Report No: 2015R047

Quintrell Downs, Kier Area, Area Z, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No	Report Name	Report Author
2015R047	Quintrell Downs, Kier Area, Area Z, Cornwall	Ryan P Smith

Event Type

Watching Brief			

Client Organisation	Client Contact
Kier Living South West and South Wales	Joe Miner

Monuments (MonUID)

Fieldwork dates (From)	(To)	(Created By)	(Create Date)
29/06/15	30/06/15	Ryan Smith	30/06/15

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Quintrell Downs, St Columb Minor, Cornwall

(Town – for urban sites)
(Postcode)

Newquay	TR8 4LD

(Easting) X co-ord	(Northing) Y co-ord		
SW 84651	59974		

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

Cover image: View looking north east after removal of topsoil.

List of Figures

1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council were commissioned by Mr Joe Miner of Kier Living South West and South Wales to continue a programme of archaeological recording in advance of redevelopment of the final phase of land at Quintrell Downs, Newquay.

This part of the project relates to the south west corner of a field which had previously been examined in 2014 (Smith 2014b). A new hedge had been erected to the south of the area, which delineated the working area from the remainder of the field. The site is located on the south west side of the village, the final phase of the development covers an area of approximately 0.52 HA (Fig 1).

A geophysical survey (GSB 2012) and archaeological assessment undertaken by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (then HE Projects) (Lawson-Jones 2008; 2012) revealed a number of potential archaeological sites in the wider area of the site. Dan Ratcliffe (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Cornwall Council) was consulted over the requirements for the archaeological recording, he asked for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out across the area.

A Written Scheme of Investigation, outlining the methodology for archaeological recording was produced (24/04/13) by Dr Andy Jones (Archaeologist Team Leader, HE Projects), (Appendix 1).

This report details the results of the watching brief.

2 Location, setting and archaeological potential

The area covered by the watching brief is situated on the south west side of the village of Quintrell Downs within the civil parish of Colan (Figs 1 and 2). The field is centred at SW 84651 59974 and was used for pasture. The project area is located on a gentle slope, which drops from 64m to 60m OD towards the east. The underlying geology consists of calcareous slate and thin limestones of the Meadfoot Beds belonging to the Devonian Period (BGS sheet 346).

Although the soils in the wider area are classified as well drained fine loamy or fine silty soils over rock, within the immediate area of the site the soil consists of a layer of clay, which effectively slowed any ground water from draining through the lower strata. This led to some areas of the site experiencing water logged surface conditions.

The development area was located within land that falls into an historic character zone which has been classified as 'Recently Enclosed Land' (Cornwall County Council, 1996). 'Recently Enclosed Land' is land that has been enclosed since at least the eighteenth century and is often found to contain upstanding archaeological sites such as Bronze Age round barrows.

The development was situated within an area with archaeological potential. This included a possible Bronze Age barrow, a complex cropmark enclosure site of later prehistoric of Romano-British date and two medieval settlements (Figs 1 and 2).

Identified archaeological sites

Prior to the archaeological fieldwork being undertaken a number of sites in the vicinity of the study area were identified from the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record. They included:

- The site of a Bronze Age barrow (*c* 2000-1500 cal BC) that is suggested by a field name, although a precise location is unknown (MCO2277).
- A crop-mark enclosure or prehistoric/Romano-British date (MCO 8228) is located 550m to the west of the development area. Although this site was not directly impacted by the development, associated activity could possibly have extended into the development area.

- The medieval settlement of Manuels (MCO55291) and its associated field systems were located some 780m to the west of the development area. First recorded in AD1289 as 'Maehulwols'. The name is Cornish and contains the elements *men* meaning 'stone', and *Uhel* meaning 'high' (Gover 1948). The settlement is associated with a strip field system.
- The medieval settlement of Trethiggey (MCO1778) was located 380m to the south of the development area. This was first recorded in AD 1284. The name is Cornish, and contains the place name element *tre,* 'estate*,* farmstead', and an uncertain second element (Gover 1948). The element *tre* implies a settlement of early medieval origin.

Some anomalies and pit type responses were identified by the geophysical survey across the development area (GSB 2012). These features could not be positively identified as being of an archaeological nature, although some had the potential to be so.

Potential sites

There was the potential for buried prehistoric and medieval sites to survive within the project area and there was the scope for the survival or previously unrecorded archaeological sites, organic remains, and artefacts of all periods.

3 Aims and objectives

The aims of the project were:

- To establish the absence/presence of buried archaeological remains.
- To record archaeological features, layers and finds affected by the works.
- To establish the extent, condition, significance and character of the archaeological resource.
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation of the site.
- To gain further information about the archaeological potential of the area, through the recording of buried archaeological remains.
- The dissemination and publication of the results.
- The long-term conservation of the project archive in appropriate conditions.

4 Working methods

The site soil strip was carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The soil was stripped cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers were expected to be revealed, in this case the top of the natural geology. The area was then inspected by the archaeologist.

A single pit was recorded and its location recorded. The potential archaeological feature identified during the soil strip was planned at a scale of 1:20. The recorded section through the feature was drawn at a scale of 1:10.

5 Results

The stripped area (Figs 2, 4, 6 & 7) covered less than 0.52 HA. The topsoil (101) comprised a dark grey loam with common stone inclusions (mainly irregular shaped quartz pieces and slates). The topsoil was consistent in content across the stripped area, and ranged in depth between 0.2m and 0.25m.

The underlying natural subsoil (102) comprised either a yellow clay mixed with quartz pieces and ferrous staining, or a greyish off-white coloured clay interspersed with natural 'crazing patterns' filled with soil. These deposits occurred across the site as irregular bands and patches. Some larger quartz blocks were also recorded across the site. These were less than 0.4m in size and were irregular in shape.

Pit [104]

A single pit [104] (Figs 3 and 5) was located on the western edge of the stripped area, cut into the greyish off-white clay layer (102). The cut was oval in shape, with a steep side on the west, and an irregular eastern side. Initially it was thought that the base had an 'U' shaped profile but further excavation revealed that this was only true of the west side, and the east side of the cut was amorphous. Overall the pit cut measured 0.75m long, 0.73m wide and 0.21m deep. It was filled by (103), a dark grey compact silt deposit.

No finds were recovered from this feature and it therefore remains undated.

Other features

Plough-marks were evident on the eastern edge of the cleared area. These were orientated east west, and are consistent with those observed in 2014 (Smith 2014b). Vehicle ruts were also seen which are likely to relate to traffic associated with the Royal Cornwall Show when it was held at Quintrell Downs in 1951 (Smith 2014a).

No further archaeological features were recorded in the project area.

6 Conclusion

The archaeological recording at Quintrell Downs in this small area did not lead to the recording of any dateable features or to the recovery of any artefacts.

The single recorded pit [104] did not produce any artefacts or charcoal for radiocarbon dating. The western half of the pit appears to have been a cut feature, however, the eastern side did not and it may have been a natural geological feature.

Evidence of disturbance through the plough-marks and wider deeper vehicular tracks, probably left by activity associated with the Royal Cornwall Show were also identified.

No other features of archaeological interest were revealed over the area of the site, and no artefacts were recovered. It is concluded that this development had no impact on any significant buried remains and the only features affected are those discussed above.

7 Recommendation

Although no significant archaeological features were directly impacted upon, or any artefacts recovered, it is recommended that any future development in the vicinity should, in light of previous discoveries (Thorpe 2013; Smith 2014a), be monitored by an archaeologist.

8 References

Primary sources

Ordnance Survey, 2007. Mastermap Digital Mapping

British Geological Survey, c1981. Map sheet 346 Newquay

Publications

Cornwall County Council, 1986. *Cornwall: A Landscape Assessment*, report produced by Landscape Design Associates in association with Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Gover, JEB. 1948. *Place-Names of Cornwall*,

GSB, 2012, *Quintrell Downs, Newquay, Cornwall* (Survey Ref: 2012/16)

Lawson-Jones, A, 2008. *Quintrell Downs, Newquay*, Cornwall Archaeological Assessment. HE report 2008R020

Lawson-Jones, A, 2012. *Quintrell Downs, Newquay, Geophysical Survey: Statement of Archaeological Implications*. HE report 2012R024

Smith, R, 2014a, *Archaeological Investigation of the Dawnus Construction Area at Quintrell Downs, Newquay Cornwall.* HE report 2014R009

Smith, R, 2014b, *Quintrell Downs, Kier Area, Phase B, Cornwall Archaeological Watching Brief*. CAU report 2014R076

Thorpe, C, 2013, *Quintrell Downs, Kier Area, Newquay, Cornwall Archaeological Watching Brief*. HE report 2013R067

9 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146445**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY.

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration. (HEXQPR146445)
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE840/1).
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory ..\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.M-P\Sites\Newquay Quintrell Downs Area Z
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-216353

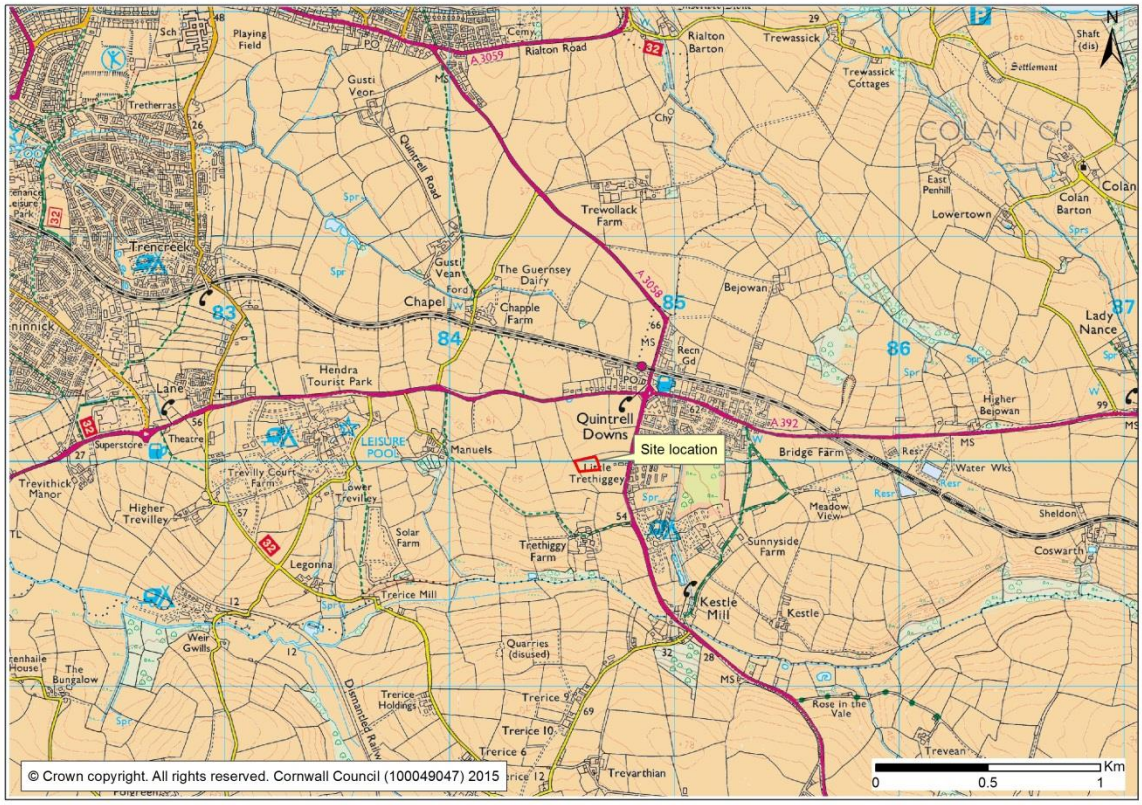

Figure 1: Location of site.

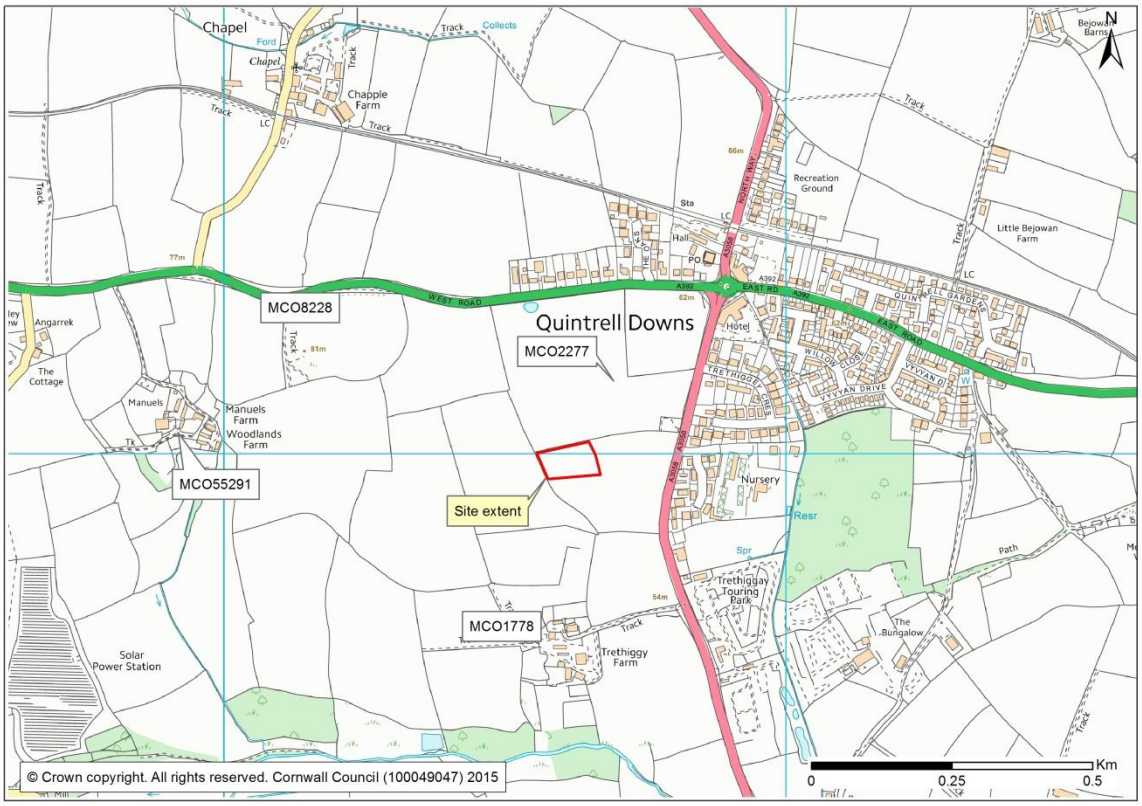

Figure 2: Site extent.

Figure 3: Site plan showing location of recorded feature, pit [104].

Figure 4: View looking north west over site prior to clearance.

Figure 5: South west facing section of pit [104].

Figure 6: Post excavation view of western side of site looking north west.

Figure 7: Post excavation view of northern edge of area cleared looking north east.

Appendix 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological mitigation at Quintrell Downs, Newquay

---

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

HE Projects have been requested by Sebastian Venn on behalf of Fortdown Ltd, to provide a written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological mitigation at a proposed redevelopment of land at Quintrell Downs, Newquay. The development area covers approximately 12 HA. A geophysical survey (GSB 2012) and archaeological assessment undertaken by HE Projects (Lawson-Jones 2008; 2012) uncovered a number of potential archaeological sites, including a possible later prehistoric enclosure and a ring-ditch type anomaly which may represent a Bronze Age barrow.

Dan Ratcliffe (Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council) has been consulted over the requirements for the archaeological recording, and he has asked for the potential enclosure and barrow to be the subject of detailed archaeological excavation. Further watching briefs are to be carried out on the remaining areas where groundworks will take place. He will monitor the progress of the project.

This project design is for the controlled archaeological recording of the potential enclosure and barrow which were identified by the geophysical survey (Sites A and C), and for a watching brief on the remaining areas where reduction in ground level will take place.

This stage is likely to be followed by one or more of the following elements:

- **Collation of archive and production of archive report**
- **Assessment, analysis (and archive deposition)**
- **Final publication (in an academic journal)**

1.2 Historical background

The area of the proposed development falls into land recorded by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record as being 'Recently Enclosed Land'. 'Recently Enclosed Land' is land which has been enclosed since at least the eighteenth century and which is often found to contain upstanding archaeological sites such as Bronze Age round barrows.

The development is situated within an area of high archaeological potential, including a Bronze Age barrow, a complex crop-mark enclosure site of possible prehistoric/Romano-British date and medieval settlements.

The medieval settlement of Manuels, to the west of the proposed development area, was first recorded in 1289 as 'Maenhulwols'. The name is Cornish and contains the elements men meaning 'stone', and Uhel meaning 'high'. The settlement is associated with a strip field system. A second medieval settlement at Trethiggey lies to the south of the development area. This was first recorded in 1284. The name is Cornish, and contains the place name element tre, 'estate, farmstead', and an uncertain second element. The element tre implies a place of early medieval origin

Identified archaeological sites

A number of sites in the vicinity of the study area have been identified. They include:

- A Bronze Age barrow site (c 2000-1500 cal BC) may lie within the proposed development area (MCO2277).
- A ring ditch, possibly associated with a Bronze Age barrow was identified by the geophysical survey in the north-west part of the development area (Site A).

- A crop-mark enclosure of probable prehistoric/Romano-British date (MCO8228) has been found to the west of the development area. This site is not directly impacted by the development, but associated activity is likely to extend into the development area.
- An enclosure of possible prehistoric/Romano-British date was identified by the geophysical survey in the northern part of the development area.
- The medieval settlement of Manuels (MCO55291) and its associated field systems are located to the west of the development area.
- The medieval settlement of Trethiggey (MCO17778) is located to the south of the development area.
- Linear anomalies and pit type responses were identified by the geophysical survey across the development area. These features cannot positively be identified as being of an archaeological nature. However, some may prove to be of medieval or earlier date.

Potential sites

There is potential for buried prehistoric and medieval sites to survive within the project area and there is the scope for the survival of previously unrecorded archaeological sites, organic remains, and artefacts of all periods.

2. Aims and objectives

- To ensure that the site works are carried out in such a way as to allow adequate recording.
- To record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To recover and record artefacts uncovered by the works.
- To disseminate the results of discoveries appropriately.

The development area contains a number of potentially important buried archaeological sites, which include an enclosure, and a ring-ditch, both of which are of potentially prehistoric date. The archaeological investigation of this area therefore provides an opportunity to better understand the character and potential of this resource by recording sites and features affected by it.

2.1 Key objectives are:

- To locate and record the ring-ditch feature (Site A), aiming to record the complete plan of the features and obtain artefactual and dating material.
- To investigate the enclosure (Site C) to determine its use (for example domestic settlement, stock-enclosure) and recover dating evidence from it. Key questions will include; Are there any traces of identifiable activities within it? Did any buildings stand inside it?

3. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological programme will follow five stages: fieldwork; archiving; assessment; analysis; report.

3.1 Fieldwork

In addition to two controlled excavation areas (A and C), an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken across the rest of the site during the soil stripping.

Pre-works meeting

In advance of site works a meeting will be held between HE, the resident engineer and the contractor to discuss and agree:

- Working methods across the development area and programme.
- Health and Safety issues and requirements.

Controlled Archaeological Areas

Controlled soil stripping under archaeological supervision should be carried out within the designated excavation areas A and C (marked on the plan). Each investigated area should extend out 10m beyond each of the identified sites. The excavation area is located within the Area 1 and covers an area of approximately 0.2 HA.

The areas for archaeological excavation will be marked on the ground by the client before stripping commences.

Soil stripping of the controlled areas should 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 (ie, top of the "natural subsoil"). Machines will not run over the stripped area until recorded by the archaeologist.

Excavation

Following the controlled stripping of the designated archaeological excavation areas, the site archaeologist in consultation with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council will confirm that the excavation is required.

Where complex/extensive remains are encountered the site archaeologist will be given the opportunity to make an appropriate record before work proceeds; a programme to achieve this will be agreed with the client/contractor.

Watching Brief

The archaeological recording across the remainder of the development area (where ground reduction is to take place) will take the form of a watching brief. Site works will be carried out with an archaeologist in attendance to record any features which become exposed during the stripping process. Where significant remains are encountered the site archaeologist will be given the opportunity to make an appropriate record before work proceeds; where a temporary stop of work is required the site archaeologist will request this via the resident engineer. The site archaeologist will control the stripping level and recording in those parts of the site where geophysical survey anomalies of potential archaeological interest were revealed.

3.1.1 Fieldwork recording

Following the soil stripping the archaeologist will record any archaeological features which are to be affected by the construction of the building.

Recording - general

- Excavation will involve a representative investigation of the uncovered features. This will include the excavation of slots through linear features and sufficient excavation of smaller features (pits and postholes, etc) to obtain samples for environmental/radiocarbon dating purposes and establish the character of the structures under investigation.
- 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 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.
- 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 slides used more selectively and for illustrative purposes.
- A location plan will be made linking the site with features that have been mapped by the Ordnance Survey.
- The heights of all features will be tied into the Ordnance Datum.

- Phased plans and sections at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 will be made of all excavated features.
- Sealed/undisturbed archaeological contexts in the form of buried soils, layers or deposits within cut features (ditches and pits, etc) will be sampled for environmental evidence and dating material. Advice may be needed from Vanessa Straker (Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science).
- The spoil from the stripping will be adequately inspected for finds.

3.1.2 Treatment of finds

The fieldwork is likely to produce artefactual/environmental material.

- All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (eg, settlement features) should be plotted on a scaled base plan 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.
- Significant, sealed archaeological contexts (predating c 1500 AD) will be considered for sampling for environmental material and the strategy will be discussed with the project manager. All recovered samples will be evaluated at the assessment stage and some may be disposed of. Only flots will be retained for inclusion within the project archive.

POST FIELDWORK STAGES

(To be reviewed in light of results from the fieldwork)

3.2 Archiving

Following review with the HE Project Manager, the results from the fieldwork will be collated as an archive. This will involve washing and cataloguing of finds, the indexing and cross-referencing of photographs, drawings and context records. Initial processing of palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken. This will involve flotation of bulk samples to recover plant macrofossils and other remains.

- All finds and samples, etc will be stored in a proper manner (being clearly labelled and marked and stored according to HE guidelines).
- All records (context sheets, photographs, etc) will be ordered, catalogued and stored in an appropriate manner (according to HE guidelines).
- A summary of the results will be presented to the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council.
- The site archive and finds will initially be stored at HE premises and transferred to the Royal Cornwall Museum and the RCM conditions for archives will be followed. The RCM will be notified of the commencement of the project and included in discussions for sampling and disposal as appropriate.

3.3 Report production

The results from the watching brief will be presented in a concise archive report. Copies of the report will be distributed to the Client, the County Archaeologist and the main archaeological and local record libraries.

This will involve:

- producing a descriptive text;
- producing maps and line drawings;
- selecting photographs;
- report design;
- report editing;
- dissemination of the finished report
- deposition of archive and finds in the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro

The archive report will have the following contents:

- Summary
- Introduction - background, objectives, methods
- Results - factual description of the results of the various aspects of the project, with separate sections as necessary for discussion/interpretation
- Discussion - discussion of the interpretation of the results, highlighting information gained on a chronological or thematic basis
- Archive - a brief summary and index to the project archive
- Illustrations - general location plan
  - detailed location plans to link fieldwork results to OS map
  - selected plans and section drawings (as appropriate)
  - finds drawings (if appropriate)
  - photographs (if appropriate)
  - An OASIS record will be made for the project.

3.4 Assessment

On completion of the archive report an assessment stage will be carried out. This will involve assessment of structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual material, etc. The outline of the assessment report, and the work required to produce it will also be determined.

- Liaise with specialists (environmental samples, radiocarbon dating and artefacts, etc) to arrange for assessment of the potential for further analysis and reporting.
- Send off artefacts (ceramics, etc) to the appropriate specialist for further study.
- Send off residues from residues from environmental samples to appropriate specialists.
- Sort out and send off suitable material for radiocarbon dating.
- Project design for further analyses and publication.

3.5 Academic/Final publication

In the event of significant remains being discovered there may be a further stage of analyses leading to formal publication. This will involve the analysis of structural and stratigraphic data, artefacts, and environmental samples to be governed by an updated project design agreed with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council. 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) and would include:

- Discussion of the significance of the results in relation to Local, Regional and National research objectives.

4. Monitoring

- This written scheme of investigation will need to be approved by the planning authority.
- The recording exercise will be monitored. The Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer should be informed 1 week in advance of the intention to start the recording.
- HE Projects will liaise with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer to advise on the programme and progress of work, and agree site meetings as required.

- A summary of the results will be presented to the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer within 1 month of the completion of the fieldwork.
- In the event that significant remains are encountered an updated project design will be agreed with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer.

5. Project Staff

An experienced archaeologist employed by HE will carry out the archaeological fieldwork.

The report will be compiled by experienced archaeologist(s) employed by HE.

Relevant experienced and qualified specialists will be employed to undertake appropriate tasks during the assessment and analysis stages of the project.

The project will be managed by a manager who is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, who will:

- Take responsibility for the overall direction of the project.
- Discuss and agree the objectives and programme of each stage of the project with project staff, including arrangements for Health and Safety.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.

6. Timetable

The archiving and archive report will be completed within 12 months of the ending of the excavations. The timetable for further stages of assessment, analyses and publication will be agreed with Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer in the light of the results of the excavations.

7. Health and safety during the fieldwork

7.1 Health and safety statement

Historic Environment is within the Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate of Cornwall Council. The HE projects team follows Cornwall Council's Statement of Safety Policy.

Prior to carrying out any fieldwork HE will produce a Health and Safety plan.

8. Insurance

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

9. Standards

HE follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Code of Conduct and is a Registered Archaeological Organization.

As part of Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate of Cornwall Council, the HE projects team has certification in BS9001 (Quality Management), BS14001 (Environmental Management), OHSAS18001 (Health, Safety and Welfare), Investors in People and Charter Mark.

10. Copyright

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

This project design is the copyright of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council.

Use of the material will be granted to the client.

11. Freedom of Information

All information gathered during the implementation of the project will be subject to the rules and regulations of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

12. References

Cornwall County Council, 1996. Cornwall landscape assessment 1994, Report prepared by CAU and Landscape Design Associates, Cornwall County Council, Truro

GSB, 2012, Quintrell Downs, Newquay, Cornwall (Survey Ref: 2012/16)

Lawson-Jones, A, 2008. Quintrell Downs, Newquay, Cornwall Archaeological Assessment. HE report 2008R020

Lawson-Jones, A, 2012. Quintrell Downs, Newquay, Geophysical Survey: Statement of Archaeological Implications. HE report 2012R024

Notes

- It is assumed that the client will supply the mechanical excavator.
- The client will be responsible for the Health and Safety arrangements onsite (including fencing, etc), and it is assumed that welfare and storage facilities will be made available.
- The post excavation programme (assessment, analysis and reporting) will need to be reviewed in the light of the fieldwork.
- This Written Scheme of Investigation does not include an estimate.

1/3/13
Dr Andy Jones
Historic Environment Projects
Cornwall Council
Kennall Building
Old County Hall
Station Road
Truro
TR1 3AY