



Replacement of signage, Phase 2, Tintagel Castle, Cornwall. Archaeological Watching Brief

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2016R009

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2016R009

Report Name

Replacement of signage, Phase 2, Tintagel Castle, Cornwall. Archaeological Watching Brief

Report Author

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Event Type

Watching Brief

Client Organisation

English Heritage

Client Contact

Win Scutt

Monuments (MonUID)

1014793

Fieldwork dates (From)

03/11/15

(To)

03/02/16

(Created By)

CMT

(Create Date)

November 2015

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Tintagel Castle, Tintagel Parish

(Town - for urban sites)

Tintagel

(Postcode)

PL34 0HE

(Easting) X co-ord

SX 05037

(Northing) Y co-ord

89070



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List of Figures

- Cover.* View of Inner Ward Looking south east showing position of Sign 13.
- Figure 1.* Site location.
- Figure 2.* Locations monitored in course of the project. Sites named in the text are shown in red.
- Figure 3.* Probable post-Roman walling recorded within area of base for Sign 13.
- Figure 4.* Position of Sign 13 outside Inner Ward.
- Figure 5.* Excavated base for Sign 13 showing probable post-Roman walling.
- Figure 6.* Plan showing how the orientation of the post-Roman walling found in excavating the base for Sign 13 relates to sites identified in previous archaeological work.
- Figure 7.* Plan of garden showing the location of slots excavated for the slate slabs. Based on CAU survey done in 1988 (Rose 1994).
- Figure 8.* Excavation of slots for slate slabs in progress within garden (Sign 19). Slot 1 is in the foreground, with slot 2 in the process of being dug.
- Figure 9.* Position of Bench 1, showing existing walling and proposed position of new bench (marked out in red).
- Figure 10.* Bench 1. Walling completed. Gap behind wall and the hill scar will be infilled with soil and turfed over.
- Figure 11.* Post-Roman imported pottery. The Bii amphora and Imported coarseware were recovered from the base of Sign 18. The Biv amphora came from the path adjacent to the Walled Garden. The Bi ? amphora was recovered from between the slates of the probable post-Roman walling within the base of Sign 13.

1 Introduction

Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Mr Win Scutt, Assistant Properties Curator (West), English Heritage, to carry out a watching brief at Tintagel Castle, Cornwall, during the replacement of information signs within the castle grounds.

An archaeological impact assessment of the site interpretation proposals was done (Sharpe 2015) and this guided the proposed archaeological mitigation that would be required.

A Written Scheme of Investigation, outlining the methodology for archaeological recording was produced (25/08/15) by Adam Sharpe (Archaeology Projects Officer, Cornwall Archaeological Unit) setting out the scope of the required watching brief and reporting (Appendix 1).

This short report covers the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out over three days: 3rd and 4th November 2015 and 3rd February 2016.

2 Location, background and archaeological potential

Tintagel Castle (MCO16987), situated on the north coast of Cornwall within the parish of Tintagel, is a Scheduled Monument (National Monument Number 1014793). It is the site of a late Roman settlement (possibly the Durocornovio of the Ravenna Cosmography) of the 4th and 5th centuries AD; a major fortified citadel with trading links to the Mediterranean in the post-Roman period during the 5th to 7th centuries AD and subsequently a medieval castle dating to the 13th century (Figs 1 and 2).

It is suggested that during the post-Roman period the physical location of the fortress that developed was the origin of the place-name, in Cornish '*dyn tagell*', which means the fortress of the constriction or throat (Padel 1988).

A lead/silver mine known as King Arthur's Mine (MCO12202) located at SX 05091 89052 under the island operated in the 19th century, while the Haven (MCO4735) was used for servicing the slate quarrying and fishing industries from at least the later medieval period (Dyer 2005; Thomas 1993).

Since the 1930s the Ministry of Works and latterly English Heritage Property in Care have held in Stewardship land at Tintagel which is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. English Heritage has Guardianship and management responsibilities over the site. Apart from the track to the village, English Heritage does not possess the freehold, but manages and maintains the historic property on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport.

The bedrock geology is complex (BGS sheet 322), formed by the Tintagel Group consisting of a mixture of Upper Devonian Upper Delabole slates, Lower Carboniferous slates and siltstones and Lower Carboniferous volcanic agglomerates. The whole has undergone complex faulting and thrusting movements that have greatly influenced the topography by creating numerous lines of weakness and instability, easily exploited by the action of the sea, for example along the line of the Haven and Merlin's cave. Some of the faults have been heavily mineralised, the lodes having been worked in the past for their silver and lead content (see above).

Previous archaeological investigations, including those directed by C.A. Raleigh Radford during the 1930s (Radford 1939), the University of Glasgow (GUARD) from 1990 to 1999 (Barrowman, Batey and Morris 2007), and Cornwall Archaeological Unit (under various guises) since the mid-1980s to the present day (see for example Hartgroves and Walker 1986; Appleton *et al* 1988; Lawson-Jones 1994; Reynolds 2006; Thorpe 2004; 2007; 2013; 2014), have all emphasised the high potential for any ground disturbance to encounter archaeological remains on both mainland and islands parts of the site.

3 Aims and objectives

The aims of the project were as follows:

- Liaise with English Heritage and Architectural Stone the works contractor on site to determine the most appropriate and least archaeologically sensitive locations for the new plinths and benches.
- 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 (Appendix 1).
- 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 recover and record artefacts uncovered by the works.
- 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.

The primary objective of the project was to report on the findings of the excavations and to complete an entry within the OASIS/ADS-Online database.

4 Working methods

Fieldwork took place over three days: 3rd and 4th November 2015 and 3rd February 2016.

The contractors Architectural Stone used hand tools to excavate the bases required for the new plinths, way-markers and benches and this groundwork was carried out with archaeological monitoring. Fourteen locations were monitored (Fig 2).

- Sign 04. Arthur's Compass. This was to be a cast bronze compass rose pointing to sites related to the worldwide connection of the Arthurian Legend set onto a 100mm deep concrete raft foundation with the base at ground level sited close to the cliff edge above the Haven at SX 05188 89043.
- Sign 10. A large plinth with 3D elements that was to be set up close to the Great Hall in the Inner Ward at SX 05077 89010 on the island. The plinth for this feature was to be set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 11. A large plinth with 3D elements that was to be set up adjacent the range of service buildings associated with the Great Hall in the Inner Ward at SX 05070 89029. The plinth for this feature was to be set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 13. A small plinth that was to be set up just outside the gate to the Inner Ward adjacent to the bottom of the steps leading up to Site A and the Chapel at SX 05055 89065. The plinth for this feature was to be set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 16. A large plinth that was to be set up close to Site D adjacent to the large earthwork or 'Great Hall' on top of the island at SX 04937 89190. The plinth for this feature was to be set 60mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 17. A large slate way-marker that was to be erected at the top end of the path leading up from the viewpoint overlooking Site B to the Walled Garden at SX 04986 89124 on top of the island with foundations 200mm deep.

- Sign 18. A small plinth relating to the Tristan and Iseult story was to be set up adjacent to the path immediately outside the entrance to the Walled Garden at SX 04964 89103. The plinth was to be set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 19. Six engraved slate slabs were to be set into the ground surface in the Walled Garden on top of the island (centred at SX 04960 89114), each being set into 100mm of concrete.
- Item 22. A 2.4m high cast bronze statue of King Arthur was to be attached to a rock outcrop on the western cliffs of the island with resin-fixed stainless steel anchors.
- Sign 23. A small sign with 3D elements was to be set up in Site A next to the Chapel on top of the island at SX 05000 89065 on a plinth set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 24. A large plinth with 3D elements telling Earl Richard's story was to be set 50mm into the ground surface within the mainland Lower Ward at SX 05168 88932.
- Sign 25. A Sword in the Stone sculpture that was to be attached to a stone slab at the northern end of the Lower Ward (SX 05144 88960) with 300mm resin-fixed stainless steel anchors.
- Item B1. A slate-constructed bench was to be set up adjacent to the visitor path on the island near the viewing point between Sites F and C at SX 05025 89132. The construction of the bench would require excavation into the adjacent hill slope to a depth of around 80mm.
- Item B2. An inscribed slate bench to be set on concrete foundations was to be set up in the Walled Garden at SX 04955 89110. The bench would require 100mm deep foundations.

In all cases where preparatory groundworks involved the removal of turf, this was spade-dug by hand. Once the turf was removed the sides and base of the trenches were inspected for any archaeological features or artefacts and a photographic record was made. The spoil was also examined for any artefacts. Notes were made of the soil profile encountered in each excavated area. Only one trench (Sign 13) revealed archaeological remains, in the form of buried (early) slate walling; a plan was made of these at a scale of 1:10 (Fig 3).

5 Results

Sign 04. Arthur's Compass.

This site lay on the main footpath to the island. It is outside the Scheduled area, so was not considered as part of the watching brief. The site was however briefly inspected as it was considered that right angled walling (seen on aerial photographs at this location) may represent remnants of the harbour facilities within the Haven and would therefore be worth recording in the event of any ground disturbance.

It was found that the walling was actually a modern revetment built to support an earth-filled platform created as a stand for a telescope. The telescope has been removed, its position now marked by a rectangular depression within the ground surface where its concrete base had once been. The ground in this area has also been disturbed by concrete settings for an interpretation board that currently stands at this location.

After examination of this site it was considered that due to the heavily disturbed nature of the ground at this location, no archaeological watching brief would be required when the Arthur's Compass is installed in the near future.

Sign 10.

This was an information plinth located on the island within the Inner Ward which was to replace an existing information panel. The original design called for an increased area of paving to be laid at its base and which extended out from the current path. However, in the event it was decided not to do this but to continue to make use of the existing pavement.

An area 700mm x 700mm was excavated to a depth of 50mm. It was found that 30mm of grass, roots and humic soil, overlay 20mm of black-brown clay loam. At the base of the excavation the material was light grey-brown clay with a few shillet fragments. The thickness of this deposit was not determined and it is not certain if it directly overlaid the bedrock.

Apart from the truncated remnants of a metal post and associated concrete block which marked the location of the previous interpretation board on the southern side of the excavated area, no features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered.

Sign 11.

An information plinth located on the island within the Inner Ward. This was on the opposite side of the path from that originally proposed, its revised location confirmed after on-site discussions between Win Scutt, English Heritage Assistant Properties Curator (West), Melanie Coussens, English Heritage Interpretation Manager (West), and the CAU archaeologist carrying out the watching brief.

An area 700mm x 700mm was excavated to a depth of 50mm. It was found that 30mm of grass, roots and humic soil, overlay 20mm of black-brown clay loam. At the base of the excavation the material was grey-brown clay with a few shillet fragments. No features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered.

Sign 13.

An information plinth located on the lower part of the island, on the pathway just outside of the medieval gate into the Inner Ward (Figs 2 and 4).

An area 700mm x 700mm was cleared of grass and debris to expose the concrete base of the previous information board. It was proposed to remove this base and to dig down 50mm below the level of the existing path in order to provide the base for the plinth. However in the course of removing the turf, an alignment of slates running roughly north, north-east to south, south-west for a length of 1.8m was recorded (Figs 3 and 5).

Though obscured to a great extent by the compacted gravel of the path, and disturbed by the insertion of the earlier interpretation board, this alignment of slates had a similar appearance and orientation to the post-Roman walling encountered during previous archaeological work which had taken place in front of the information hut (located approximately 9.5m to the south, south-east) in 2007 (Thorpe 2008; 2013).

The walling exposed was roughly 0.5m wide (its full width could not be determined as it disappeared under the hill slope to the west) but it consisted of flat slate blocks laid upon each other and bonded by compacted yellow, grey-brown clay. A small heavily abraded sherd of amphora (possibly Bi, Late Roman 2?) dating from the early 5th century to the late 6th century AD (Fig 11) was found lodged between two of the large slates at the centre of the length of wall exposed (Fig 3); its association with the walling gives support to a late Roman date for this structure.

It is possible that the walling may be a continuation of other short lengths of walling found in 2007, though there was not enough evidence to determine if it was the same wall, or that of another structure on the same alignment (Fig 6). If the latter, it is also of note that the front wall (that nearest the trackway) of the western range of buildings which make up Site F (some 4.5m to the north, north-east) also continues this same alignment (Fig 6).

Due to the exposure of the walling within the area required for the base of the plinth for Sign 13, it was decided not to excavate further in this area. After consultation it was decided instead to build up the ground in this area and to set the new plinth upon this raised ground. Built-up ground would have the effect of preserving the possible post-Roman walling *in situ*, it would provide a protective buffer layer to prevent further erosion of the walling, and it would also remove a potential trip hazard that currently existed between the concrete landing area of the steps and the main visitor trackway to the viewpoint at SX 05025 89132 above sites B and C.

Sign 16.

An information plinth located on the island close to Site D. The location was moved some 0.5m to the south east of that originally chosen to avoid impinging on a length of walling running north east to south west that could be seen protruding through the turf and which was clearly part of southernmost range of buildings of Site D.

An area 700mm x 700mm was excavated to a depth of 60mm. It was found that 30mm of grass, roots and humic soil, overlay 30mm of black-brown clay loam which was not fully excavated and so its true depth is unknown. No features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered.

Way-marker 17.

This was the site for a large slate way-marker at the top end of the path leading up from the viewpoint overlooking Site B to the Walled Garden which lies on top of the island.

An area 200mm x 200mm was excavated to a depth of 200mm. Here it was found that 30mm of grass, roots and humic soil, overlay 30mm of grey-brown clay loam, 100mm of lighter grey-brown clay and 40mm of dark black-brown clay with shillet fragments. At the base of the excavation was compacted grey-brown clay with large shillet fragments. No features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered.

Sign 18.

An information plinth was to be located adjacent to the path immediately outside the entrance to the Walled Garden. The location was moved some 0.5m to the south west of that originally chosen in order to make use of ground that had been disturbed by the insertion of two previous information signs.

An area 700mm x 700mm was excavated. The depth varied due to the sloping nature of the ground in front of the garden wall. In order to maintain a level base for the plinth the side of the trench up against the garden wall was dug to a depth of 400mm, while the side running parallel with it within the path was much shallower and excavated to a depth of 50mm.

It was found that the grass overlay mixed deposits of clays, shillet fragments, and two concrete block bases. At the bottom of the trench was a layer of red, grey-brown compacted clay containing a few shillet fragments. From this layer was recovered a sherd of Bii (Late Roman 1) amphora, and a sherd of imported coarseware (Fig 11). No features of archaeological interest were recorded.

A small heavily abraded sherd of Biv (Late Roman 3) amphora (Fig 11) was also found on the eroded surface of the path outside the garden at SX 04963 89101. Numerous sherds of post-Roman pottery have been collected from this area of the path previously (Thomas and Thorpe 1988) which suggests there may be features or deposits relating to this period close to the present ground surface within the near vicinity.

Sign 19.

Six engraved slate slabs were to be set into the ground surface within the Walled Garden. Their final location could not be determined until a final decision was made about the location of a new Bench 2 (its earlier design was considered unsuitable). Groundworks were therefore delayed until February 2016 when revised plans for this area were ready. The earlier idea for positioning a bench here was abandoned, while the number of slate slabs was increased from six to seven (Fig 7).

The seven slate slabs were to be laid around the interior periphery of the garden within the path marked out by slates set on edge. For each slab an area 650mm x 650mm was excavated to a depth of 50mm (their locations are shown on Fig 7). Similar soil profiles were recorded in each of the holes excavated.

It was found that 30mm of grass, roots and humic soil, overlay 20mm of black-brown clay loam. At the base of all the trenches lay orange, grey-brown clay with large shillet fragments. No features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered (Figs 7 and 8).

King Arthurs Statue 22.

It was confirmed that the statue would be anchored onto the exposed surface of solid slate bedrock, and would therefore have no direct impact on any archaeology (Fig 2). There would, however, be an impact on the setting of the site as previously identified by the archaeological impact assessment (Sharpe 2015).

Sign 23.

This was an information plinth located on the island positioned in Site A next to the Chapel.

An area 700mm x 700mm was excavated to a depth of 50mm. It was found that 30mm of grass, roots and humic soil overlay 20mm of black-brown clay loam. At the base of the excavation the material was grey-brown clay with shillet fragments. No features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered.

Sign 24.

This was an information plinth located within the mainland Lower Ward close to the main gate into the castle. An area 700mm x 700mm was excavated to a depth of 50mm. It was found that 30mm of grass, roots and humic soil, overlay 20mm of grey-brown clay loam. At the base of the excavation the material was light yellow, grey-brown clay with shillet fragments. No features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered.

Sword in the Stone sculpture 25.

This was to be based on a stone slab situated where the concrete plinth for a telescope was formerly sited. This area had been investigated archaeologically in 1986 when a trench (Trench A) had revealed 'made ground' at a depth of roughly 0.4m and which overlaid solid shillet bedrock. A modern trench which contained a large ceramic pipe, most likely associated with the operation of King Arthur Mine in the 19th century, was also found (Hartgroves and Walker 1988). Due to the heavily disturbed nature of the ground at this location it was considered that the erection of this sculpture would not have any archaeological impact.

Bench 1.

It was originally proposed that this slate-constructed bench was to be positioned adjacent to the visitor path on the island near the viewing point between Sites F and C. The original design for this bench necessitated cutting back a section of the hillslope by

0.8m, and then excavating down to a level approximately 50mm below the current pathway. This proposal caused some concern as artefacts of post-Roman date have in the past been collected from the surface of the path, and ephemeral traces of possible early walling had been noted within the area of eroded ground immediately around the viewpoint itself, giving a strong indication that this whole area was a terrace of post-Roman date. That and its close proximity to the structures of Site G, 11.5m to the south west, suggested that the archaeological impact of the works to construct the bench could be significant.

After consultation, it was decided to reposition slightly and redesign the bench. The proposed bench was to be moved forward (to the east) by approximately 1m so that it would sit on the eroded ground surface. The new bench would be constructed on a shallow foundation raft of concrete, this being directly on top of the eroded rock surface. This would negate the need for digging the 50mm foundation (Figs 9 and 10). The back of the bench would be infilled with stone and soil so that it blended into the existing hillslope and previous erosion scars would be buried and hidden. The re-design would ensure that no sub-surface archaeology would be disturbed. The only disturbance was the removal of approximately 1m of the northern end of the current wall so that the new build could be tied into the existing structure. The removal of the walling just uncovered the core of the wall (which was roughly 0.5m wide) but did not reveal any archaeology.

Bench 2.

Originally this was to be an inscribed slate bench set on concrete foundations positioned in the Walled Garden. However, it was found that the bench as designed would encroach upon and block the present path laid out around the sides of the garden and thus prevent free circulation of people walking around its circumference. It was decided after consultation that this design was unsuitable so a new design was to be considered.

In February 2016 the plan for the garden was revised and the requirement for a bench dropped. Instead an additional slate slab (see sign 19) Slot 7 was added to those to be laid within the path around the periphery of the garden.

6 Discussion

This project has given an insight into the archaeological potential of some areas of Tintagel Island.

The possible walling found at the location for Sign 13 (at SX 05055 89065.) appears to lie on part of the artificial terrace that was identified during archaeological work in front of the Information Hut in 2007 (Thorpe 2008; 2013 and see Fig 6). That earlier work indicated that the terrace was post-Roman in date. The walling found in the current project was very similar to that found on this terrace in 2007.

This walling may be part of a range of buildings positioned from north west to south east possibly along the whole length of the terrace. Due to erosion, and the limited area of that earlier excavation, the full plan of the building was not recovered. However, enough evidence was obtained to show it was probably cellular in nature and therefore similar to many of the buildings of post-Roman date seen elsewhere on the island (at Sites B, C, and F for examples nearby); many have co-joining or party walls (Barrowman *et al* 2007).

As stated above the walling uncovered in the current project shares the same alignment as the structures encountered in 2007. Unfortunately it could not be determined if this was a continuation of that particular building or part of a separate structure, however the length and nature of other ranges recorded, such as at Site C (Barrowman, Batey, and Morris 2007) suggest the latter is probably the more likely.

The nature of the buildings themselves is also uncertain. The walling could be the last remnants of heavily robbed stone walling or the foundation courses for a turf-built wall, but either could represent fairly substantial structures.

As noted above, the range of buildings which make up Site F to the north east also have roughly the same orientation, so the combined evidence begins to suggest a trackway lined with buildings on either side (where terracing would allow) running from the heart of the post-Roman settlement (believed to be on terraces underlying the medieval Great Hall) up to the viewpoint terrace above Site B at SX 05025 89132.

Insufficient evidence was recovered from previous archaeological investigations to determine the function of any of these particular buildings (Thomas 1993; Barrowman *et al* 2007).

The interpretation of these structures as being post-Roman was based on the presence of imported Mediterranean ceramics (which date from the late 5th to 7th centuries AD) associated with the walling. There was an absence of medieval pottery. As noted above, during this watching brief programme a small sherd of amphora was obtained from the fill between two of the slates forming the wall fabric (Figs 3 and 11).

Two sherds of post-Roman imported amphora were also recovered from the base for the information plinth (Sign 18) which marks the entrance to the Walled Garden and also from the surface of the path which runs alongside the garden wall (Fig 11). That from the base of Sign 18 was a sherd of Bii (Late Roman 1) amphora, with also a sherd of unclassified imported coarseware, while that coming from the surface of the path was a sherd of Biv (Late Roman 3). All showed signs of abrasion. Though none were associated with any archaeological features, they are an addition to a collection of material (numbering over 20 sherds) that has been made over the years from this area. This growing collection also has sherds of other imported wares including amphora sherds (Bi and Bv), and fine table wares such as African Red Slipped ware and Phocian Red Slipped ware. Local native ware has also been found on this path (Thomas and Thorpe 1988). It is uncertain from where this material may be derived. No post-Roman walling is exposed in the path or has ever been identified on this high part of the island. It is however possible that post-Roman structures underlie the medieval Walled Garden, suggested by traces of foundations (on a completely different alignment to the garden itself) seen on the interior of the garden when it was cleared by Radford and on the north west and north east exterior sides of the garden (Fig 7) that appear to pass under the wall itself (Rose 1994). No features were recorded within the seven holes excavated for the information slabs in the garden interior though these were probably not deep enough to encounter any archaeological features.

The abraded nature of some of the sherds may also be the result of midden material being spread over this area to improve the fertility of the ground, perhaps being one of the few level areas on the island with the potential for a deep enough soil suitable for growing crops (small fields, or perhaps garden plots) and close to a source of water (the well).

This project has further emphasised the extraordinary nature of the post-Roman occupation of Tintagel by demonstrating the great extent and density of the archaeological remains. It has shown that even small scale interventions have the potential for revealing structural elements and artefacts, most especially sherds of Mediterranean imported ware that add more piecemeal but significant new knowledge to the understanding of this important site. It has also demonstrated that virtually all areas of this site have the potential to be archaeologically sensitive.

7 References

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8 Project archive

The CAU project number is **HEXQPR146533**

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 (146533).
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 848/1- 5).
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory: R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.Q-T\Tintagel Castle signage Phase 2 Nov 2015 to Feb 2016 HEXQPR 146533.
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-241938
5. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites T\Tintagel Castle projects 2015\Tintagel Castle signage WB Phase 2 HEXQPR146533\Report



Figure 1. Site location

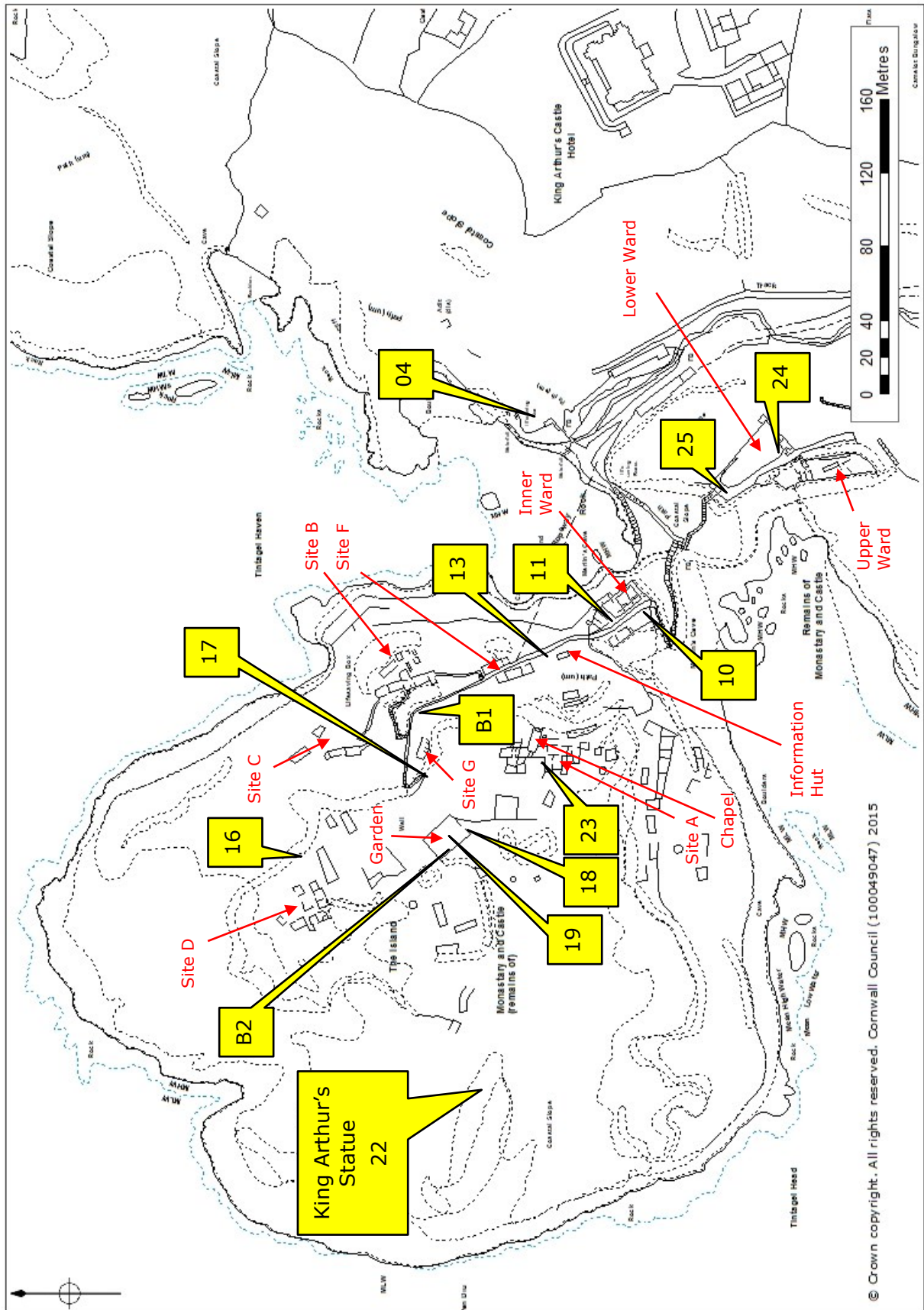


Figure 2. Locations monitored in course of the project. Sites mentioned in text shown in red.

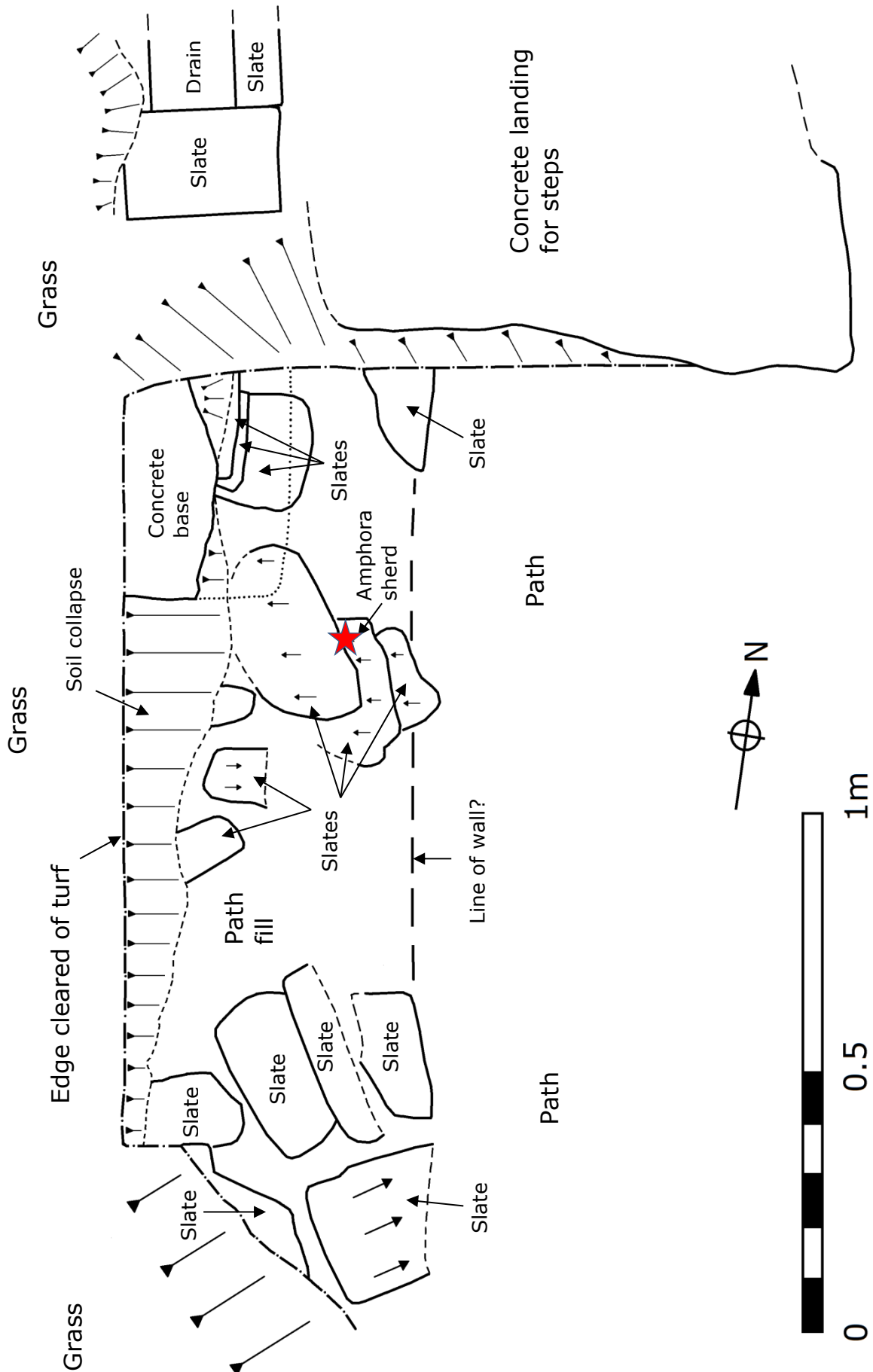


Figure 3. Probable post-Roman walling recorded within area of base for Sign 13.



Figure 4. Position of Sign 13 outside Inner Ward.



Figure 5. Excavated base for Sign 13 showing probable post-Roman walling.

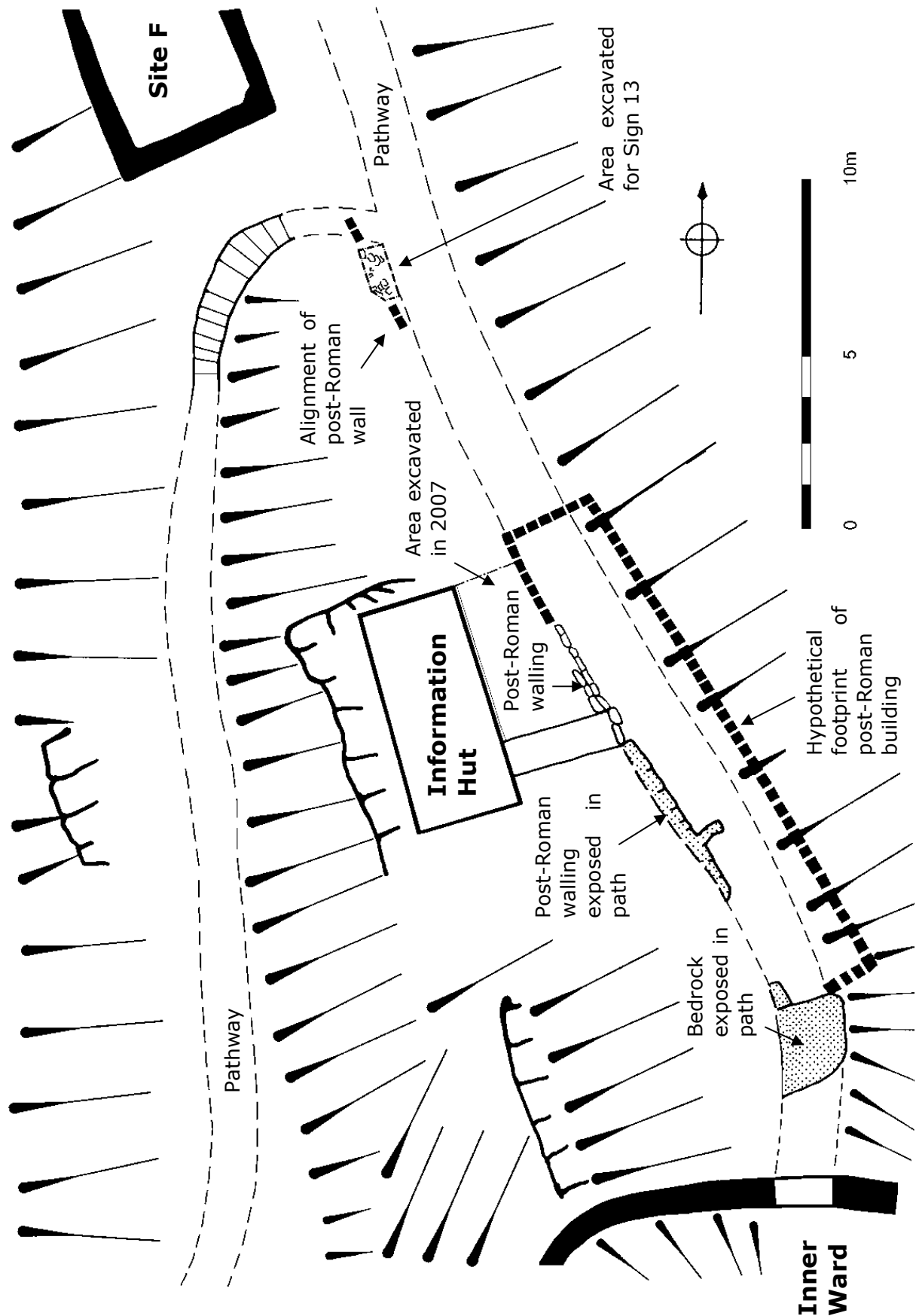


Figure 6. Plan showing how the orientation of the post-Roman walling found in excavating the base for Sign 13 relates to sites identified in previous archaeological work.

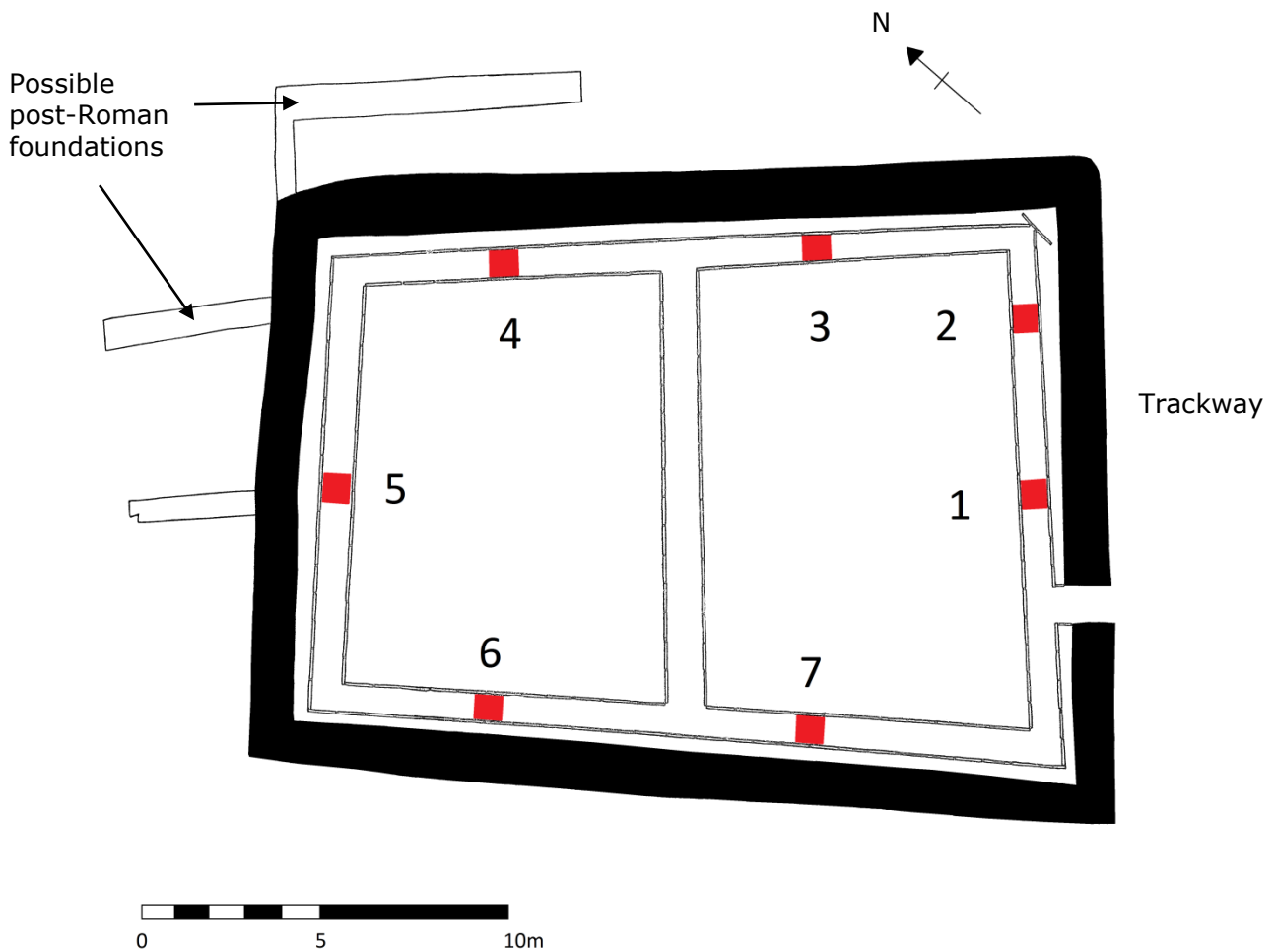


Figure 7. Plan of garden showing the location of slots excavated for the slate slabs. Based on CAU survey done in 1988 (Rose 1994).



Figure 8. Excavation of slots for slate slabs in progress within garden (Sign 19). Slot 1 is in the foreground, with slot 2 in the process of being dug.



Figure 9. Position of Bench 1, showing existing walling and proposed position of new bench (marked out in red).



Figure 10. Bench 1. Walling completed. Gap behind wall and the hill scar will be infilled with soil and turfed over.

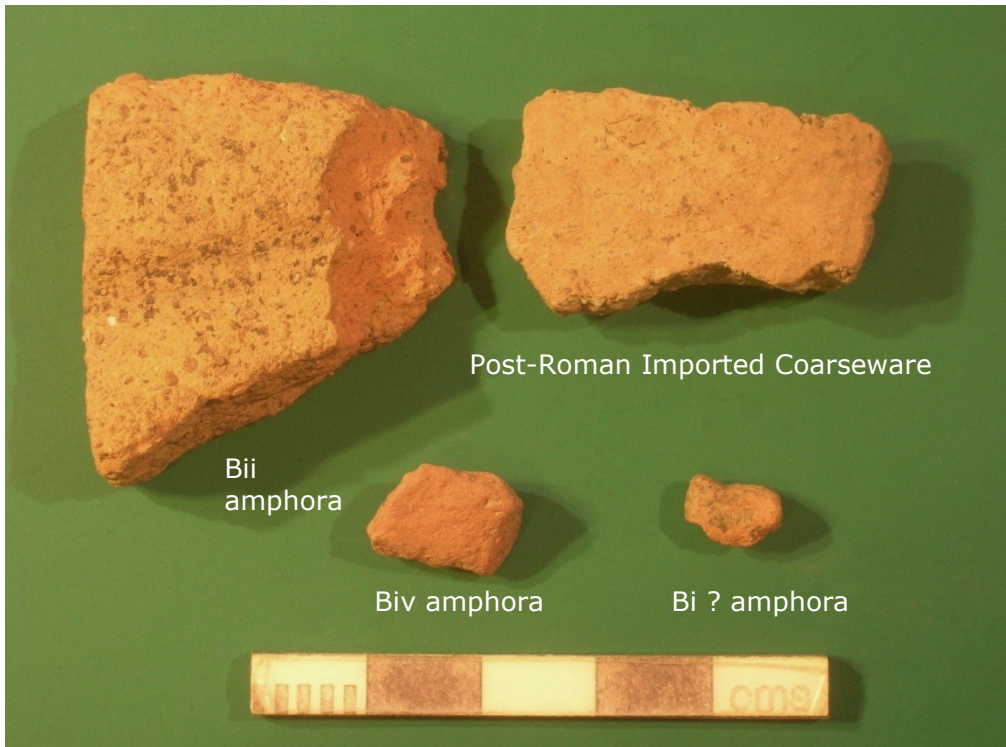


Figure 11. Post-Roman imported pottery. The Bii amphora and Imported coarseware were recovered from the base of Sign 18. The Biv amphora came from the path adjacent to the Walled Garden. The Bi ? amphora was recovered from between the slates of the probable post-Roman walling within the base of Sign 13.

9 Appendix 1. Tintagel Castle, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of signage

Client: English Heritage
Client contact: Win Scutt
Client tel: 0117 975 0700
Client email: win.scutt@english-heritage.org.uk

Project background

Tintagel Castle, Cornwall is an internationally significant scheduled ancient monument owned by the Duchy of Cornwall and under the guardianship and management of English Heritage. It is one of the county (and nation's) premier visitor attractions with yearly estimates of over 200,000 visitors.

English Heritage proposes the replacement of a number of information panels at Tintagel Castle as one component of the re-interpretation of this guardianship site. A small number of safety signs have already been replaced. The full scope of the proposed works as is set out in a document produced for English Heritage by Rivermeade Signs.

Cornwall Archaeological Unit were requested by Win Scutt, Assistant Properties Curator (West) on 25th August 2015 to provide a WSI for undertaking and reporting on an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of thirteen signs, one statue and two benches at sites on the mainland and island wards of the castle, almost all being within the scheduled area (locations TBC). The work is likely to be undertaken in early November 2015.

Tintagel Castle is located on a rugged section of the north coast of Cornwall and is centred at SX 20494 89102 in the parish of Tintagel, the parish church being located on the clifftops to the south of the Island. The Island extends to approximately 116,000 square metres and ranges in elevation from sea level to 84m OD on the almost level plateau forming the upper part of the Island, though the Scheduled Monument includes the Upper and Lower wards of the Castle on its landward side.

Site history

There is currently very little evidence for pre-Roman occupation on the headland of Tintagel though occurrences of prehistoric flints and Neolithic/Bronze Age cup-marked stones do provide evidence for some activity at this time.

There is some evidence that Tintagel was a relatively important place by the Roman period and it has been suggested that Tintagel was possibly the "*Durocornovio*" (fort of the Cornovii) of the *Ravenna Cosmography* (Thomas 1993, 84). During the post-Roman period (from the 5th to early 7th centuries AD) the headland of Tintagel developed into a major fortified citadel (the neck of the headland being separated from the Mainland by the excavation of the "Great Ditch"). It is suggested that this may point to the origin of the place-name, in Cornish '*dyn tagell*' as this means the fortress of the constriction or throat (Padel 1988).

The survey of the Island undertaken by RCHM(E) during the 1980s together with excavations undertaken since the 1930s have revealed numerous buildings and structures related to the post-Roman period, most particularly on the Island, though

excavation, artefactual and survey evidence from the mainland parts of the site suggest that the early medieval occupation extended on to the landward part of the site.

All suggest that at Tintagel there was a degree of control, organisation and power to trade directly with the Byzantine Empire. The nature of the trade is not known though there is some evidence from other sites that the distribution of tin was an important element (Thomas 1993; Harry and Morris 1997; Barrowman *et al* 2007).

Subsequently the Island was abandoned (apart from a small chapel being built on the peak of the Island c 1100) until the present castle was constructed by Richard, Earl of Cornwall during the mid-13th century. Though the more substantial buildings on the Island, along with the garden and the tunnel, date from this period, the ceramic evidence suggests that occupation appears to have been sporadic (it was sometimes used as a state prison in the 14th century), ceasing by the 15th century. In the 16th century, two small gun houses were built on the Island in response to a possible threat from the Spanish (it is uncertain if they were ever completed); the rest of the castle however was by then described as a picturesque ruin (Thomas 1993).

During the 19th and early 20th centuries Tintagel quickly became an increasingly popular and highly romanticised tourist destination, particularly following the coming of the main line railway to Cornwall and the construction of the Railway Hotel at Tintagel. The Reverend Kinsman, taking on the title of the Constable of the Castle, oversaw the reconstruction of some elements of the monument, and a guide was employed to take visitors around the Castle.

Tintagel Castle is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, but its management passed into the Guardianship of the State, being cared for by the Office of Works (and its successors) from 1929 and became a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1981 (Monument No 1014793). Archaeological investigations overseen by C.A. Raleigh Radford during the 1930s, were followed by some landscaping, reconstruction and repair works. English Heritage commissioned Glasgow University (GUARD) to undertake research excavations at Site C (an area previously excavated by Radford's pre-war campaigns, Barrowman, Batey and Morris 2007) and elsewhere from 1990 to 1999, whilst Cornwall Archaeological Unit and its successors have undertaken a number of watching briefs during safety, visitor management and other works within the Castle site since the mid-1980s to the present day (see for example Hartgroves and Walker 1986; Appleton, Fox and Waters 1998; Lawson-Jones 1994; Thorpe 2004; Reynolds 2006; Thorpe 2007; 2014).

Project extent

The locations for the signs to be replaced are detailed in a document produced for English Heritage, most works being within the Scheduled Area at Tintagel Castle. In summary, these are:

- Sign 02. Site introduction on large plinth to be set 50mm into the ground surface. Possibly not within the Scheduled Area (TBC).
- Sign 03. A welcome sign adjacent to the bridge leading to the café. To be set 50mm into the ground surface. Possibly not within the Scheduled Area (TBC).
- Sign 04. Arthur's Compass, to be set onto a 100mm deep concrete raft foundation or a mixture of stone and bronze set into a concrete base sited close to the cliff edge above the Haven.
- Sign 10. A large plinth with 3D elements to be set up close to the Great Hall in the Island Ward. The plinth for this feature is to be set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 11. A large plinth with 3D elements to be set up adjacent to the Great Hall in the Island Ward. The plinth for this feature is to be set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 13. A small plinth to be set up within the lower part of the Island Ward. The plinth for this feature is to be set 50mm into the ground surface.

- Sign 16. A large plinth to be set up close to the Great Hall in the Island Ward. The plinth for this feature is to be set 60mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 17. A large slate way-marker to be erected in the Island Ward with foundations 200mm deep.
- Sign 18. A small plinth relating to the Tristan and Iseult story to be set up within the walled garden. The plinth is to be set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 19. Six engraved slate slabs to be set into the ground surface in the walled garden, each being set into 100mm of concrete.
- Item 22. A 2.4m high cast bronze statue of King Arthur to be attached to a rock outcrop on the western cliffs with resin-fixed stainless steel anchors.
- Sign 23. A small sign with 3D elements to be set up next to the Chapel on a plinth set 50mm into the ground surface.
- Sign 24. A large plinth with 3D elements telling Earl Richard's story on a plinth to be set 50mm into the ground surface within the Lower Ward.
- Sign 25. A Sword In The Stone sculpture to be attached to a stone slab at the northern end of the Lower Ward with 300mm resin-fixed stainless steel anchors.
- Item B1. A slate-constructed bench to be set up adjacent to the visitor route in the Island Ward near the viewing point between Sites F and C. The construction of the bench will require excavation into the adjacent cliff slope to a depth of around 80mm.
- Item B2. An inscribed slate bench on concrete foundations to be set up in the walled garden. The bench will require 100mm deep foundations.

Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the subsurface archaeology of Tintagel Island. The objectives are to obtain an archaeological record of the site during the proposed intrusive activities within the Scheduled site and to produce a report on the findings of the recording work. Further objectives are to produce an ordered project archive for deposition with the Cornwall Historic Environment Record and to produce an entry for the OASIS on-line archaeological database. If appropriate, the report will include recommendations for the analysis of artefactual and other material recovered during the watching brief.

Working methods

All recording work will be undertaken according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. Staff will follow the CIfA *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

Fieldwork: watching brief

Archaeological recording will include architectural features and details of sub-surface elements. Measured information and detail, as appropriate, will be recorded and appended to the overall 1985 RCHM(E) survey of the Island.

Pre-fieldwork/historic research

Existing archaeological reports and sources of information will be consulted to form a background to the watching brief.

Fieldwork

The site archaeologist will be responsible for undertaking an archaeological watching brief during ground disturbance associated with the removal of any existing signs and ground preparation works for the new signage, statue and benches. Should intact archaeological layers or features be revealed by the groundworks the archaeologist will halt the work in order to more clearly define what is found and to record archaeological

information. If sub-surface deposits are deemed to be significant, the archaeologist will closely supervise the excavation of the remainder of the ground disturbance activities. All artefacts revealed during the excavation works will be archaeologically retrieved and processed.

The level of recording will be appropriate to the character/importance of the archaeological remains revealed.

If complex and/or significant archaeological deposits are encountered then the archaeological requirements must be reviewed by the representative of English Heritage and Cornwall Archaeological Unit. **In the event that significant remains cannot be preserved *in situ* then full-scale excavation may be required.**

In advance of the proposed small-scale trenching Cornwall Archaeological Unit will discuss and agree with the client and with the site manager:

- Working methods and programme.
- Health, safety and welfare arrangements.
- Treatment 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 (electronic) mapping; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north point. Features and finds will be located onto the RCHM(E) survey of Tintagel Castle utilising a handheld GPS.
- 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.
- Finds will be collected in sealable plastic bags, which will be labelled immediately with the context number and/or other identifier.
- 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.) may be sampled for environmental evidence and dating material. In the event that significant organic remains are encountered, advice may be needed from Vanessa Straker (Historic England, Science Advisor (South West)). Any necessary environmental sampling will be guided by *Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage Centre for Archaeological Guidelines. 2001/02).

Treatment of finds

The fieldwork may produce artefacts.

- All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (e.g. settlement features) will be plotted on a scaled base plan and described. Post medieval or modern finds may be disposed of at the cataloguing stage and offered back to the site manager. The discard policy will be reviewed ahead of its implementation.
- All finds predating 1800 AD will be collected in sealable plastic bags which will be labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier.

Human remains

Any human remains which are encountered will initially be left *in situ* and reported to the Site Supervisor and the appropriate authorities (the Coroner and Environmental Protection, Cornwall Council). If burials are encountered their legal status must be ascertained and recording and/or removal must comply with the legal guidelines. If

human remains are not to be removed their physical security will be ensured by back filling as soon as possible after recording. If human remains are to be removed this will be done with due reverence and in accordance to current best practice and legal requirements. The site will be adequately screened from public view. Once excavated, human remains will not be exposed to public view.

Fieldwork: photographic recording

The photographic record will consist of prints in both black and white together with their negatives. Digital photography will be used for report illustration. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale will be included. In the case of detailed photographs, a north arrow will be included. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.

The photo record will comprise:

- general views
- examples of significant detail

Methodology for the archive standard photography is set out as follows:

- Photographs of details will be taken with lenses of appropriate focal length
- A tripod will be used to take advantage of natural light and slower exposures
- Difficulties of back-lighting will be dealt with where necessary by balancing the lighting by the use of flash
- A metric scale will be included in all views, except where health and safety considerations make this impractical

Archiving

Following review with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit Project Manager the results from the fieldwork will be collated as an archive in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006* upon completion of the project.

This will involve washing and cataloguing of any 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 finds work will be carried out to accepted professional standards and will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

All records (context sheets, photographs, etc.) will be ordered, catalogued and stored in an appropriate manner (according to CAU guidelines).

Report

A concise report will be produced summarising the results of the watching brief with contents as specified in the Brief. A statement of significance and outline management recommendations relating to any features revealed during the works will be included in the report.

Deliverables/outputs

Will include:

- Cataloguing of digital colour photographs and image editing where appropriate. Conversion of photos to TIFF format and storage on DVD or similar.
- Completion of archive form and project record form.
- Completion of the English Heritage OASIS record (online access to archaeological investigations).

- A concise report (see above).

Archive deposition

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

The archiving will comprise the following:

1. All correspondence relating to the project, the WSI, a single paper copy of the report together with an electronic copy on CD, stored in an archive standard (acid-free) documentation box.
2. A2 drawn archive storage (plastic wallets for the annotated record drawings).
3. The project archive will be deposited initially at ReStore PLC, Liskeard and in due course (when space permits) at Cornwall Record Office.
4. Digital data will be stored on the Cornwall Council network which is regularly and frequently backed up.

CAU uses the following file formats for stored digital data:

- DOCX Word processed documents
- XLSX Spreadsheets
- PDF Exports of completed documents/reports/graphics
- JPG Site graphics and scanned information
- DNG or TIFF Digital photographs
- DWG AutoCAD drawings, measured surveys
- MXD ArcView GIS (electronic mapping) data
- AI Adobe Illustrator graphics

Timetable

The study is anticipated to take place during early November 2015. CAU will require at least two weeks' notice before the commencement of work in order to allocate field staff and arrange other logistics.

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

Monitoring and Signing Off Condition

Monitoring of the project will be overseen by Keith Miller, Historic England Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Archaeological scientific aspects of the work will be monitored by Vanessa Straker, Historic England Science Advisor (South West).

1. The monitoring officers will be kept informed of progress.
2. Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the monitoring officers prior to them being carried out.
3. If significant detail is discovered, all works must cease and a meeting convened with the client and the monitoring officers to discuss the most appropriate way forward.

Monitoring points during the study will include:

- Approval of the WSI
- Completion of fieldwork

- Completion of archive report
- Deposition of the archive

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Cornwall Archaeological Unit is part of Cornwall Council. CAU employs 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 120 projects each year.

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

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

Standards



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

<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Terms and conditions

Contract

CAU is part of Cornwall Council. If accepted, the contract for this work will be between the client and Cornwall Council.

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

Project staff

The project will be managed by a nominated Archaeology Projects Officer who will:

- Discuss and agree the detailed objectives and programme of each stage of the project with the client and the field officers, including arrangements for health and safety.

- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.
- Liaise with the client regarding the budget and related issues.

Work will be carried out by professional CAU field staff, with assistance from qualified specialists and sub-contractors where appropriate. The project team is expected to include:

Report distribution

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

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

Copyright

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

Use of the material will be granted to the client.

Freedom of Information Act

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.

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

Health and safety statement

CAU follows Cornwall Council's *Statement of Safety Policy*.

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

Insurance

CAU is covered by Cornwall Council's Public and Employers Liability Insurance, with a policy value of £50m. The Council also has Professional Negligence insurance with a policy value of £10m.

Adam Sharpe BA MCIfA
Archaeology Projects Officer
25th August 2015

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

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