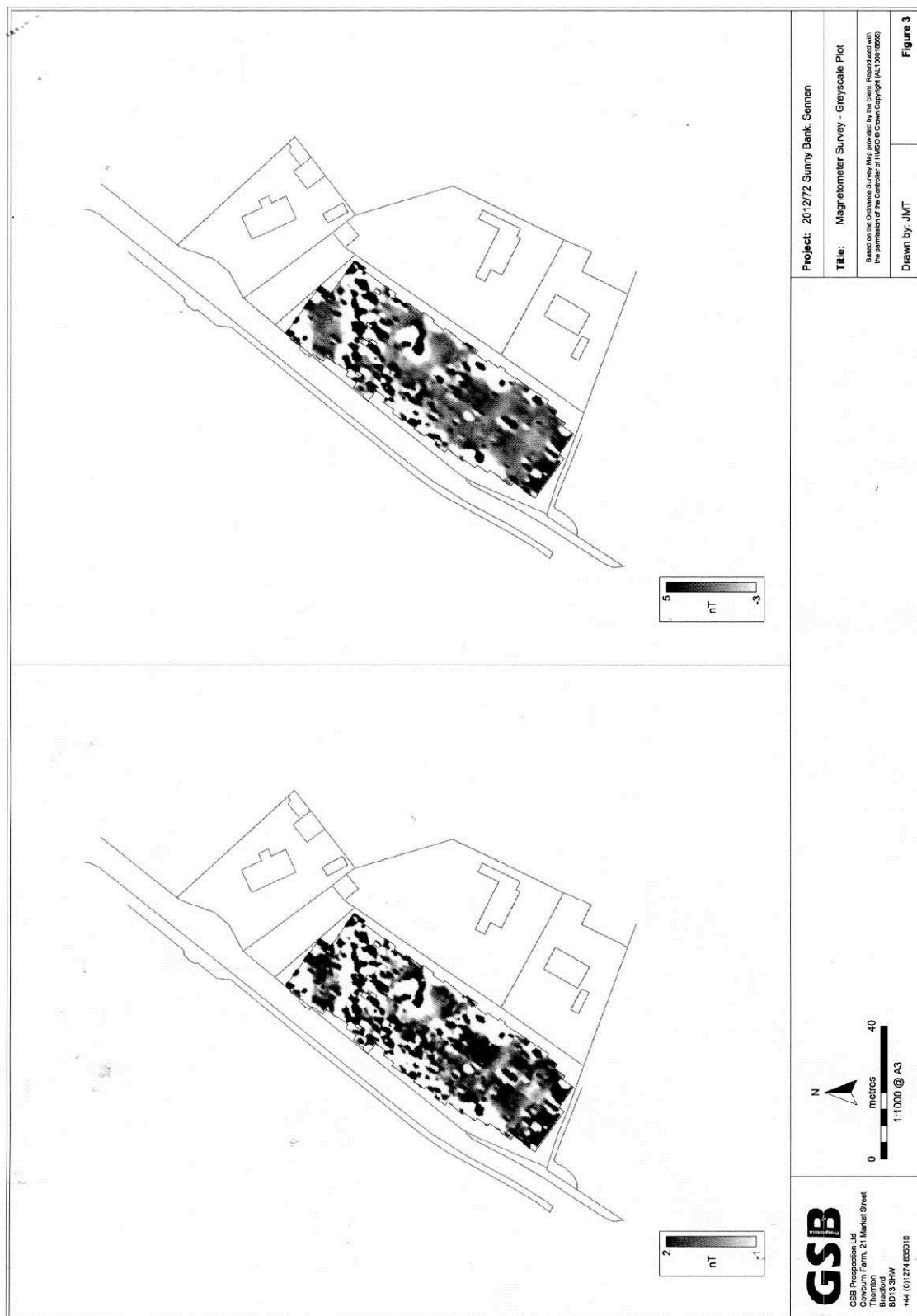


Fig 17. Magnetometer data plots from the geophysical survey at Sunny Bank, Sennen.



Fig 18. Interpreted results from the geophysical survey at Sunny Bank, Sennen. No archaeological remains were detected.