

# **Carvossa, Higher Fore Street, Marazion, Cornwall**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**





Report No

2015R051

Report Name

Carvossa, Higher Fore Street, Marazion,  
Cornwall. Archaeological Watching Brief

Report Author

C. M. Thorpe

Event Type

Watching Brief

Client Organisation

S F Developers

Client Contact

Simon York

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From)  
Date)

11/08/15

(To)

11/08/15

(Created By)

CMT

(Create

August 2015

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Carvossa, Higher Fore Street.

(Town - for urban sites)  
(Postcode)

Marazion

TR17 0DG

(Easting) X co-ord

SW 52459

(Northing) Y co-ord

30789



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# 1 Introduction

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council, was commissioned by Mr Simon York on behalf of S F Developers to undertake archaeological recording in advance of the construction of a residential dwelling at Carvossa, Fore Street, Marazion.

The development covers a trapezoidal-shaped area of ground (measuring 12.76m x 14.22m x 10.68m) an area of approximately 0.017 HA. Changes in the design of the proposed building from the original proposal impacted on the scope of archaeological recording. The current work involved the clearance of existing modern structures and debris, and the excavation of a trench some 4m x 0.8m and up to 1m deep as part of the drainage system.

The site lies within the Historic Settlement of Marazion and is also within the town Conservation Area. The development is subject to two Planning Conditions (PA12/08435) that required that archaeological recording took place ahead of construction.

Phil Copleston, Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) was consulted over the requirements for the archaeological recording. A written scheme of investigation, outlining the methodology for archaeological recording was produced (24/07/15) by Andy Jones (Principal Archaeologist, CAU) taking into account Phil Copleston's comments (Appendix 1).

## 2 Location and background

The area covered by the archaeological watching brief is on sloping ground with a gradual decline to the south from 42m OD to 40m OD. The site lies at the centre of the elongated linear settlement of Marazion, and is within the ecclesiastical parish of the same name (Figs 1 and 2).

The plot of land is within the garden of Carvossa (Fig 3). This property appears to fossilise the shape of a medieval burgage plot with the main frontage along Higher Fore Street and gardens behind towards School Lane (Fig 2). The 1880 OS map (Fig 8) shows the development area as either a garden or orchard (tree symbol) but by 1909 it was just shown as a yard. In recent times the ground has been used as an allotment with previous owners keeping pigeons and donkeys as well as growing vegetables.

The underlying geology is Devonian slate and siltstone of the Mylor Series (Sheet 351/358 Penzance).

The settlement at Marazion is of medieval origin with the "burgessess of the vill of Marazion" being mentioned in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, while in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Marazion was taxed as a borough. The town prospered throughout the medieval period being stimulated by trade with the priory on St Michael's Mount, however in the early 16th century, the town was burnt by French raiders. It suffered further during the 'Prayer Book Rebellion' of 1549 after which the town never fully recovered being supplanted in importance and prosperity by the town of Penzance (Sheppard 1980, p5).

The development area is located within the core of the medieval settlement (Fig 2). The potential for buried archaeological remains is considered high.

### *Identified archaeological sites*

A number of sites in the vicinity of the study area were identified from the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record. They included:

- The settlement of Marazion is medieval in origin (MCO27117).
- The medieval pound lies 216m to the west of the development site (MCO27110).

- The site of post-medieval blacksmiths lies 60m to the east of the development area (MCO9168).
- A post-medieval engine house lies 66m to the southeast of the development area (MCO12250).

### **3 Aims and objectives**

The aims of the project were:

- To ensure that the site works are carried out in such a way as to allow recording as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To 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 the area from any archaeological remains encountered.
- To deposit the archive (including any finds) with the relevant museum and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

#### **Key objectives are:**

- To locate and identify and record prehistoric and/or medieval settlement activity in the area of the development, thereby providing further information on the archaeology of the development site and the surrounding area.

### **4 Working methods**

The site was cleared of modern debris and the existing garden buildings were removed prior to the visit by the archaeologist.

The excavation of the drainage trench was carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The soil was excavated cleanly to a level required for the pipe which in this case proved to be just below the top of the natural geology.

The area of the trench strip was inspected by an archaeologist who recorded its location onto an Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 1:100 (Fig 3). This was measured in from fixed points on the ground, which are shown on the OS survey mapping. A section along the length of the trench noting the nature of soil depths, layers present, and features revealed was recorded at a scale of 1:20 (Fig 4). The ground and spoil heap were also examined for any artefacts.

### **5 Results**

The soil profile recorded across the trench consisted of the following. It was found that 0.1m of humic topsoil overlay 0.2m of dark black-brown clay loam. This in turn sealed 0.25m of red, grey-brown clay which in turn lay over 0.3m of yellow, grey-brown clay with some stone fragments. Lower down was 0.05m of yellow-orange-brown clay. Decayed natural bedrock lay at the base of the trench. The soil profile was consistent throughout (Figs 4 and 6).

Close (0.14m) to the southern end of the trench, a pit 1.5m wide and 0.54m deep was revealed. Dug from just below modern turf level it was infilled with friable dark grey-brown clay loam. The pit was found to contain animal bone wrapped in a fertiliser bag, which was obviously of modern origin and not investigated further (Fig 7).

No features of archaeological interest or artefacts were recorded within the trench or seen over the area of the site. This investigation has however given only a small keyhole sample into the nature of the ground and does not preclude the potential for there to be archaeological remains present on the remaining area. It is therefore recommended that further archaeological recording be undertaken during topsoil removal over the rest of the site.

## 6 References

### 6.1 Primary sources

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

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

Ordnance Survey, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1840. *Parish of Marazion* (licensed digital copy at CAU)

British Geological Survey map sheet 351 / 358 Penzance.

### 6.2 Publications

Sheppard, P, 1980. *The Historic Towns of Cornwall. An Archaeological Survey*. Cornwall Committee for Rescue Archaeology, Truro

## 7 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146513**

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. The contents of this archive are listed below:

1. Projects file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration (146513).
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 841/1-2).
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory: R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.M-P\Marazion, Carvossa Cottage WB. 146513
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-220523
5. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites M\Marazion, Carvossa Higher Fore Street WB 146513\Report

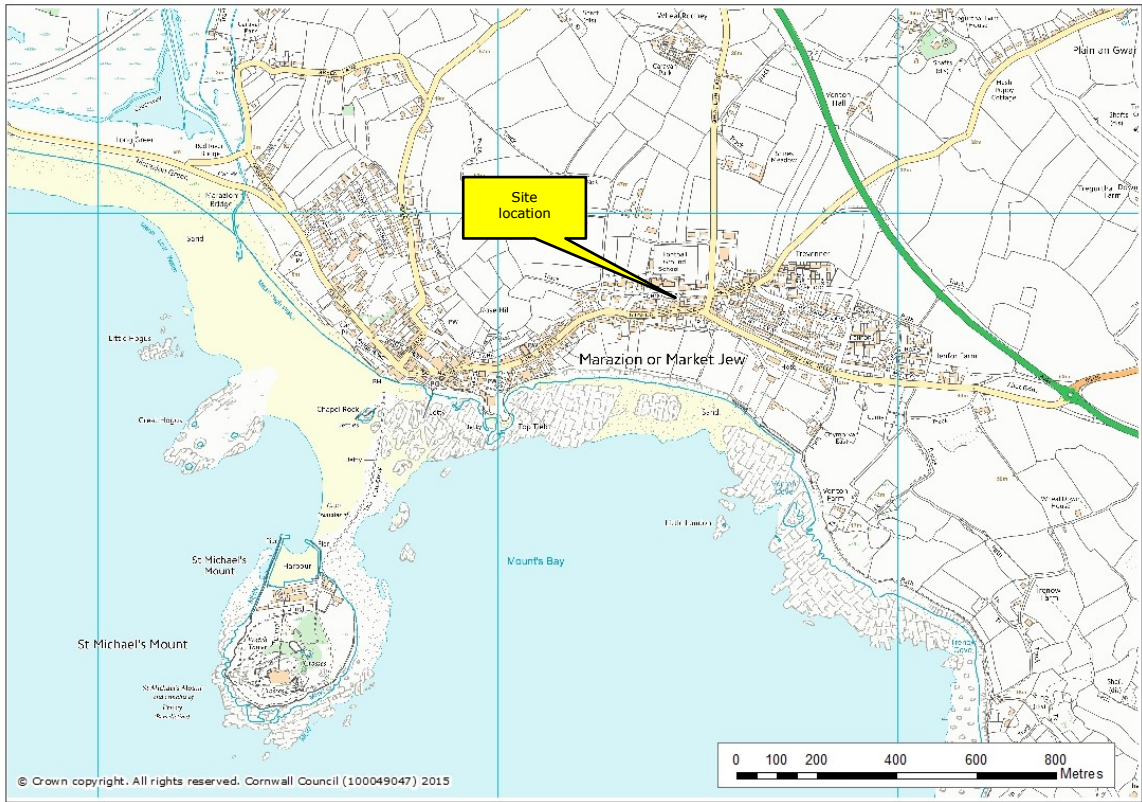


Figure 1. General site location.

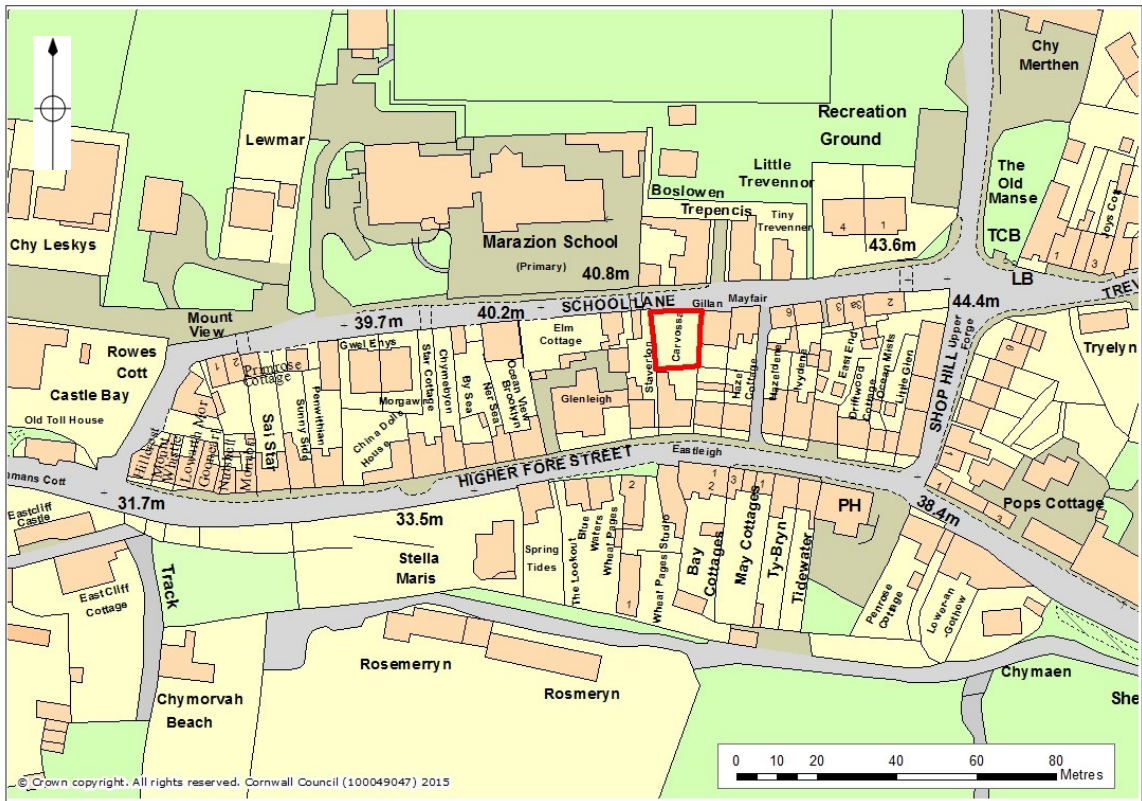


Figure 2. Site location. Area investigated outlined in red.



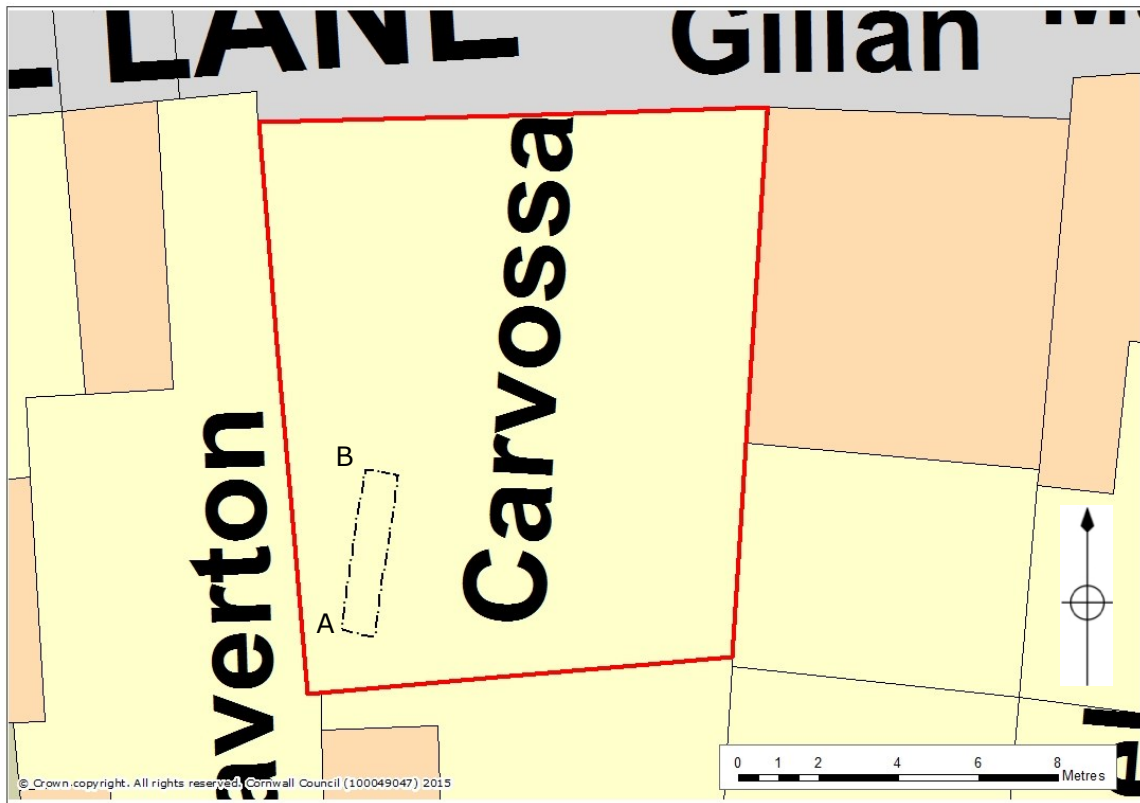


Figure 3. Site plan showing development area (red) and trench location (black). Section line A-B (see Figure 4).

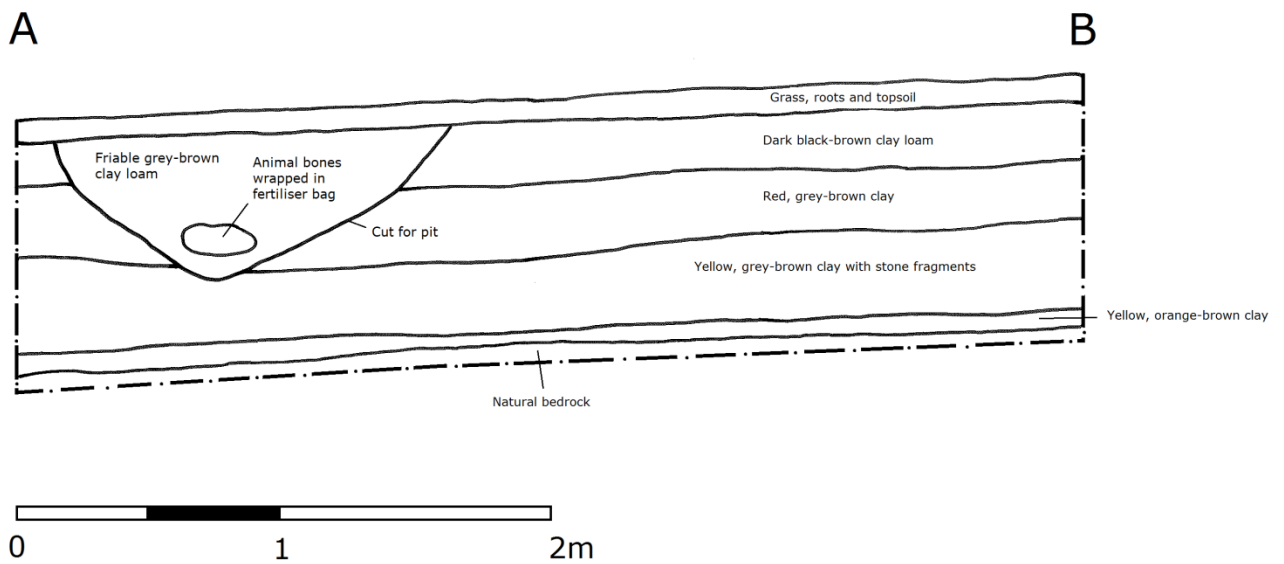


Figure 4. South-east facing trench section showing site make-up and modern animal burial.



*Figure 5. Location of drainage trench looking west.*



*Figure 6. Drainage trench showing section A to B looking northwest.*



Figure 7. Detail of pit containing animal burial in South-east facing section of trench.

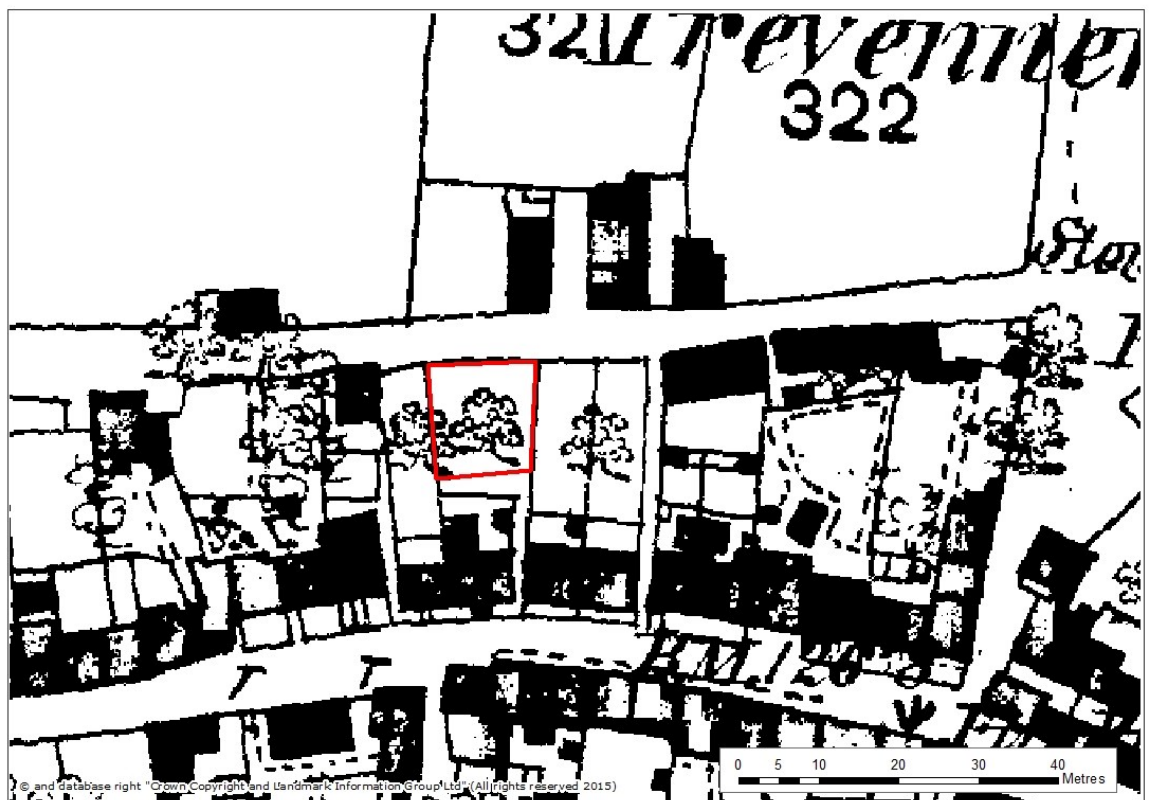


Figure 8. 1880 OS map (site outlined in red).

# • **Appendix 1. Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Mitigation at Carvossa, Fore Street, Marazion**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council have been requested by Mr Simon York on behalf of S F Developers to provide a project design and estimate for archaeological recording ahead of the construction of a residential dwelling at Carvossa, Fore Street, Marazion. The development will cover an area of approximately 0.017 HA. The site lies within the Historic Settlement area of Marazion and is also within the Conservation Area.

Phil Markham (Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council commented on the requirements for archaeological recording (letter dated 28/9/12) and asked that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken ahead of the development.

The development is subject to two Planning Conditions (PA12/08435). Condition 4 states:

*No development shall take place within the area to be developed until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording based on a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that provision is made to record finds of archaeological interest in accordance with the requirements the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 with specific reference to paragraph 128.*

Condition 5 states:

*The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the Local Planning Authority, and shall allow him to observe the excavations and record items of interest and finds.*

*Reason: To ensure that provision is made to record finds of archaeological interest in accordance with the requirements the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 with specific reference to paragraph 128.*

This project design is for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

### **1.2 Historical background**

The settlement at Marazion is of medieval origin. The place-name of Marazion is Cornish and contains the elements *Marghas*, 'market' and *Byghan*, 'small'. In 1215 there is a reference to 'burgessess of the vill of Marazion and from 1306 onwards Marazion was taxed as a borough. Leland described it as 'a great long town' and the sixteenth century plan published by St Aubyn indicates that buildings were spread over an area corresponding to the present town.

The project area is situated within an area of archaeological potential, which contains evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity. The sites which have been identified in the vicinity include:

- MCO27117. The settlement of Marazion is medieval in origin.
- MCO27110. The medieval pound lies to the west of the development area.

- MCO9168. The site of the post-medieval blacksmiths lies to the east of the development area.
- MCO12250. A post-medieval engine house lies to the east of the development area.

#### *Potential sites*

There is potential for buried archaeological sites to survive within the project area and there is the scope for the survival of previously unrecorded archaeological 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 recording as set out in this Written Scheme of Investigation.
- To record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- 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 provide further information on the archaeology of the area from any archaeological remains encountered.
- To recover and record artefacts uncovered by the works.
- To deposit the archive (including any finds) with the relevant museum and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

### **2.1 Key objectives are:**

- To locate and identify and record prehistoric, medieval settlement activity and/or post-medieval industrial activity in the area of the development.

## **3. Methodology**

The archaeological programme will follow two stages; fieldwork and archive reporting. In the event that significant archaeological remains are uncovered further stages of analysis and publication may be required.

### **3.1 Fieldwork**

#### **3.1.1 Archaeological Recording**

- The groundworks should be carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The soil will be excavated cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers can be expected to be revealed (ie, 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 a CAU 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 Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) and CAU. **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 Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) and CAU.

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.

#### *Recording - general*

- 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 Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) 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 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.

### **3.2 Treatment of finds**

The archaeological fieldwork may produce artefactual material.

- All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (eg, 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.

### **3.3 Archiving**

Following review with the CAU 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.

All finds, etc will be stored in a proper manner (being clearly labelled and marked and stored according to CAU guidelines).

- All records (context sheets, photographs, etc) will be ordered, catalogued and stored in an appropriate manner (according to CAU guidelines).
- The site archive and finds will initially be stored at CAU 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.
- In the event that there are no finds or they are retained by the owner documentary archive in due course shall be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office, but in the medium term will be stored at ReStore. All digital records will be filed on the Cornwall Council network.

### **3.4 Archive report**

The results from the fieldwork will be presented in a concise report. Copies of the report will be distributed to the Client, the Historic Environment Record and the local and main archaeological record libraries. A PDF copy of the report will be produced.

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 report will have the following contents:

- Summary - Concise non-technical summary.
- Introduction - Background, objectives, aims and methods.
- Results - Factual description of the results of the various aspects of the project, with separate sections as necessary for discussion/interpretation and potential for further analysis.
- Discussion - Discussion of the interpretation of the results, highlighting information gained on a chronological or thematic basis  
Recommendations for further analysis and publication.
- Archive - A brief summary and index to the project archive.
- Appendix - A copy of the WSI.
- Illustrations - General location plan.
  - Detailed location plans to link fieldwork results to OS map.
  - Selected plans and section drawings (as appropriate).
  - Photographs (if appropriate).

An English Heritage/ADS online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) record will be made.

#### **4. Monitoring**

- This written scheme of investigation will need to be approved by the Planning Authority.
- The recording exercise will be monitored. The Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) should be informed 1 week in advance of the intention to start the recording.
- CAU will liaise with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) to advise on the programme and progress of work, and agree site meetings as required.
- In the event that significant remains are encountered an updated project design will be agreed with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment).

#### **5. Project Staff**

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

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

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 CAU Officer who is a Member of the Chartered 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 the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) in the light of the results of the excavations.

#### **7. Health and safety during the fieldwork**

Cornwall Archaeological Unit is within the Economy, Enterprise and Environment Directorate of Cornwall Council. CAU team follows Cornwall Council's *Statement of Safety Policy*.

#### **Prior to carrying out any fieldwork CAU will carry out a risk assessment**

#### **8. Insurance**

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

#### **9. Standards**

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



## **10. Copyright**

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to the Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

This project design and estimate is the copyright of Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 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.

### **Notes**

- It is assumed that the client will supply the mechanical excavator. The cost is not included in the attached estimate.
- The client will be responsible for the Health and Safety arrangements onsite (including fencing, etc), and it is assumed that welfare facilities will be made available.
- In the event that human remains are uncovered the client will ensure that appropriate screening is put in place.
- The requirement for a post-excavation programme (assessment, analysis and reporting) will need to be reviewed in the light of the results from the fieldwork.

Dr Andy Jones 24/07/15

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