



Higher Tregunnon Farm, Altarnun, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief



Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No

2015R069

Report Name

Higher Tregunnon Farm, Altarnun,
Cornwall. Archaeological Watching Brief.

Report Author

C.M. Thorpe

Event Type

Watching Brief

Client Organisation

Hallmark Power Limited

Client Contact

Marie Stacey

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From)

09/11/15

(To)

(Created By)

CMT

(Create Date)

Nov 2015

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Higher Tregunnon Farm, Altarnun.

(Town – for urban sites)

(Postcode)

PL15 7SX

(Easting) X co-ord

SX 22988

(Northing) Y co-ord

83289



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1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Marie Stacey on behalf of Hallmark Power Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological recording during ground works required ahead of the erection of a wind turbine at Higher Tregunnon Farm, Altarnun (SX 22988 83289) (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies about 200m to the north-east of Higher Tregunnon Farm, within the ecclesiastical parish of Altarnun (Figs 1 and 2). The development was the subject of a planning condition, which required that archaeological recording took place ahead of construction (PA14/12064). A written scheme of investigation (Appendix 1), outlining the methodology for archaeological recording was produced (02/07/15) by Andy Jones (Principal Archaeologist, CAU).

The base of the turbine was square, measuring 8m by 8m. The original scheme also included the construction of a crane pad, however, the crane was instead sited on a hard standing of steel sheeting, which did not involve any ground disturbance.

This short report covers the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the 9th November 2015.

2 Location and background

The field covered by the watching brief is on sloping ground that falls towards the north-east from a height of 220m OD to 210m OD. The turbine itself is roughly located on the 218m OD contour.

The field is currently utilised for grazing. The underlying geology consists of Carboniferous laminated shales and siltstones of the Trambley Cove Formation (BGS Sheet 337).

The development area is located within land that falls into a Historic Landscape character zone which has been classified as 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (Cornwall County Council 1996) within the HLC Type 'Farmland Medieval'. 'Anciently Enclosed Land' is land which has been settled since at least the medieval period and which often contains archaeological remains dating to prehistoric and medieval times. Consequently there was the potential for buried archaeological deposits to survive in the project area.

Prior to the fieldwork being undertaken, a number of sites in the vicinity of the study area were identified from the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (Fig 2). These sites included:

- A linear crop-mark running from SX 22969 832 to SX 23024 83342 in a roughly north-east to south-west direction, was situated to the south and east of the turbine site. It is probably a removed medieval boundary and part of the surrounding field pattern (see MCO24708 below).
- The medieval settlement of Tregunnon (MCO17377) is situated approximately 200m to the south west of the turbine site. The settlement is likely to date to the early medieval period as place-name elements are Cornish, with *Tre* meaning farmstead or estate and *Goon* meaning 'downland' or 'unenclosed pasture'. The settlement was first recorded during the medieval period in AD 1189 as 'Gunan' (Gover 1948). The location of this early settlement is unknown. However, by 1231 the names 'Overgunan' and 'Nithergunan' had emerged, corresponding with the modern settlements of Higher and Lower Tregunan (Gover 1948).
- The turbine site itself is situated within a field system of medieval origin associated with the medieval settlements of Trenarrett and Tregunnon (MCO24708).

3 Aims and objectives

The aims of the project were:

- To ensure that the site works were undertaken in such a way as to allow archaeological 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 deposit the archive (including any finds) with the relevant museum and to disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

Key objectives were:

- 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 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 stripped area was then inspected by the archaeologist.

The location of the turbine base and the locations of archaeological features were plotted onto a site plan at a scale of 1:500 (based on an Ordnance Survey map of the same scale) (Fig 3). A 1:100 plan was made of the area of the turbine base (Fig 4) showing the exposed archaeological features, and a section through ditch [5] (Fig 5) was drawn at a scale of 1:10.

Photographs were taken during the course of the work. The ground and spoil heap were also examined for artefacts.

5 Results

The cutting for the turbine base measured 8m by 8m. Due to the slope of the ground, and in order to maintain a horizontal floor for the base the south-western side was excavated to a depth of 2m, while the north-eastern was dug down to a depth of 1.5m (see Fig 4).

The stratigraphic section in the excavated area consisted of the following layers (from top to bottom) (Fig 5).

- 0.05m of humic topsoil with grass and roots (1).
- 0.2m of grey-brown clay loam (2) ploughsoil. A couple of sherds of Modern White Glazed stoneware (china) (19th or 20th centuries) were found in this layer but were not retained.
- 0.10m of grey-brown clay subsoil containing few stone fragments (3).
- Rotten shillet intermixed with yellow grey-brown clay the decayed natural bedrock (4). Solid shale bedrock was reached at a depth of about 1m.

The sequence of layers recorded in the section was consistent throughout the investigated area.

Approximately 1.5m from the north-eastern side of the excavated area, was ditch [5]. This was traced for some 8.2m running at a slight angle to the trench edge across the excavated area in a north, north-east, to south, south-west direction (Figs 3 and 4). A single slot was excavated across this ditch at a point where the edges of the cut were clearly defined and a section recorded (see Fig 4, A and B, and Figs 5 and 6).

The ditch averaged 0.8m in width and reached a maximum depth of 0.15m. The cut was asymmetrical in profile with the eastern side being the steepest. It is very likely that the ditch cut had been severely truncated by subsequent ploughing. The ditch had been cut into the natural clay layer (4) that overlay the solid shillet bedrock.

Only a single fill, (6) was recorded within ditch [5]. This consisted of a red, grey-brown clay loam with few shillet fragments.

The ditch produced several sherds of pottery (see section 6, below) A single sherd of Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (South-western micaceous ware) of *circa* thirteenth to fourteenth century date was recovered from the bottom of the fill. Several sherds of pottery were found within the upper part of the fill. These included two sherds of Cornish Medieval Coarseware and the 3 co-joining rimsherds from a North Devon Post-medieval Gravel-Tempered Glazed Red Earthenware (Barnstaple Ware) cream making dish or bowl dating from eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries (Allan 1984) .

To the north of ditch [5], the natural ground seemed to be less weathered and had a high shillet content. This may be evidence for a removed bank, the less weathered natural having been protected by the now-removed bank.

6 Finds from ditch [5]

Context (6), top of fill

2 body sherds (co-joining) of Cornish Medieval Coarseware (South-western micaceous ware). The sherds are of *circa* 13th to 14th century date.

3 rimsherds (co-joining) of North Devon Post-medieval Gravel-Tempered Glazed Red Earthenware (Barnstaple Ware). The flange rim is from a cream making dish or bowl. The sherds are of 18th to early 19th century in date.

Context (6), base of fill

1 body sherd of Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (South-western micaceous ware). Traces of spot glazing upon the surface suggest a 13th to 14th century date.

7 Conclusions/discussion

Only one feature was uncovered during the excavation of the turbine base. Ditch [5] is likely to have been a removed field boundary. It is nearly perpendicular to and appears to be related to the linear cropmark boundary to the south (Fig 3). Neither of the boundaries appears on the 1843 Tithe Map for Altarnun (Fig 7) which suggests that they had been removed by the middle of the nineteenth century. The presence of eighteenth to early nineteenth century pottery within the top part of the fill of ditch [5] may date to the period when the boundary was removed. By contrast, the presence of fourteenth century medieval pottery at the base of the ditch fill could suggest that the ditch was already in existence by that time. In summary, on ceramic grounds ditch [5] may have been in use between the fourteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Both boundaries are likely to be part of a field system of medieval origin (MCO24708), and were part of a pattern of strip fields associated with the settlements at Tregunnon and nearby Trenarrett.

No other features of archaeological interest were uncovered within the turbine base and no other artefacts were recovered.

It is therefore evident that this development has made little impact on any significant buried archaeological remains.

8 References

8.1 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, c1843. *Parish of Altarnun* (licensed digital copy at CAU).

British Geological Survey 1994. Map sheet 337 Tavistock.

8.2 Publications

Allan, JP, 1984. Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Exeter 1971-1980 Exeter Archaeological Reports **3**.

Cornwall County Council, 1996. *Cornwall: A Landscape Assessment 1994* report produced by Landscape Design Associates in association with Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

Gover, JEB, 1948. *Place-Names of Cornwall* (manuscript at RCM, Truro).

9 Project archive

The CAU project number is **HEXQPR146512**

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 (146512).
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 843/1-3).
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory: R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.A-D\Altarnun Higher Tregunnon Farm, 9th November 2015 146152
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-230099
5. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites A\Altarnun Higher Tregunnon farm wind turbine HEXQPR146512\Report
6. Artefacts retained during the course of this project have been given the site code HTF 15. These are temporarily held at the CAU archive store.

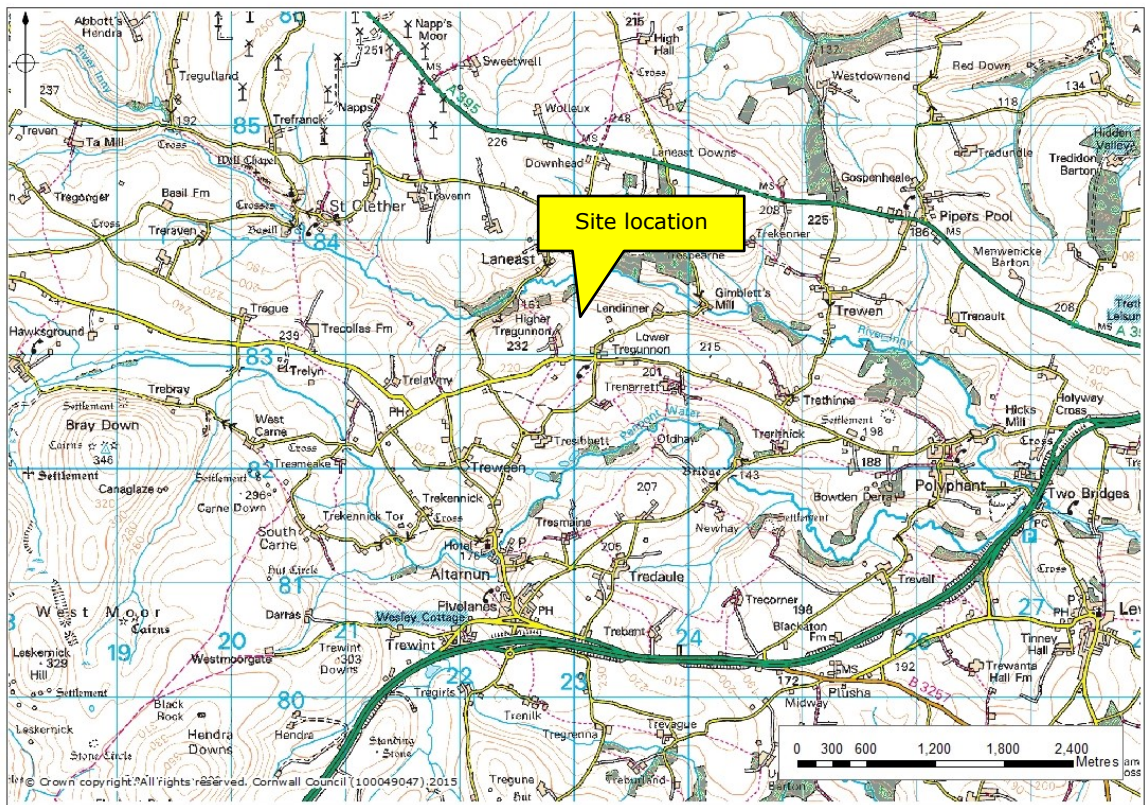


Figure 1. Map showing the site location.

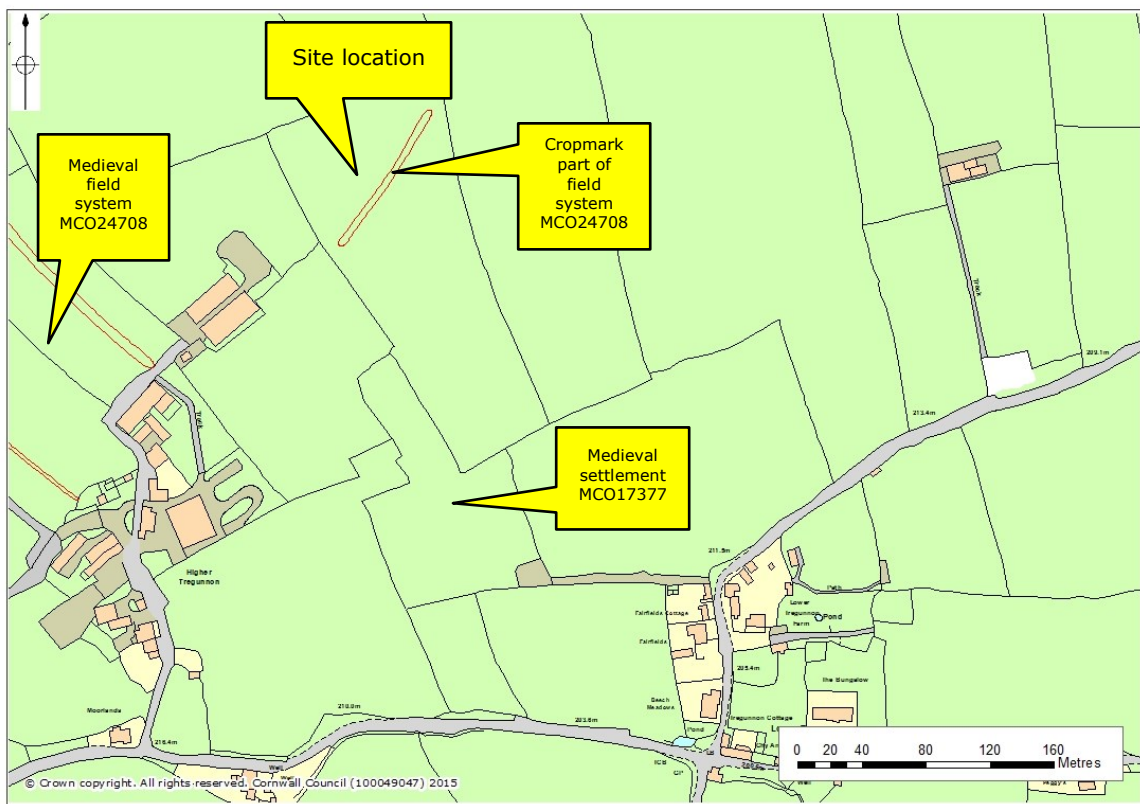


Figure 2. Map showing the location of known archaeological sites in the area of the wind turbine.

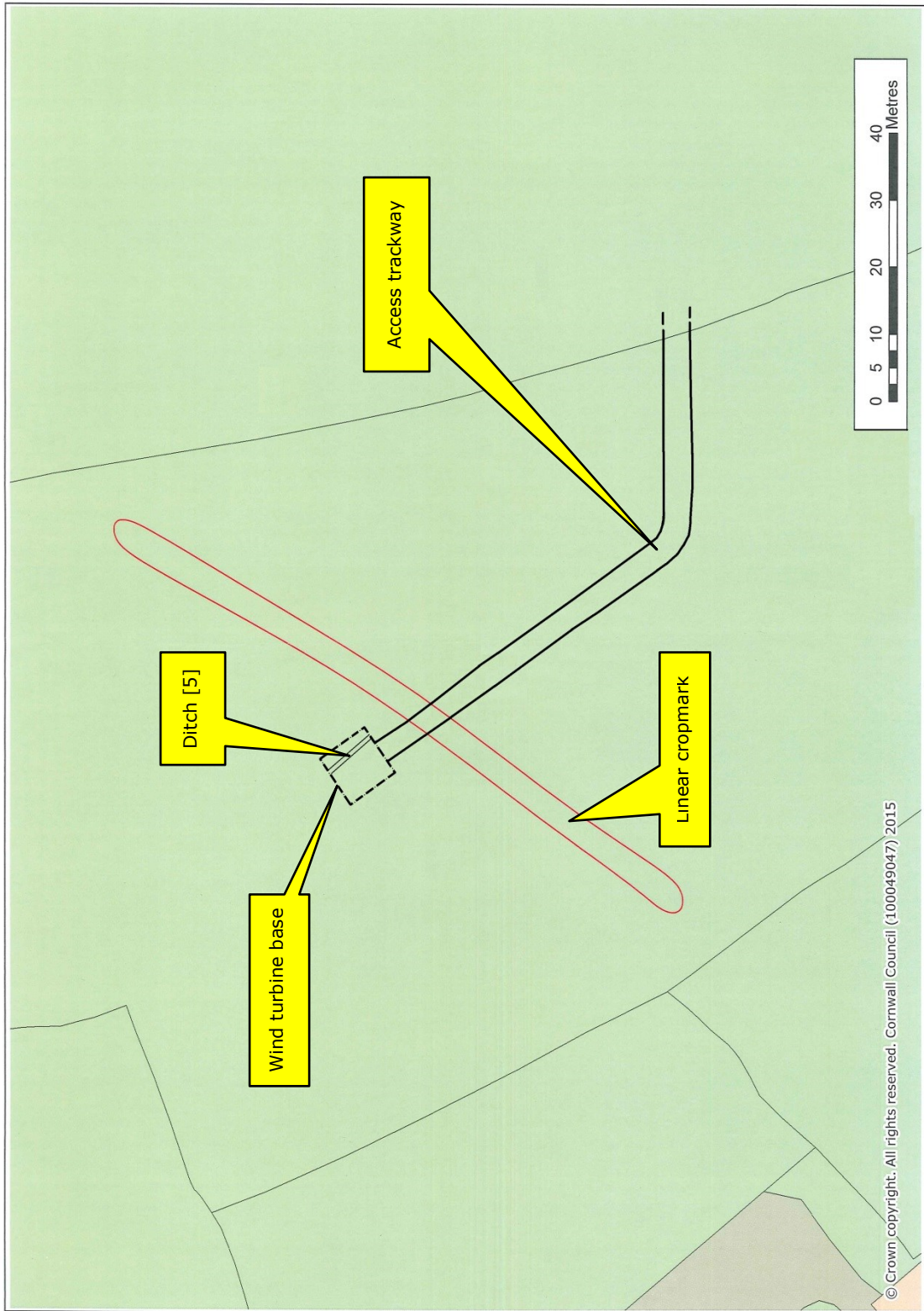


Figure 3. Site plan showing turbine base location and associated features.

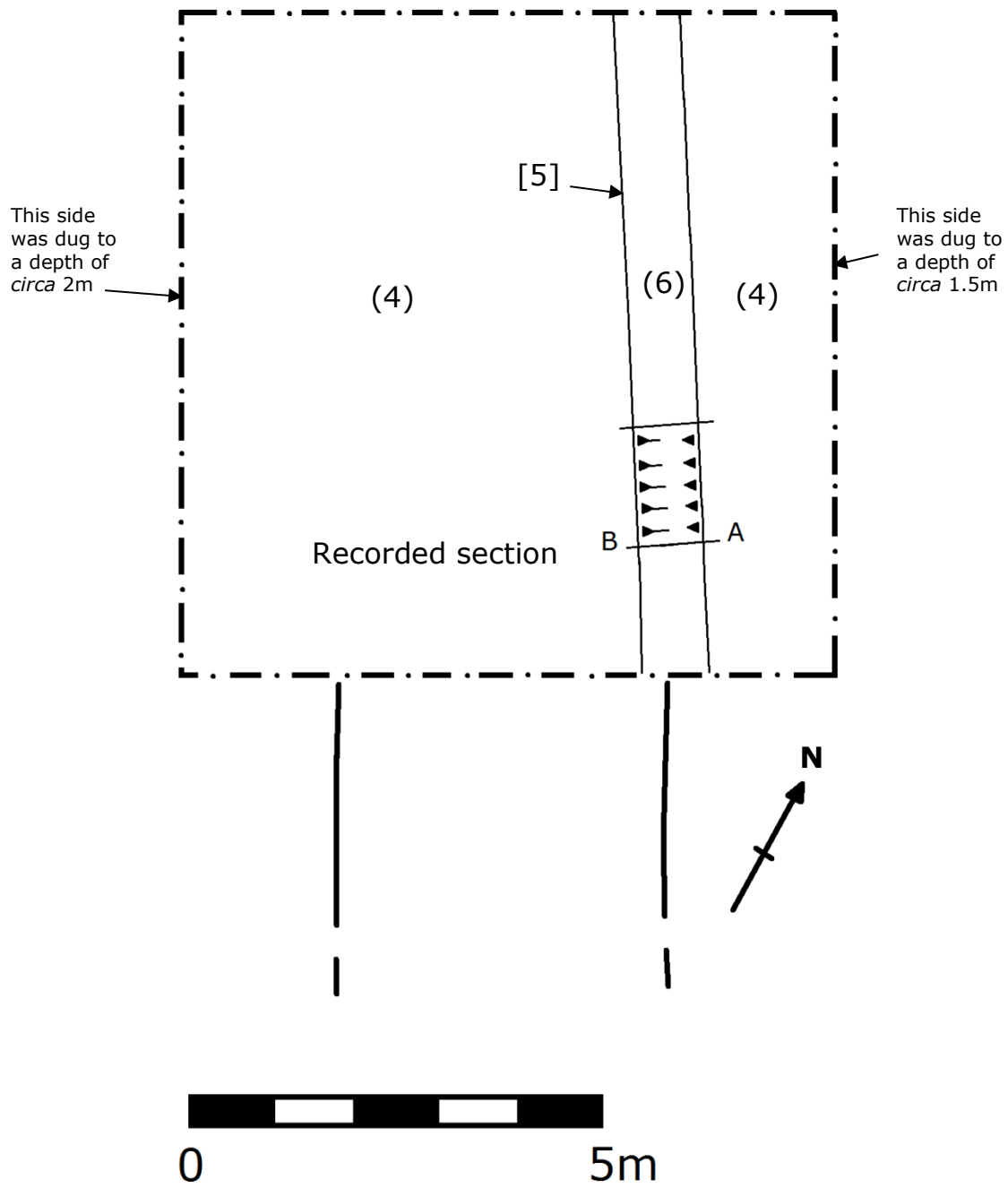


Figure 4. Plan of turbine base showing ditch [5] and the location of the recorded section.

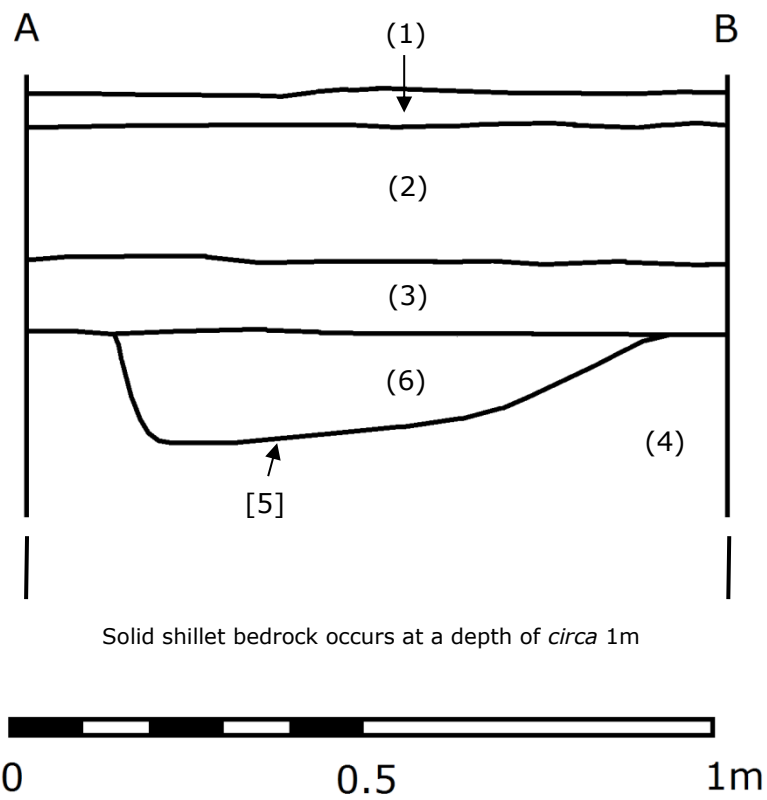


Figure 5. North facing section through ditch [5].



Figure 6. Section through ditch [5] looking south-east.

10 Appendix 1. Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Mitigation at Higher Tregunnon Farm, Altarnun

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council have been requested by Marie Stacey on behalf of Hallmark Power Limited to provide a project design and estimate for a programme of archaeological recording ahead of the construction of a wind turbine at Higher Tregunnon Farm, Altarnun. The proposed scheme will involve the erection of a turbine and the construction of a crane pad. The proposed development lies approximately 200m to the north east of the medieval settlement of Tregunnon, and there is potential for associated remains to extend into the project area.

The current investigations will be required as part of Planning Condition (PA14/12064). Condition 7 is worded as follows:

The erection of the proposed wind turbine shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. In the event of any previously unidentified or disclosed archaeological remains being found during the course of the development, any works that may affect those said remains shall cease until an archaeological recording/preserving programme has been approved in writing with the Local Planning Authority. The development shall then only proceed in accordance with the details of that approved recording/preserving programme.

Reason: To ensure that provision is made to record finds of archaeological interest in accordance with the aims and intentions of policy ENV14 of the North

Cornwall District Plan 1999 and paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

This project design has been produced in response to the condition and will need to be approved by the Local Planning Authority. It covers an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the turbine base and the crane pad.

1.2 Historical background

The development area is located within land which has been characterized as being "Anciently Enclosed Land". "Anciently Enclosed Land" is land which has been settled since at least the medieval period and which often contains archaeological remains dating to prehistoric and medieval times. So there is the potential for the preservation of buried archaeological material to survive in the project area. A number of sites have been identified in the vicinity of the development area from the Historic Environment Record. They include:

- The proposed turbine is situated close to a linear crop-mark, which is probably associated with a removed medieval boundary.
- The medieval settlement of Tregunnon lies to the south west of the turbine site (MCO17377).
- The proposed turbine is situated within a field system of medieval origin (MCO24708).

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 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 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 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.

3. Methodology

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

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 Archaeological Recording

- The soil strip for the turbine base and crane pad 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"). 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 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, the documentary archive in due course shall be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office, but in the medium term will be stored at Pound and Co. 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 and the local and main archaeological record libraries. A PDF copy of the report will be produced and deposited with the Historic Environment Record.

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 project brief.
- 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).
- Finds drawings (if appropriate).
- Photographs (if appropriate).

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

3.5 Assessment/analysis

The structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual material will be assessed to establish whether further analyses and reporting is 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 Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) 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.

3.6 Final publication

In the event of significant 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*).

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.

A summary of the results will be presented to the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) 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 Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment).

5. Project Staff

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

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 Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) in the light of the results of the excavations.

7. Health and safety during the fieldwork

7.1 Health and safety statement

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

Prior to carrying out any fieldwork CAU Projects 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

The CAU follows the 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 post excavation programme (assessment, analysis and reporting) will need to be reviewed in the light of the fieldwork. Costs for this work are not included in the estimate.

Dr Andy Jones 2/7/15

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Cornwall Council

Fall Building

County Hall

Treyew Road

Truro

TR1 3AY

Tel: 01872 323691