# Rowland's Corner, Egloskerry, Cornwall

## Archaeological Watching Brief

**Historic Environment Projects**

| Report No | Report Name | Report Author |
|---|---|---|
| 2014R023 | Rowland's Corner, Egloskerry, Cornwall | Hayley Goacher |

Event Type

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Watching Brief | | | |

| Client Organisation | Client Contact |
|---|---|
| | Mr. Kevin Hicks |

Monuments (MonUID)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |

| Fieldwork dates (From) | (To) | (Created By) | (Create Date) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13/03/2014 | 13/03/2014 | Hayley Goacher | 20/03/2014 |

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Rowlands Corner, Egloskerry, Cornwall

| (Town – for urban sites) | (Postcode) |
|---|---|
| | PL15 8RX |

| (Easting) X co-ord | (Northing) Y co-ord | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SX 25817 | 86871 | | |

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**Cover Image**

Looking southeast over the watching brief area.

**List of Figures**

# 1. Introduction

**Project background**

HE Projects, Cornwall Council were commissioned by Mr Kevin Hicks to provide a programme of archaeological mitigation at the proposed wind turbine development at Rowland's Corner, Egloskerry (Fig 1). The development area comprised an 11m by 11m topsoil strip of the wind turbine base, with additional areas to test a vehicle area around the turbine and along the cable route (Figs 2 and 3).

Prior to planning permission being granted, a report on the potential impacts of the proposal was undertaken in 2013 (Lawson-Jones 2013).

Following the suggested mitigation strategy in the impact assessment and advice from the planning advice archaeologist, a watching brief on the subsurface works was agreed. The methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Historic Environment Projects (Appendix 1). This was approved by the planning advice archaeologist and the client and the fieldwork was undertaken in March 2014.

**Historical Background**

The site is located in a rural area to the west of Launceston slightly to the east of the hillcrest at 212m OD with extensive views over the surrounding landscape (Fig 1). The area immediately surrounding the site is recorded as Recently Enclosed Land though set within a matrix of Anciently Enclosed Land and Upland Rough Ground. This suggests the enclosure around the wind turbine location was downland/moorland until relatively recently, believed by the landowner to have been enclosed during his grandparent's ownership (Sharpe, 2013; Hicks pers com 2014).

To the west on the summit of Tregearedown Beacon, less than 250m away, is an Iron Age enclosure known as Tregeare Camp (Figs 1 and 2). This Scheduled Monument is one of several prehistoric sites in the area. ,which include a possible Late Neolithic Causewayed enclosure, a Bronze Age barrow and an Iron Age or Romano-British round (Lawson-Jones 2013).

The medieval period is substantially represented by the surviving farmsteads, settlements associated with Church sites and the field patterns. The field patterns indicate ancient, piecemeal development with a combination of interconnecting slightly curvilinear and straighter short boundaries and include a series of narrow strip fields to the north of Rowlands Corner. Penheale Manor, to the northeast of the site, has medieval origins. The Manor was largely re-built after 1572 with further 17$^{th}$ and 18$^{th}$ century additions and extensions. The gardens were redesigned in the 1920s by Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, and today are a nationally designated grade II Park and Garden.

Following enclosure of the land around the turbine, intensive stone clearance and ploughing have taken place.

# 2. Aims and objectives

The aim of the project was to gain a better understanding of the site in the event of any disturbance of potential buried archaeological remains. The objective was to obtain an archaeological record of any remains prior to their removal.

The site-specific aims were to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.
- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- Establish the nature of the activity on the site.
- Identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- Undertake palaeoenvironmental investigation as appropriate.
- Provide further information on the archaeology of the site from any archaeological remains encountered.

# 3. Working 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.

**Fieldwork: watching brief**

Site works were carried out with an archaeologist in attendance to record any features should they become exposed during the groundworks. The archaeologist was given the opportunity to make an appropriate record before work proceeded. Archaeological recording consisted of the following where appropriate:

- Photography: scaled colour digital photography was used selectively and for illustrative purposes.

**Creation of site archive**

To include:

- Digital colour photographs (stored according to HER guidelines and copies of images made available to the client).
- A detailed site/building description.
- Completion of the English Heritage/ADS OASIS online archive index.

**Archive report**

On completion of the fieldwork, the paper records were collated and digitised where necessary and all photographs have been archived. An archive report outlining the results for the project was also produced (this report).

# 4. Results

In advance of the construction of the wind turbine in Field 1, an area measuring 11m by 11m was topsoil stripped under archaeological supervision (Figs 3, 4 and 5). A larger area, measuring 35m by 35m for vehicle turning and unloading was marked out but only selective areas were investigated as it is very unlikely ground reduction will occur here. Four areas were opened to test the geophysical survey results obtained by the client that showed possible anomalies in two of these areas and to cover the possibility that this wider area may have to be stripped in future. The first of these, measuring 7m by 1m was opened out from the centre of the western edge of the 11m by 11m square (Fig 5) and a second measuring 3m by 1m from the southern edge were topsoil stripped. The other two areas were 1m by 1m squares at the northeast and northwest corners of the 35m by 35m area (Figs 3 and 4). The northwest corner was eventually subsumed into the cable trench excavations. The ground level was reduced by approximately 0.25m. The topsoil was dark brown firm silt which dried out to a loose consistency. The topsoil frequently included slate, quartz and feldspar fragments up to 50mm in diameter. The exposed subsoil was a light grey sandy-silt with bands of brown-yellow sandy silt and a very high frequency of slate and occasional quartz and feldspar fragments up to 300mm diameter. No archaeological features, remains or artefacts were uncovered.

The cable route extended north from the northeast corner of the 35m by 35m area in Field 1, through the gateway into Field 2 where it followed the line of the northwestern boundary at a distance of two metres out from it (Figs 2, 3 and 6). At approximately halfway along this boundary, where the western boundary of Field 3 butts up to the Field 2 boundary, the cable was to be tunnelled under the hedge. It then continued north along the western boundary of Field 3 to the road. Areas of this cable trench were topsoil stripped in advance of excavation to full depth using a toothed bucket. The full length of the cable trench in Field 1 was stripped and the trench continued 25m into Field 2. A further two areas, measuring 10m and 5m in length, were excavated in Field 2 to investigate the change in contours, possible remains of a field boundary and the area where the cable was to be bored under the hedge (Figs 2 and 3). The topsoil was again a

dark brown silt over a light grey or brown-yellow subsoil with a high frequency of slate, quartz and feldspar. The topsoil depth varied due to erosion approaching the gateway but averaged 0.25m.

In Field 3 two 5m test trenches were excavated along the intended cable route (Figs 3 and 7). These were placed at the top and bottom of an extremely steep slope. The topsoil was a light brown slightly sandy-silt with frequent small slate fragments approximately 50mm in diameter. The subsoil was a light brown-yellow slightly clayey silt with a high frequency of slate. In the top, southern, trench the topsoil was 0.25m deep, however, in the northern trench at the base of the slope the topsoil had been largely washed and eroded away on to the road by water action and vehicles approaching the gateway.

No archaeological features, remains or artefacts were uncovered in any of the cable route.

# 5. Conclusion

Despite the potential for remains relating to Tregeare Camp or the medieval agricultural heritage of the area, no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered in the areas that were topsoil stripped. This is probably due to several factors. These include the north-facing aspect and areas of very steeply sloping land which would have made it unfavourable for historic habitation activities. The relatively thin topsoil close to the summit of the hill around the turbine location and highly eroded areas along the cable route would not have preserved artefacts or features to any great extent. The construction of the hedgerows may also have removed archaeological evidence. By following the line of the hedges with the cable route, it was unlikely therefore that any archaeological remains would have been found within these excavations In addition the intensive stone removal and ploughing that may also have contributed to the movement or removal of archaeological remains.

# 6. References

Lawson-Jones, A. 2013. *Rowland's Corner, Egloskerry, Cornwall. Archaeological assessment of proposed wind turbine*. Report for Historic Environment, Cornwall Council.

# 7. Project archive

The HE project number is **146356**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive will be deposited initially at ReStore PLC, Liskeard and in due course (when space permits) at Cornwall Record Office. 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\Rowlands Corner WT WB 2014\Site photos
3. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-175579

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites R\Rowlands Corner WT WB

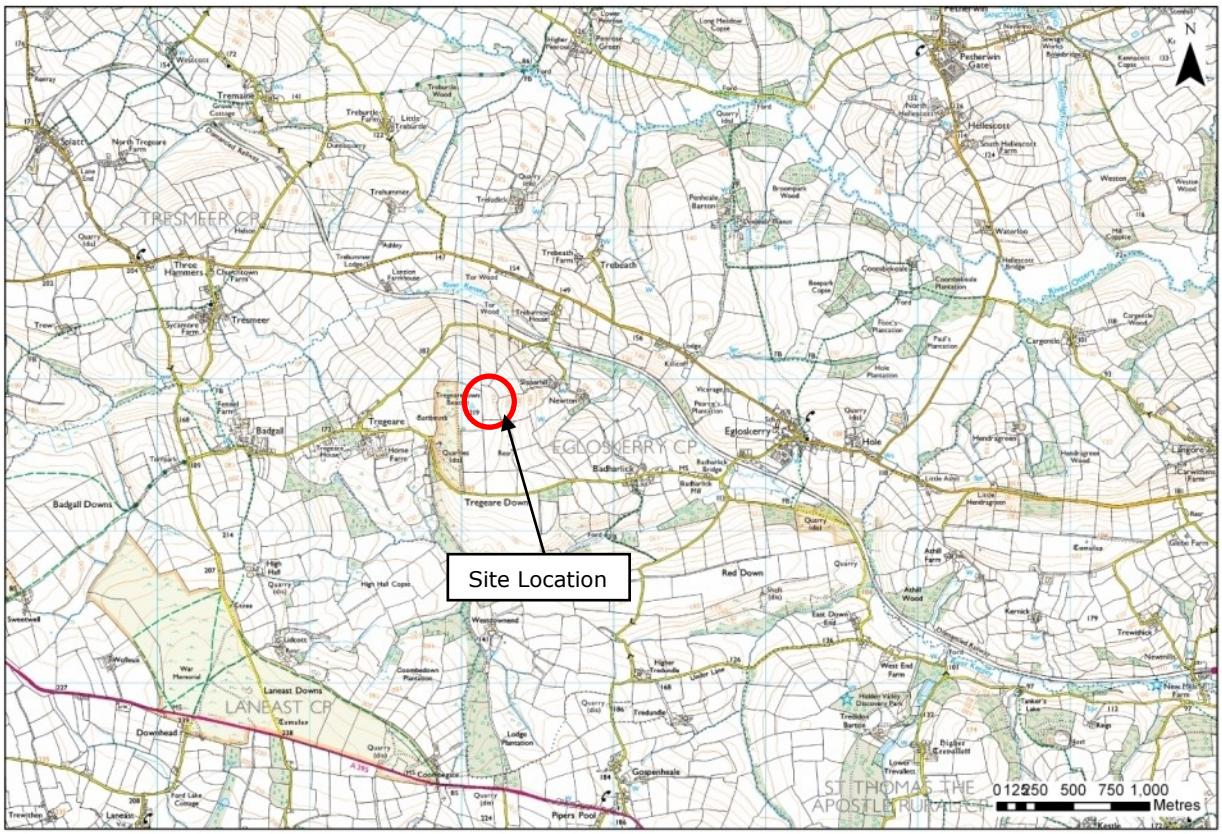


*Figure 1: Location of Rowland's Corner.*

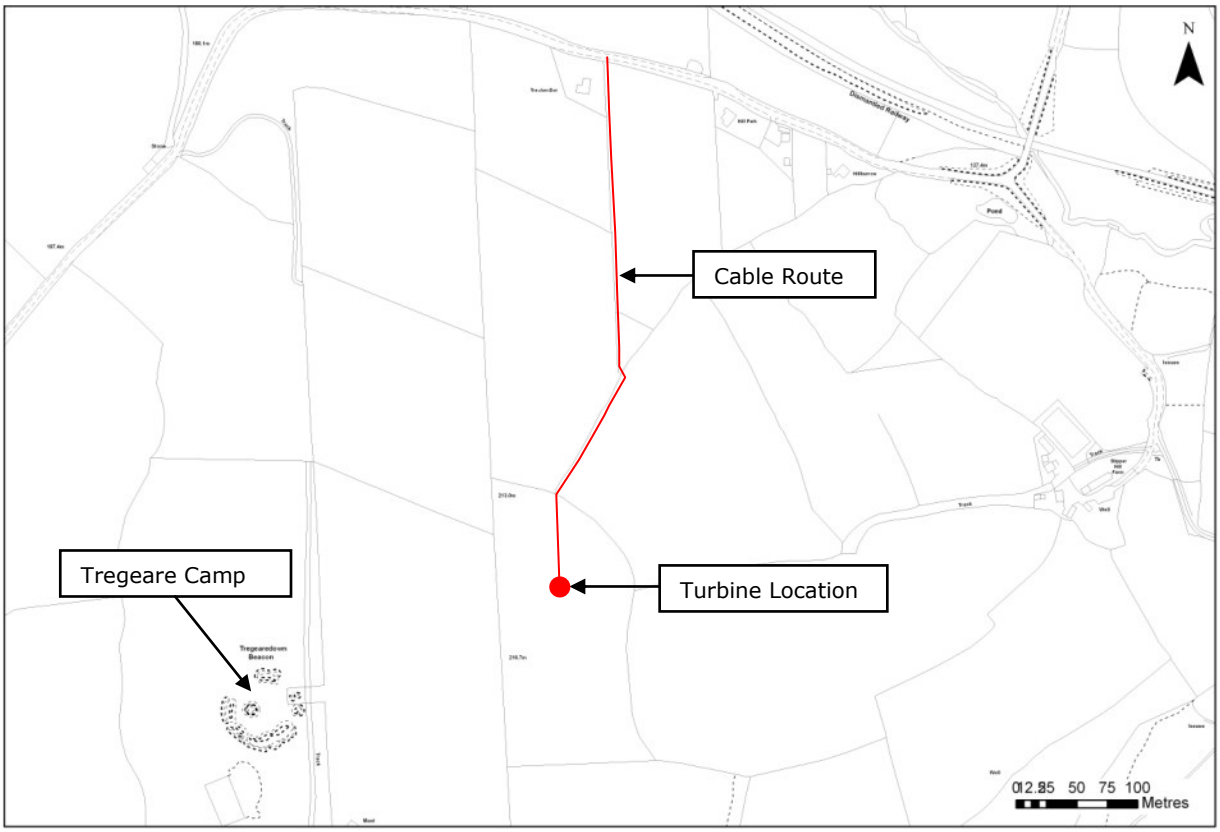


*Figure 2: Location of the areas of archaeological watching brief around the turbine base and cable route.*

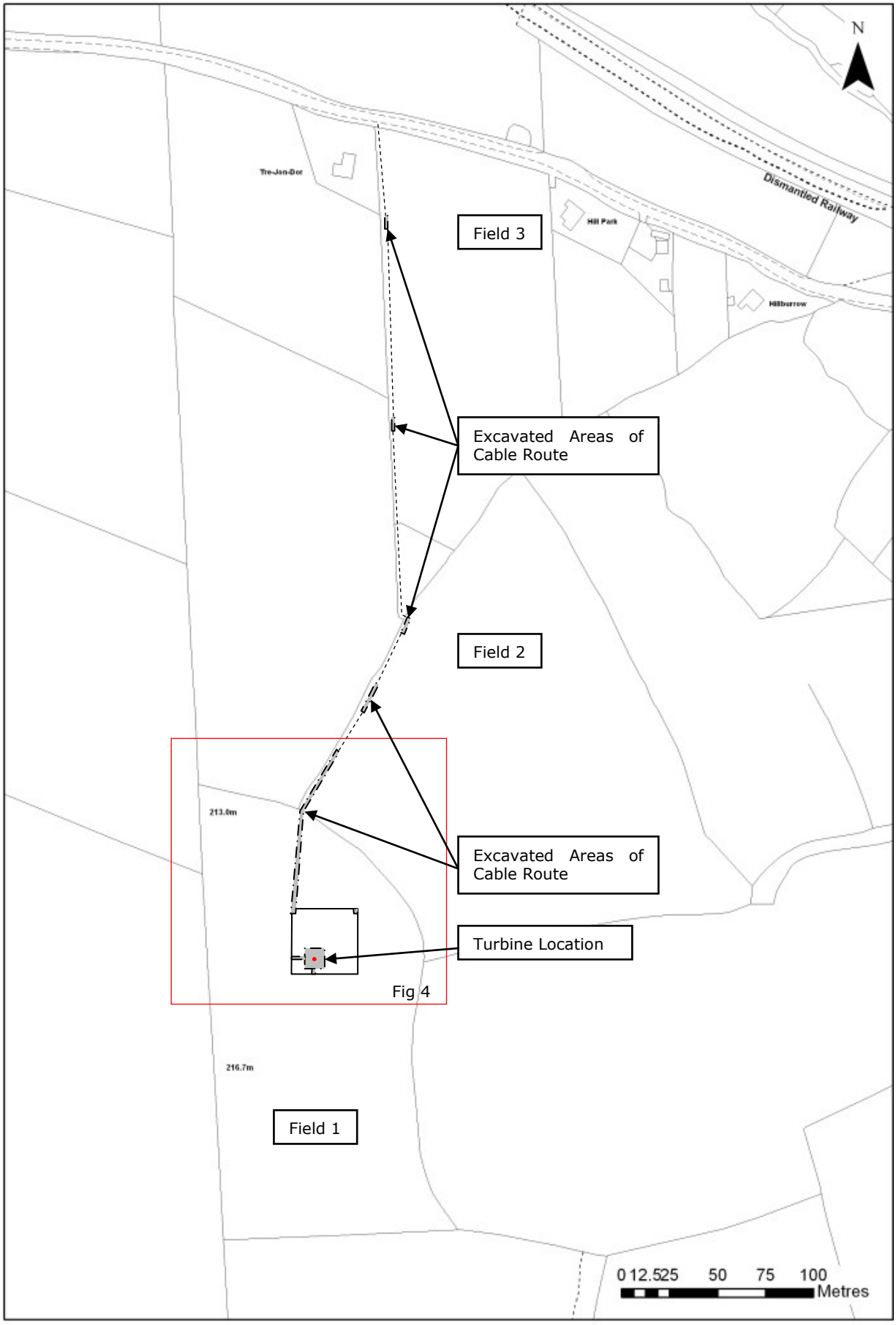


*Figure 3: Map showing the locations of the excavated areas.*

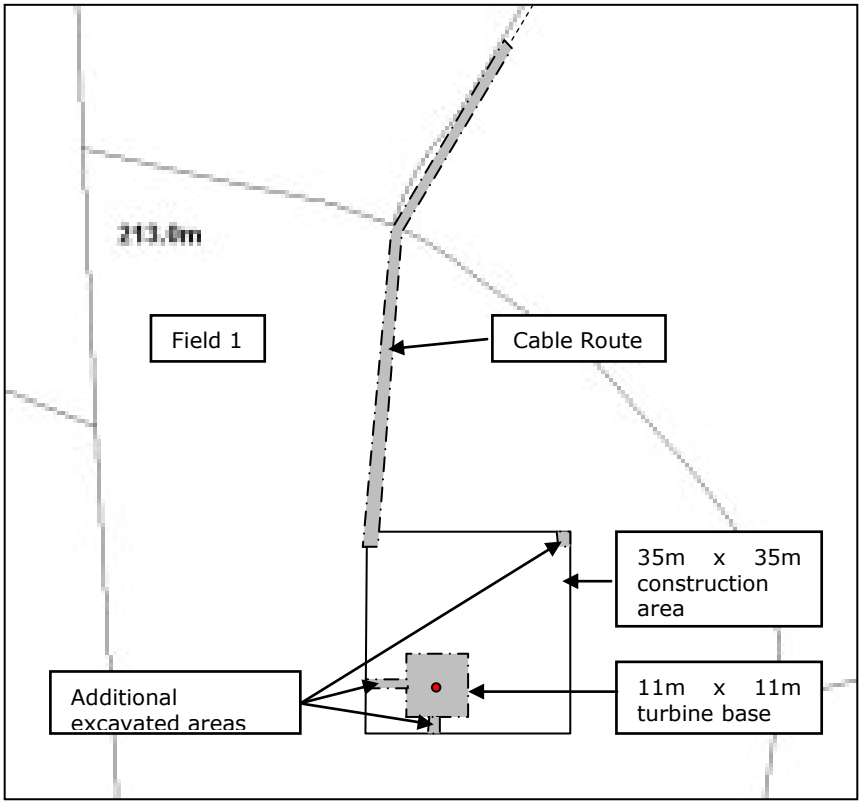


*Figure 4: Detail of the excavated areas around the turbine base.*

*Figure 5: The stripped 11m by 11m area and western extension, looking west.*

*Figure 6: The cable trench in Field 1, looking north.*

*Figure 7: Trench along the cable route in Field 3, looking north.*

# Appendix 1: Rowland's Corner, Egloskerry: Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief during the erection of a wind turbine

Client: Mr. And Mrs. KCS Hicks

Client address: Treburrow Farm Partnership, C/o Saffron Hill, Egloskerry, Cornwall PL15 8RX

## • Project background

Historic Environment Projects were contacted in February 2014 by Mr. Hicks Ltd with a request to undertake an assessment of the potential impacts of the construction of a 24m to hub height (34.4m to blade tip) wind turbine proposed for a site at Rowland's Corner, Egloskerry at SX 25817 86871. A report on the potential impacts of the proposal was undertaken in 2013 (Lawson-Jones 2013).

The wind turbine has now been granted planning permission, and Mr. Hicks has requested Historic Environment Projects to supply the costs for undertaking a watching brief during the erection of the wind turbine and its connection to the National Grid. This WSI is based on standard briefs issued by the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officers, and would need to be approved by Mr. Phil Copleston, HEPAO (east), before any work could be undertaken on site.

## • Site history

The site is located in a rural area of east Cornwall at OS Grid Reference SX 25817 86871 near Tresmeer to the west of Launceston. The wind turbine is to be sited at a height of 212m OD on soils recorded as being Larkbarrow loams over sandstones.

The area immediately surrounding the site proposed for the turbine is recorded as Recently Enclosed Land (Farmland 20$^{th}$ century), though this is set within a matrix of Anciently Enclosed Land (Farmland Medieval) and Upland Rough Ground, suggesting that the enclosure proposed for the wind turbine was downland/moorland until very recently. There is a surviving prehistoric earthwork enclosure on the nearby Tregearedown Beacon (a Scheduled Monument less than 250m from the site proposed for the wind turbine), a late prehistoric enclosed settlement (Round) just to the west of Egloskerry, and evidence for medieval strip fields within the surrounding landscape, giving some indication of the uses of the area during the past.

## • Project extent

The watching brief will be focussed on the area proposed for the wind turbine and the route for its cable connection.

## • Aims and objectives

The site specific aims identified in the brief are to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.
- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To establish the nature of the activity on the site.
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.

To provide further information on the archaeology of Rowland's Corner and the surrounding area from any archaeological remains encountered.

The project objective is produce a report setting out the results of the archaeological watching brief and placing them in their historical and landscape context.

# • Working methods

All recording work will be undertaken according to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording.* Staff will follow 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.

**Watching brief**

The soil strip will be carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The soil will be stripped cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers can be expected to be revealed (i.e. top of the "natural"). Machines will not run over the stripped area until the archaeological works are complete. The area will then be inspected by an archaeologist and any archaeological features or layers exposed in the stripped area will be carefully excavated by hand and archaeologically recorded by written description, plan and section and photographic record as appropriate by an HE Projects archaeologist.

During the archaeological recording the archaeologist will identify and record any archaeological features that are revealed in the stripped area; the level of recording will be appropriate to the character/importance of the archaeological remains.

If complex and/or significant archaeological deposits are encountered then the archaeological requirements should be reviewed by the client, the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer and HE Projects. In the event that remains cannot be preserved *in situ* then full-scale excavation may be required. A contingency should be allowed to record any significant archaeological remains which are uncovered during the stripping. The significance of the remains should be agreed between the client, the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer and HE Projects.

Where necessary the detailed archaeological recording may include:

- Excavation of archaeological features exposed in the stripped area and plotting them onto a base map.
- Production of plans and section drawings of the excavated features and recording of features using a continuous numbering system.
- Retrieval of artefacts.

<u>Recording - general</u>

Site drawings (plans, sections, locations of finds) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans will be linked to the Ordnance Survey Landline (electronic) map; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.

All features and finds will be accurately located at an appropriate scale. Sections will normally be drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20.

All archaeological contexts will be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence.

Photography: scaled monochrome photography will be used as the main record medium, with colour digital images used more selectively and for illustrative purposes. This will include both general and site specific photographs. Photographs should have a scale and detailed ones should include a north arrow.

Drawings and photographs will be recorded in a register giving details of feature number and location.

Sealed/undisturbed archaeological contexts in the form of buried soils, layers or deposits within significant archaeological features (ditches and pits, etc) will be sampled for environmental evidence and dating material. In the event that significant organic

remains are encountered, advice may be needed from Vanessa Straker (Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science).

If human remains are discovered on the site the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer and the Ministry of Justice will be informed. All recording will conform to best practice and legal requirements.

If human remains are uncovered, which require excavation, they will be will be excavated with due reverence. The site will be adequately screened from public view. Once excavated, human remains must not be exposed to public view.

If human remains are not to be removed their physical security will be ensured, by back filling as soon as possible after recording.

Treatment of finds

The archaeological fieldwork may produce artefactual material.

All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (e.g., settlement features) should be collected by context and described. Post medieval or modern finds may be disposed of at the cataloguing stage. This process will be reviewed ahead of its implementation.

All finds will be collected in sealable plastic bags which will be labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier.

**Creation of site archive**

To include:

- Archiving of black and white photographs to HER standards. All monochrome photographs will be archived using the HE photo database
- Digital colour photographs (stored according to HER guidelines and copies of images made available to the client)
- Preparation of finished drawings
- Completion of the English Heritage/ADS OASIS online archive index

**Archive report**

A written report will include:

- Summary
- Project background
- Aims and objectives
- Methodologies
- Location and setting
- Designations
- Site history
- Archaeological results
- Chronology/dating evidence
- Significance
- Conclusions
- References
- Project archive index
- Supporting illustrations: location map, historic maps, plans, elevations/sections, photographs

A paper copy and a digital (PDF) copy of the report, illustrations and any other files will be held in the Cornwall HER. Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client, to local archives and national archaeological record centres.

**Assessment/analysis**

In the event that significant archaeological remains are uncovered, the structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual material will be assessed to establish whether further analyses and reporting are appropriate. The outline of the final report, and the work required to produce it will be determined in an updated project design.

In the event of significant remains being recovered (eg, prehistoric or medieval artefacts) it may be appropriate to:

- Consult with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer over the requirements for assessment, analysis and reporting.
- Liaise with specialists (eg, artefacts) to arrange for assessment of the potential for further analysis and reporting.
- Arrange for specialist analyses, where appropriate.

**Final publication**

In the event of significant archaeological remains being recorded the scope and final form of the report will be reviewed; for example in addition to an archive report the results should be published in an academic journal (eg, *Cornish Archaeology*).

**Archive deposition**

An index to the site archive will be created and the archive contents prepared for long term storage, in accordance with HE standards.

The archiving will comprise the following:

1. All correspondence relating to the project, the WSI, a single paper copy of the report together with an electronic copy on CD, stored in an archive standard (acid-free) documentation box
2. A2 drawn archive storage (plastic wallets for the annotated record drawings)
3. Archive standard negative holders and archive print holders, to be stored in the HES system until transferred to the Royal Cornwall Museum.
4. All black and white photographs will be archived using captioned labels, appropriate record forms and location plans. Other photo records will be supplied with written captions and subject to appropriate batch archiving to be held in safe archival storage.
5. The project documentary archive will be deposited initially at ReStore PLC, Liskeard and in due course (when space permits) at either the Royal Cornwall Museum (if accompanied by artefacts) or at the Cornwall Record Office.
6. The results of the watching brief will be reviewed on completion with the HEPAO and the Client to establish whether these warrant a programme of further analysis and publication.

# • Timetable

The study is anticipated to be commenced during late Autumn 2013. HE will require at least two weeks' notice before commencement of work, in order to allow to allocate field staff time and arrange other logistics.

The archive report will be completed within 3 months of the end of the fieldwork. The deposition of the archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the archive report.

# • Monitoring and Signing Off Condition

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by Phil Copleston, Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer. Where the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer is

satisfied with the archive report and the deposition of the archive written discharge of the planning condition will be expected from the local planning authority (LPA).

Monitoring points during the study will include:

- Approval of the WSI
- Completion of fieldwork
- Completion of archive report
- Deposition of the archive

# • Historic Environment Projects

Historic Environment Projects is the contracting arm of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council (HE). HE employs some 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 100 projects each year.

HE is committed to conserving and enhancing the distinctiveness of the historic environment and heritage of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by providing clients with a number of services including:

- Conservation works to sites and monuments
- Conservation surveys and management plans
- Historic landscape characterisation
- Town surveys for conservation and regeneration
- Historic building surveys and analysis
- Maritime and coastal zone assessments
- Air photo mapping
- Excavations and watching briefs
- Assessments and evaluations
- Post-excavation analysis and publication
- Outreach: exhibitions, publication, presentations

# • Standards

HE is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and follows their Standards and Code of Conduct.

As part of Cornwall Council, HE has certification in BS9001 (Quality Management), BS14001 (Environmental Management), OHSAS18001 (Health, Safety and Welfare), Investors in People and Charter Mark.

# • Terms and conditions

**Contract**

The HE projects team is part of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council. If accepted, the contract for this work will be between the client and Cornwall Council.

The views and recommendations expressed will be those of the HE projects team and will be presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

**Project staff**

The project will be managed by a nominated Senior Archaeologist (Adam Sharpe BA MIfA) who will:

- Discuss and agree the detailed objectives and programme of each stage of the project with the client and the field officers, including arrangements for health and safety.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.
- Liaise with the client regarding the budget and related issues.

Work will be carried out by HE field staff, with assistance from qualified specialists and sub-contractors where appropriate.

**Report distribution**

Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client, to local archives and national archaeological record centres.

A digital copy of the report, illustrations and any other files will be held in the Cornwall HER and also supplied to the client on CD or other suitable media.

**Copyright**

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to the Historic Environment, Cornwall Council. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

Use of the material will be granted to the client.

**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.

HE will ensure that all information arising from the project shall be held in strict confidence to the extent permitted under the Act. However, the Act permits information to be released under a public right of access (a "Request"). If such a Request is received HE may need to disclose any information it holds, unless it is excluded from disclosure under the Act.

**Health and safety statement**

HE follows the Council's *Statement of Safety Policy*.

Prior to carrying out on-site work HE will carry out a Risk Assessment.

**Insurance**

As part of Cornwall Council, HE is covered by Public and Employers Liability Insurance.

*Adam Sharpe BA MIfA*

*Senior Archaeologist*

*03/02/2014*

*Historic Environment Projects*

*Cornwall Council*

*Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall. TR1 3AY*

*Tel: 01872 323603 Fax: 01872 323811*

*Email: asharpe@cornwall.gov.uk*