



Lower Hugus, Kenwyn, Cornwall

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment



Historic Environment Projects

Lower Hugus, Kenwyn, Cornwall

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Client	Kier Living
Report Number	2014R058
Date	August 2014
Status	Final
Report author	Hayley Goacher BA (Hons) PIfA
Checked by	Adam Sharpe BA MIfA
Approved by	Andrew Young

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Cornwall Council

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

Tel: (01872) 323603

Email: hes@cornwall.gov.uk Web: www.cornwall.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Kier Living and carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was Adam Sharpe.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Cornwall Archaeological Unit 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.



Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the
Institute for Archaeologists

Cover illustration

A 2005 aerial photograph of the development site and surrounding area.

© **Cornwall Council 2014**

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	3
2.3	Methods	3
2.3.1	Desk-based assessment	3
2.3.2	Creation of site archive and report	4
3	Location and setting	4
4	Designations	4
4.1	National	4
4.2	Regional/county	4
4.3	Local	4
5	Historical background	4
6	Results of desk-based assessment	6
7	Discussion	6
8	Recommendations	7
9	References	7
9.1	Primary sources	7
9.2	Publications	7
9.3	Websites	7
10	Project archive	8

List of Figures

<i>Figure 1: The location of the Lower Hugus proposed development site and Threemilestone.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Figure 2: The location of the proposed development site on the south-western edge of Threemilestone.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Figure 3: Gascoyne’s 1699 map showing Kenwyn and ‘Goddern’, the site of the Domesday Manor.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Figure 4: Martyn’s 1748 map of Powder Hundred which depicts Truro and ‘St Kenven’ whilst the development site is located close to the border with Kirrier Hundred.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Figure 5: Norden’s 17th century map depicting the many medieval or post medieval farming settlements in this area.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Figure 6: The c1803 OS map showing adjacent post-medieval settlements and surviving downland at the approximate location of the proposed development site.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Figure 7: Long Field at Lower Hugus as depicted on the 1840 Tithe map for Kenwyn. Note also New Down in the top right-hand corner and Saveock Downs to the top left.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Figure 8: The 1875 OS map showing the proposed development site. Note the addition of the railway and the enclosure, or enlargement of some of the fields whose otherwise small size and abundance of small cottages betray their smallholding origin.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Figure 9: The 1906 OS map depicting the name Hugus for the first time.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Figure 10: Modern mapping of the proposed development site and heritage assets within the surrounding area overlaid.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Figure 11: Modern mapping of the proposed development site with heritage assets recorded in the HER in the surrounding area overlaid.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Figure 12: The Historic Landscape Character map showing that the proposed development site is characterised as Post Medieval Enclosed Land (light green), alongside Farmland, Medieval (dark green) and 20th century settlement (red) giving a good impression of the extent of former downland and the smallholdings in the late 18th century.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Figure 13: The NMP data overlaid on the modern mapping. Note the high number of sub-circular enclosures, indicating prehistoric activity, in the vicinity and particularly located just below the ridge line.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Figure 14: The aerial view from 2000 of the proposed development site in its rural and suburban context.....</i>	<i>14</i>

Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
NRHE	National Record for the Historic Environment
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

1 Summary

HE Projects were commissioned by Kier Living to provide an archaeological desk-based assessment for their proposed housing development at Lower Hugas, Kenwyn. The development area currently comprises a field located between the periphery of the villages of Threemilestone and Hugas. The archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken in advance of a planning application in order to ascertain the likely archaeological implications of the development.

Lower Hugas is located on a historically undeveloped and rural site that appears not to contain sites of historic interest. However this undeveloped history and the site's proximity to important prehistoric Scheduled Monuments may mean that such evidence survives below the surface and may be impacted by the proposed development. Further archaeological work such as a geophysical survey may be able to provide the information required to determine whether or not any further archaeological investigation of the site might be required, and may contribute to mitigating the effects of the proposal on its archaeology.

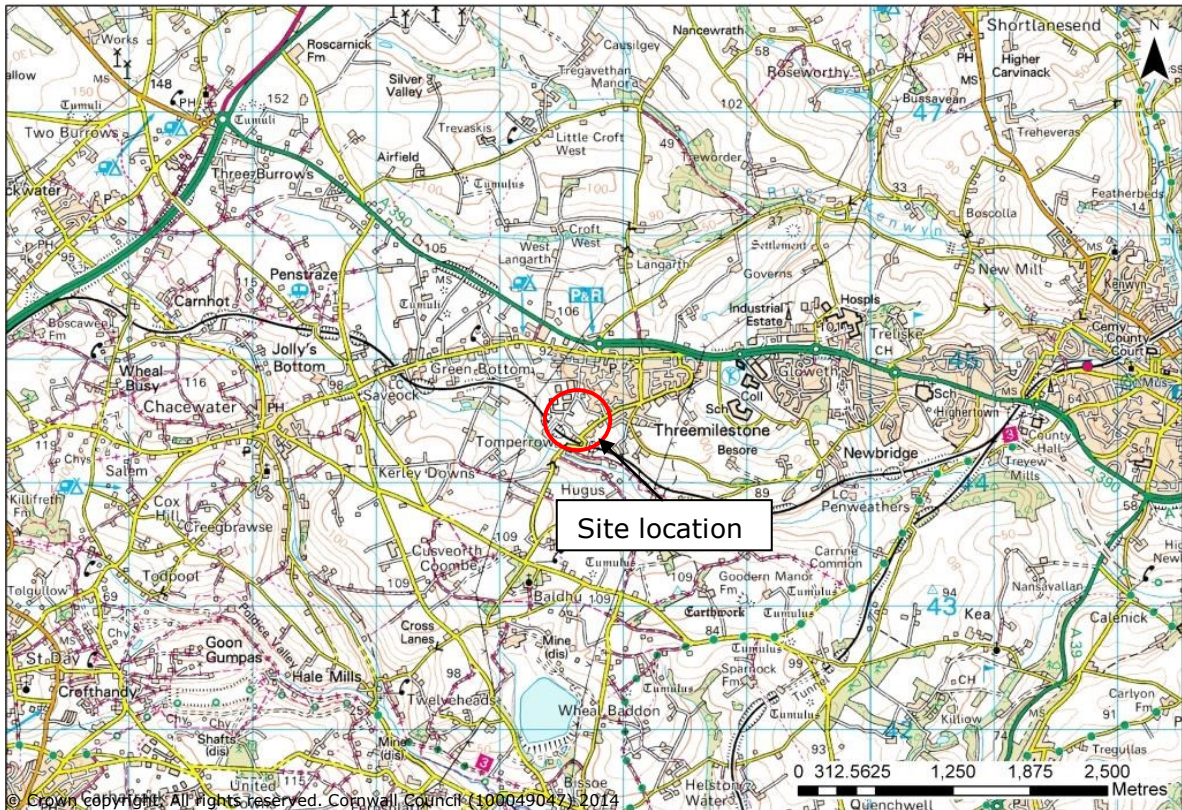


Figure 1: The location of the Lower Hugus proposed development site and Threemilestone.

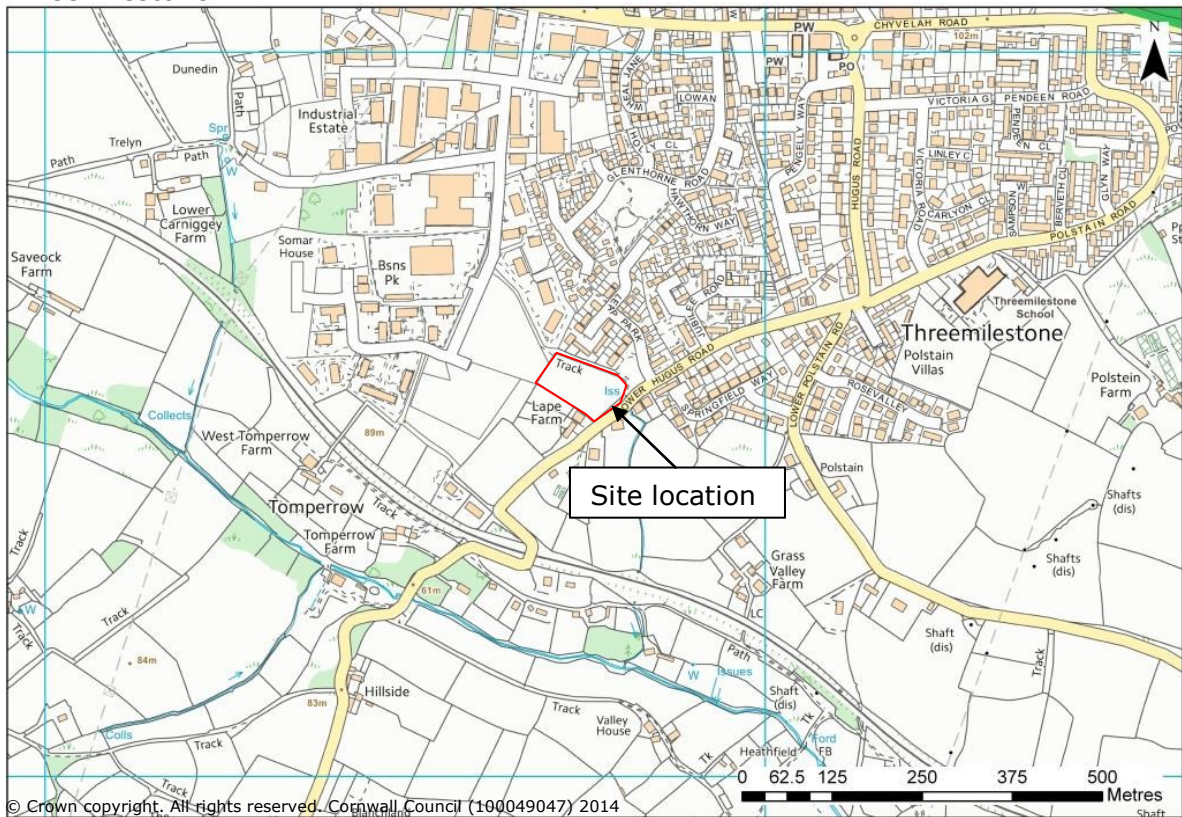


Figure 2: The location of the proposed development site on the south-western edge of Threemilestone.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Kier Living to provide an archaeological desk-based assessment for the proposed housing development at Lower Hugus, Kenwyn (Figure 1). The development area currently comprises a field on the south-western periphery of the settlement of Threemilestone (Figure 2). The archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken in advance of a planning application in order to ascertain the likely archaeological implications of the development.

2.2 Aims

The aim of the project was to gain a better understanding of the history of the site. The objective was to produce an archaeological study in advance of the development to ascertain the likely archaeological implications and highlight the potential for disturbance of buried archaeological remains.

The site specific aims were:

- To research historic maps, records and other reports pertaining to the site.
- To extract site specific information from historic maps, records and reports to create a written history of the site.
- Where possible to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological and historic assets identified.
- To highlight archaeological and historic assets likely to be affected by the scheme.
- To make recommendations for any further archaeological investigation of the site, should this be required.
- To disseminate the results appropriately.

The development area has the potential to contain important buried archaeological sites. The key objective of the archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an opportunity to better understand the character and potential of this area by highlighting archaeological and historic assets potentially affected by the development.

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

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 1803)
 - Kenwyn Tithe Map (circa 1840),

- 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 historical and landscape context of the site was also considered during this stage of the assessment in order to establish the nature of the heritage assets which are located within the area surrounding the proposed development.

2.3.2 Creation of site archive and report

To include:

- A detailed site description.
- Completion of the English Heritage/ADS OASIS online archive index.
- Collation of paperwork pertaining to the project.
- An archive report outlining the project results (this report).

3 Location and setting

The proposed development site is located at approximately 85m OD at OS grid reference SW 77734 44544 between the south-western edge of Threemilestone and the village of Hugus in the civil parish of Kenwyn (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Threemilestone is approximately 4.8km west of Truro. Topographically the site is situated southeast of the crest of a small hill on a south facing slope and is currently rough pasture or grassland.

4 Designations

4.1 National

There are no nationally designated heritage assets within the development site.

4.2 Regional/county

There are no regionally designated heritage assets within the development site.

4.3 Local

There are no locally important heritage assets within the development site.

5 Historical background

The prehistoric evidence from the landscape surrounding the site at Lower Hugus is substantial and varied. The earliest recorded evidence seems to be Early Bronze Age and includes at least five known or suggested sites of barrows. Of these, one at Gloweth is thought to be associated with three pits but their identification is tentative and derived from geophysical survey only. Another, at Carrine, is adjacent to a round, usually Iron Age or later prehistoric in date, suggestive of continuous or repeated occupation. The Iron Age forms the greatest body of evidence, with rounds at Polstain, Penventinnie and the suggestion of another at Little Gloweth. Polstain round is an ovoid enclosure with ramparts partially preserved as current field boundaries whilst

Penventinnie is near circular and, similar to Polstain's ridge-top location, is situated on a spur overlooking a tributary of the River Kenwyn, a classic position for rounds. Above the River Kenwyn itself, Bosvisack is a small multivallate hillfort with two encircling banks. The interiors of all these rounds and hillforts contain evidence suggesting habitation. Mount Pleasant, to the northeast of the proposed site, is also the site of a round, multiple enclosures and at least twelve hut circles dated to the Iron Age. This site also overlooks the River Kenwyn and seems likely to have had at least one defensive ditch, possibly a palisade and an associated field system. These were identified through excavation which also identified highly significant Bronze Age settlement remains (Gossip, forthcoming).

Field systems characterise what remains of the medieval period with records for examples at Threemilestone, which was destroyed by the construction of the A390 road, and plough-levelled fragments at Polstein. The origin of the name Polstein, 'pul-stean', means tin-pit and is likely to refer to medieval or later streamworks used for extracting alluvial tin (Heritage Gateway).

Some of the earliest definitive medieval evidence for the wider area is found in the Domesday Book. It is not clear which Domesday Manor would have had jurisdiction over Lower Hugus as it lies approximately equidistantly between Goodern and Bosvisack Manors. Goodern was held by Richard though it was held by Alwin before 1066. It was a relatively small holding with two villagers, three smallholders and twenty acres of pasture, all valued at 5s. Bosvisack was similarly small with two smallholders, half a league square of pasture, one cow and fifteen sheep. It was also valued at 5s and was held by Wulfric from the Count of Mortain having been held by Leofric before 1066 (Thorn and Thorn 1979).

Goodern Manor retains its name today, though as this is attached to a small single farm, it does not have the prominence it probably once had. By contrast Hugus, a name of Cornish origin, from 'huel-gos' meaning high wood, does not appear on maps until the early 20th century (Padel 1985). It seems likely to have been a small farmstead and the name took on greater significance as the area was developed. Similar small medieval settlements are recorded at Besore and Higher Besore, and these continued in occupation through into the post medieval period (Heritage Gateway).

Of the Listed Buildings in the area, post medieval farmhouses are the most numerous with Kilters and Albany, both Grade II, being good examples of late 18th or early 19th century killas rubble and cob buildings with few modern alterations. Churches, in particular nonconformist chapels, also contribute to the Listed Buildings. Hugus Methodist Church is Grade II Listed and dates to 1830, with refitting undertaken in the later 19th century. It is considered a good example with a later attached manse over a school room. A 19th century Wesleyan Chapel was located to the northwest at Greenbottom, though has now been converted for commercial use. A third church, the Anglican St. Michael's at Baldhu to the west of the development site, is Grade II* Listed due to its design by William White. The church is now disused but was one of White's first Cornish buildings and features a simple and restrained Decorated style and prominent spire which remains a local landmark.

The most significant change to the landscape at this time was increasing industrialisation. The Scheduled Great Wheal Busy to the southwest forms part of a formerly very substantial copper and tin mine operating from the 18th century through into the early 20th century and forms a key part of the Gwennap Mining District World Heritage Site. Due to its rich lodes it was the most productive of the Scorrier mines and was one of the first able to buy into new technologies such as the use of the Newcomen engine in 1725 and the Smeaton and Boulton and Watt engines in the 1770s. It survived the collapse in copper prices by mining and processing arsenic until 1928 when it finally closed, but the mine remains notorious for its conflicts with neighbouring mines over water pumping and outflow. Another far smaller mine for which evidence survives less well was East Wheal Falmouth, this being one of the precursors to the

large-scale 20th century working of Wheal Jane to the south-west. East Wheal Falmouth mined copper from 1830-65 and lead and zinc from 1858-61.

The earliest maps for the area: Gascoyne's map of 1699, Norden's 17th century map and Martyn's map of 1748, show very little detail except Truro and Kenwyn, attesting to the post medieval and later development into miner's smallholdings of what had previously been a relatively large and open downland area to the west of Truro (Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5). The c1803 OS map records the small agricultural settlements probably surviving from the medieval period such as Tomperrow, Besore and Kilters. It does not record Hugus but depicts the now lost Ventonzeth and Ventongrear. The 1840 Kenwyn Parish Tithe Map and apportionment shows the field layouts as being very similar to modern land parcels (Figure 7). Parcel 2454 refers to the development site and is called Long Field. The arable land was owned by the Earl of Falmouth and was occupied by Sampson Deeble. Deeble occupied the adjacent field and house to the southwest. This land is near an area entitled New Downs whose name is indicative of quite recent enclosure associated with the widespread improvement of the downs by smallholders at the instigation of its landowner, the Tregothnan Estate.

By 1875 the development site field and small holding has been renamed 'Leap' and though the surrounding landscape had changed little, the most dramatic change was the construction of the main line railway to the south (Figure 8). On the 1906 OS map the landscape was still relatively rural with the exception of the railway, but Hugus was named for the first time (Figure 9).

In the modern period the remains of the Great Wheal Busy site as well as parts of Greenbottom hosted to World War Two temporary camps for American soldiers in the run-up to D-Day, reflecting their proximity to Truro and more importantly to the embarkation points around Falmouth. Hugus has since become characterised by a large area of modern housing forming the western periphery of suburban Truro (Figure 14).

6 Results of desk-based assessment

The desk-based assessment has indicated that the proposed development site does not contain any known heritage assets within the boundaries. However the prehistoric Scheduled Monuments of Mount Pleasant and Polstain amongst others and the boundary of the World Heritage Site are within very close proximity, being less than 1km from the proposed development site (Figure 10). In addition to their protected areas, the settings of the prehistoric heritage assets include parts of the surrounding landscape as they interacted with their agricultural land and were often intervisible with contemporary sites nearby. Settings for prehistoric enclosure sites are usually considered to be quite extensive.

The assessment has also highlighted the high quantity of highly significant heritage assets in the surrounding area (Figure 11 and Figure 13). These range from the earliest prehistoric occupation evidence of early Bronze Age barrows and later prehistoric enclosures to the medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape with its associated buildings such as farmhouses and churches. Although of high importance and statutorily protected, they are all located outside the development area.

7 Discussion

None of the above identified heritage assets are within the development site boundaries and will not be physically impacted upon by the proposed development although at least minor setting impacts could occur to the adjacent prehistoric Scheduled Monuments and World Heritage Site due to their extensive and intervisible settings or large-scale protected areas.

However no information is available to determine the presence or absence of any subsurface archaeology within the development area, particularly that relating to prehistoric activity. Given the site's proximity to important heritage assets from this period, which were largely identified by excavation in advance of development elsewhere nearby, the potential for this to survive is moderately high. In addition, the Historic Landscape Character of these fields is post medieval Enclosed Land – land enclosed in the 17th-19th centuries from upland rough ground or medieval commons (Figure 12) - and the potential for medieval or post medieval evidence to survive is assessed as moderate. Should sub-surface archaeology exist within the development area, impacts on it resulting from the development are likely to be direct, physical and irreversible and could be at least moderately negative depending on the extent, survival and importance of any artefacts and features.

8 Recommendations

Given the unknown sub-surface archaeological potential of the proposed development area, it is recommended that:

- A geophysical survey is undertaken prior to any development taking place to further investigate the potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological sites and features to better inform whether any archaeological mitigation might be required either in advance of the development taking place (in the form of evaluation trenching), or during its groundworks phase (as controlled soil stripping and a watching brief).

9 References

9.1 Primary sources

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, c1930. 25 Inch Map Third Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, 2007. Mastermap Digital Mapping

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

9.2 Publications

Gossip, J. forthcoming. *Life outside the round: Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement at Higher Besore and Truro College, Threemilestone, Truro*. Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

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

Padel, O.J. 1985, *Cornish Place-name Elements*, Penzance

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

9.3 Websites

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/> English Heritage designation information

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications> English Heritage guidance

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

10 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146399**

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. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-186334
3. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites T\Threemilestone, Lower Hugus assessment



Figure 3: Gascoyne's 1699 map showing Kenwyn and 'Goddern', the site of the Domesday Manor.



Figure 4: Martyn's 1748 map of Powder Hundred which depicts Truro and 'St Kenven' whilst the development site is located close to the border with Kirrier Hundred.



Figure 5: Norden's 17th century map depicting the many medieval or post medieval farming settlements in this area.



Figure 6: The c1803 OS map showing adjacent post-medieval settlements and surviving downland at the approximate location of the proposed development site.

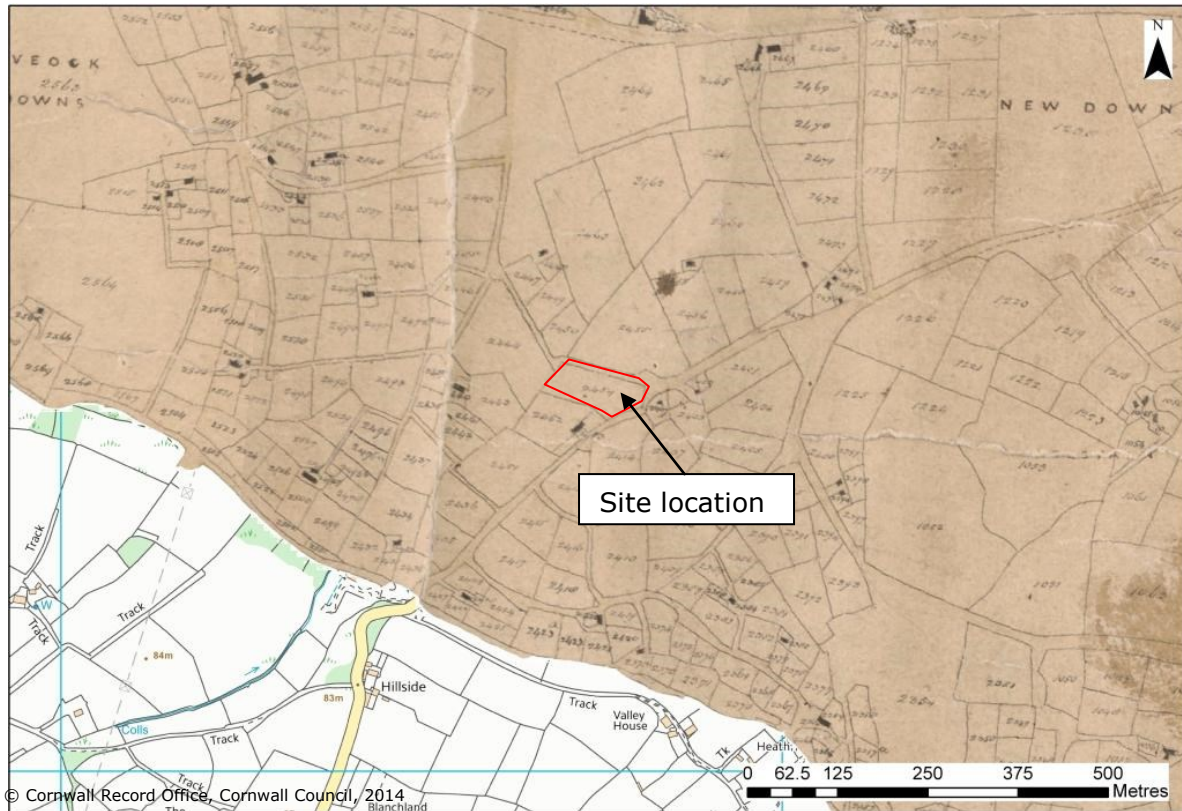


Figure 7: Long Field at Lower Hugus as depicted on the 1840 Tithe map for Kenwyn. Note also New Down in the top right-hand corner and Savecock Downs to the top left.

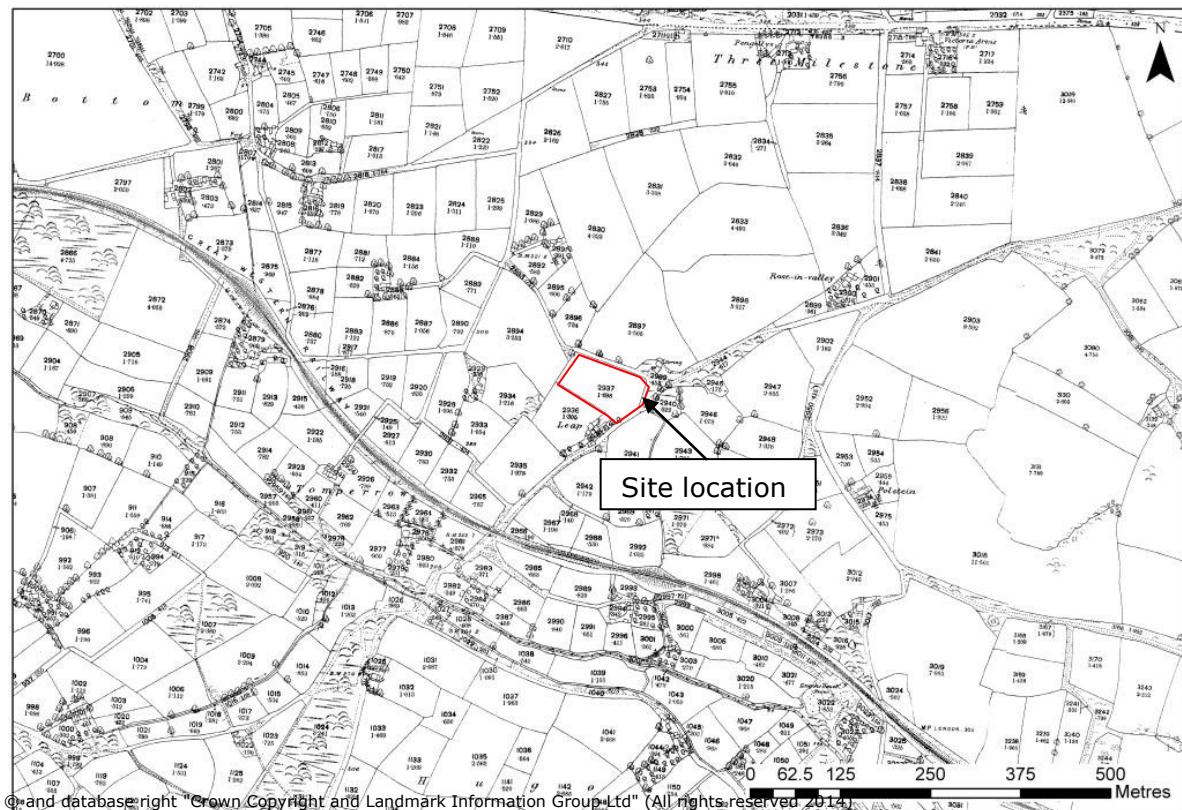


Figure 8: The 1875 OS map showing the proposed development site. Note the addition of the railway and the enclosure, or enlargement of some of the fields whose otherwise small size and abundance of small cottages betray their smallholding origin.

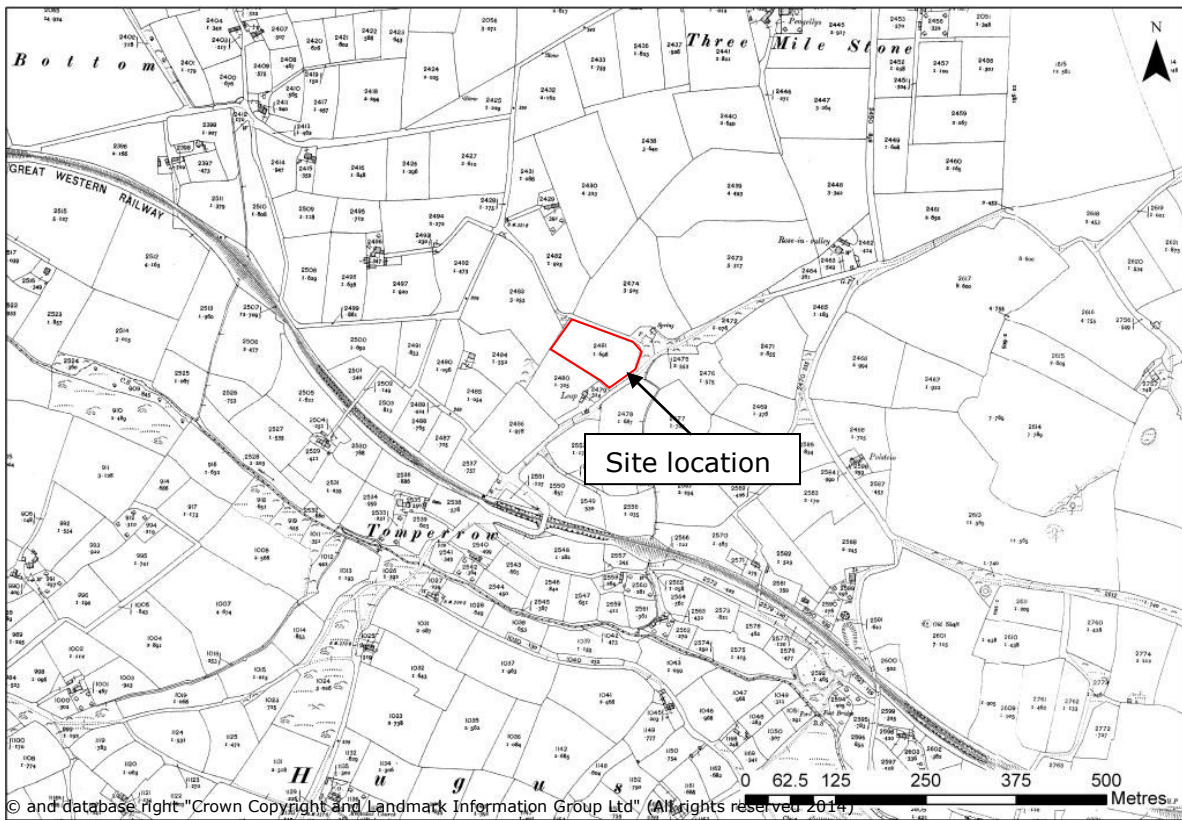


Figure 9: The 1906 OS map depicting the name Hugus for the first time.

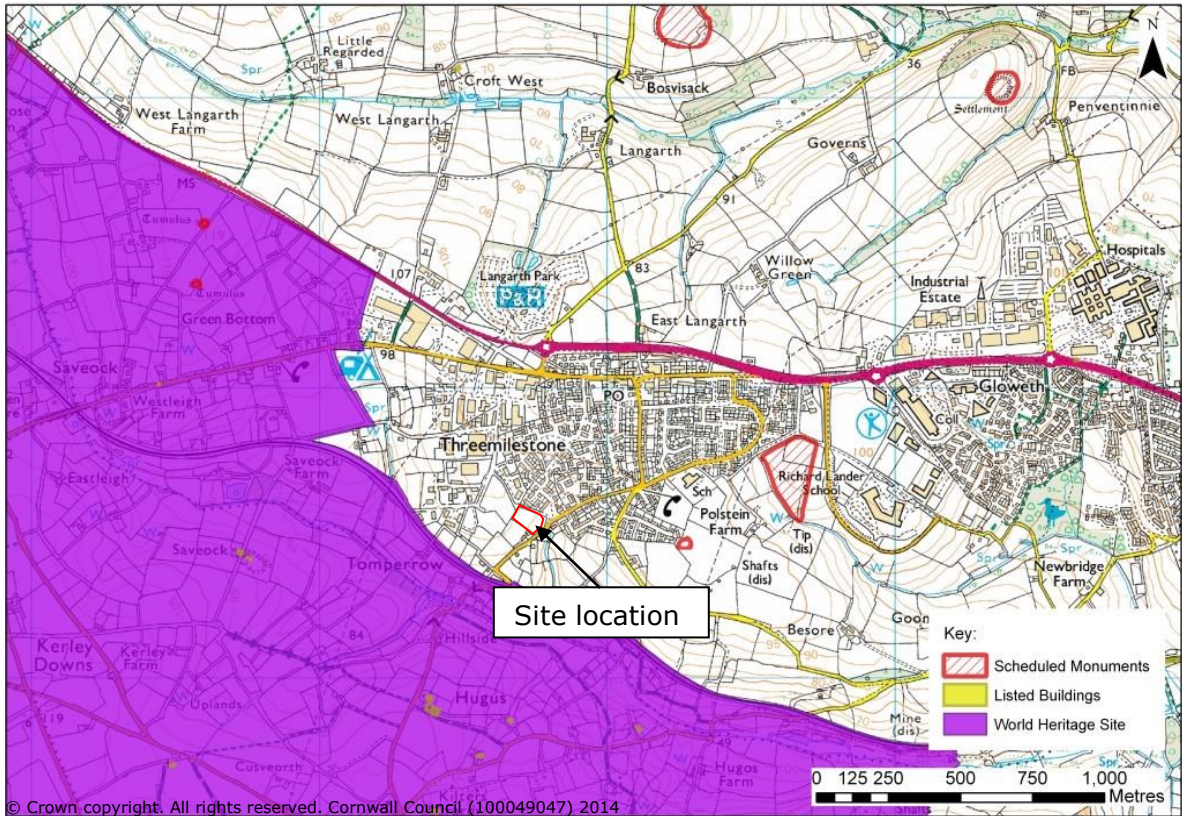


Figure 10: Modern mapping of the proposed development site and heritage assets within the surrounding area overlaid.

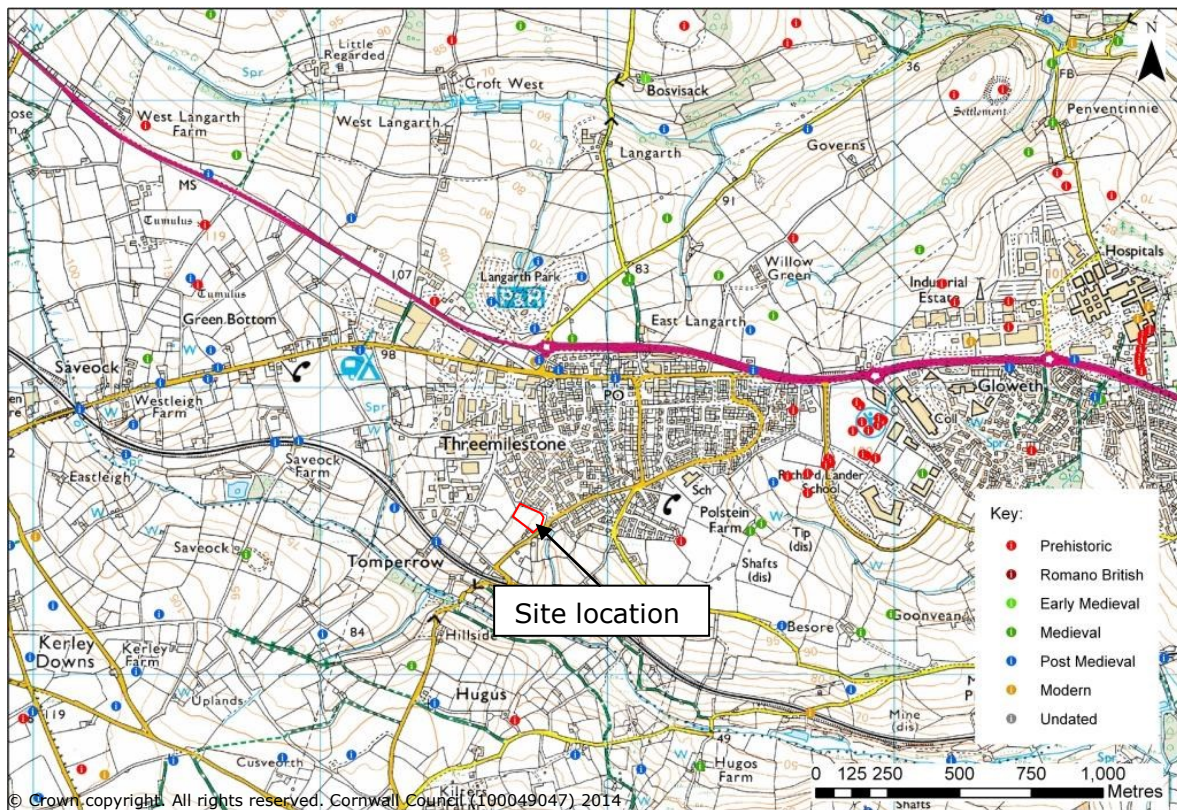


Figure 11: Modern mapping of the proposed development site with heritage assets recorded in the HER in the surrounding area overlaid.

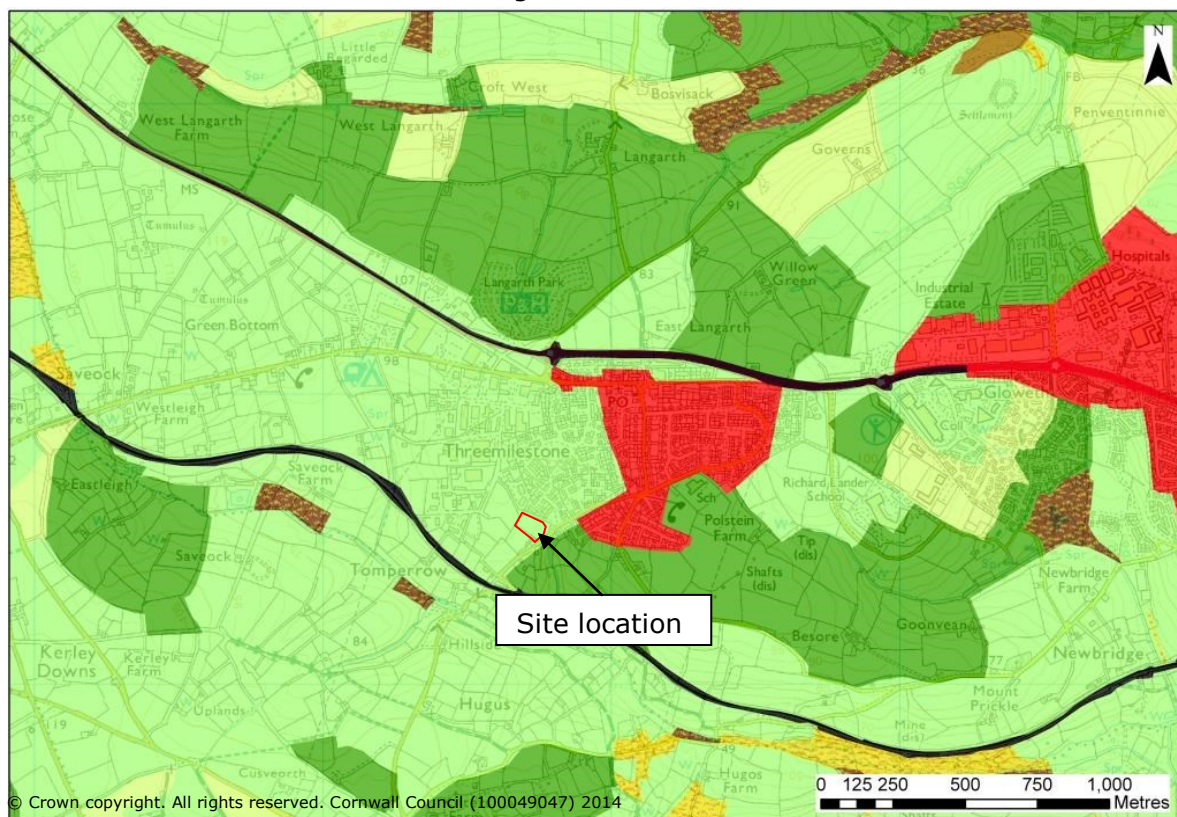


Figure 12: The Historic Landscape Character map showing that the proposed development site is characterised as Post Medieval Enclosed Land (light green), alongside Farmland, Medieval (dark green) and 20th century settlement (red) giving a good impression of the extent of former downland and the smallholdings in the late 18th century.

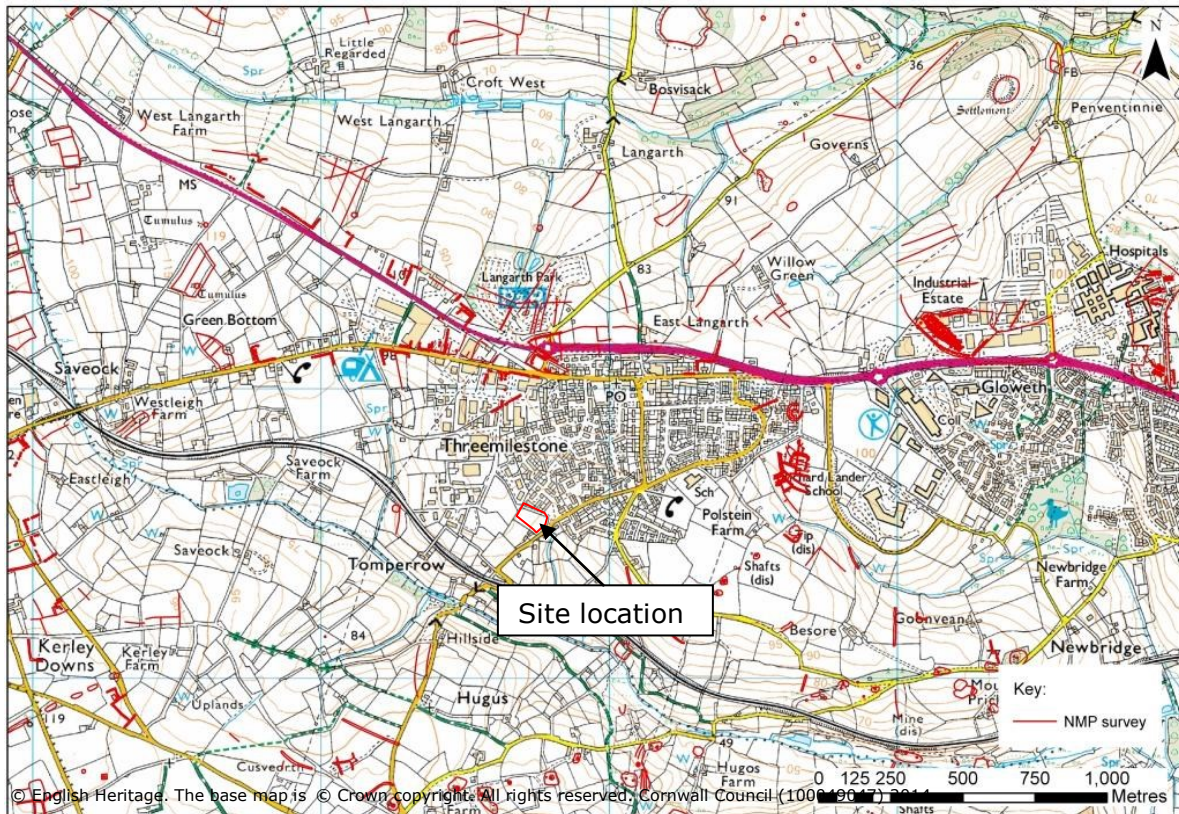


Figure 13: The NMP data overlaid on the modern mapping. Note the high number of sub-circular enclosures, indicating prehistoric activity, in the vicinity and particularly located just below the ridge line.



Figure 14: The aerial view from 2000 of the proposed development site in its rural and suburban context.