



Former Primary School, Camelford, Cornwall
Archaeological Mitigation

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2016R013

Report No

2016R013

Report Name

Former primary school at Camelford,
Cornwall

Report Author

Ryan P Smith

Event Type

Archaeological
Mitigation

Client Organisation

Ocean Housing

Client Contact

Sam Harding

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From)

08/02/16

(To)

10/02/16

(Created By)

Ryan P Smith

(Create Date)

February 2016

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

The former Primary School Highfield Road, Camelford

(Town – for urban sites)

Camelford

(Postcode)

PL32 9RA

(Easting) X co-ord

SX

(Northing) Y co-ord

10316 83416

83416 (centred)



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1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council were commissioned by Mr Sam Harding on behalf of Ocean Housing to carry out a programme of archaeological recording prior to the construction of new houses on the site of the former primary school at Camelford in Cornwall (Figs 1-3). The development was subject to a Planning Condition (PA15/01111).

An archaeological assessment was undertaken by CAU in 2014 (Lawson-Jones 2014) and this was followed by a geophysical survey in 2015 (Stratascan 2015). The assessment did not identify any major archaeological sites and only a small number of potential archaeological features, mostly removed field boundaries, were recorded by the geophysical survey in the northern part of the site. However, the site was located to the south of Sir James Smith's School, which had previously produced a large number of major archaeological features (Jones and Taylor, forthcoming).

In light of the potential for archaeological remains to be uncovered, a written scheme of investigation outlining the methodology for archaeological recording was produced (02/09/2015) by Dr Andy Jones, CAU (Appendix 1).

2 Location, setting and archaeological potential

The site is located within Camelford, between the main A39 (to the east) and the B3266. The site is largely surrounded by a mix of domestic housing and gardens, with the current Camelford primary school just to the north. The site is centred at SX 10327 833790 (Fig 1).

The majority of the site lies at 216m above sea level, upon a long slightly raised ridge on the western side of Camelford. The development falls within 'Anciently Enclosed Land of Medieval Farmland type, altered in the 20th Century' (Cornwall County Council 1986). This landscape type often contains buried archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods. The archaeological potential of the site has been demonstrated by excavation to the north at Sir James Smith's School, which revealed ceremonial and settlement sites of Late Iron Age and Romano-British date (c200 BC – AD 50) (Taylor 2009; Lawson-Jones 2014).

3 Aims and objectives

The aims of the project were:

- 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 occupational 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.

4 Working methods

The site soil strip was carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. Priority was given to area A (Fig 2), which had been in agricultural use prior to its conversion to a school playing field. The results from the geophysical survey also indicated that it had the potential to contain archaeological features (Stratascan 2015). The soil was stripped cleanly to a level at which archaeological features were expected to be revealed, in this case the top of the natural geology. The area was then inspected by an archaeologist.

5 Results

The areas (A-C) stripped (Fig 2) covered less than 0.8ha. The topsoil within area A was a dark brown loam, measuring between 0.2m – 0.3m deep. It contained slate/shillet stones and some pieces of quartz. The soil was loose and appeared to have been subjected to ploughing prior to the formation of the school playing field. Numerous artefacts were found within the topsoil. These included pieces of clay pipe, blue and white pottery, all of which are suggestive of domestic waste middening associated with the improvement of the soil.

The underlying natural subsoil (102) comprised either a reddish brown or yellowish brown soil with a high clay content, which appeared to fill depressions within the natural bedrock (103), a grey decayed slate that rose through the subsoil in several places along the western edge of the site.

No evidence for any earlier prehistoric field boundaries was identified during the soil stripping, but two utility trenches and the remains of a more recent field boundary (Figs 2 and 4) were recorded. The field boundary appeared to have been significantly truncated, probably by a machine. No accompanying ditches were observed on either side of the boundary. Its base was approximately 1.8m wide. The remains of the boundary appeared to comprise slate stones, which had no recognisable form.

Areas of disturbance were recorded across the development area. In the centre of area A were the remains of a garden which was used by the school. A storm drain was located near the centre of the playing field. When the manhole was removed, it revealed a drain that was almost 3m deep. An area of more than 4m square is likely to have been excavated around it.

Areas B and C were also inspected as topsoil stripping progressed, but it became obvious that both areas had been disturbed probably during the construction of the school.

The artefacts from the topsoil were not retained.

6 Conclusion

The lack of archaeological features indicates that the later prehistoric settlement which was excavated at Sir James Smith's School to the north did not extend southwards into the site of the former primary school. This means that the development did not make a significant impact upon the buried archaeological resource.

7 References

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

Publications

Cornwall County Council, 1996. *Cornwall Landscape Assessment 1994*, Cornwall County Council: Truro

Jones, A M, and Taylor, S R, forthcoming. Archaeological investigations of Late Iron Age settlement at Sir James Smith's Community School, Camelford, Cornwall, 2008-9, *Cornish Archaeol*

Lawson-Jones, A., 2014. *Camelford former Primary School, Cornwall, Archaeological Assessment*. CAU, Truro (2014R077)

Stratascan, 2015, *Geophysical Survey Report, Camelford, Cornwall*, J7758

Taylor, S.R., 2009. *Sir James Smith's Community School, Camelford, Cornwall, Phase 1 Synthetic Pitch and Northern Fields*. HE, Truro (2010R020)

8 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146560**

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.

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin: \\Sites\\Sites C\\Camelford former Primary School site Mitigation

Digital photographs: \\Historic Environment (Images)\\Sites A-D\\Sites C\\CAMELFORD Former Primary School site mitigation

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-243164

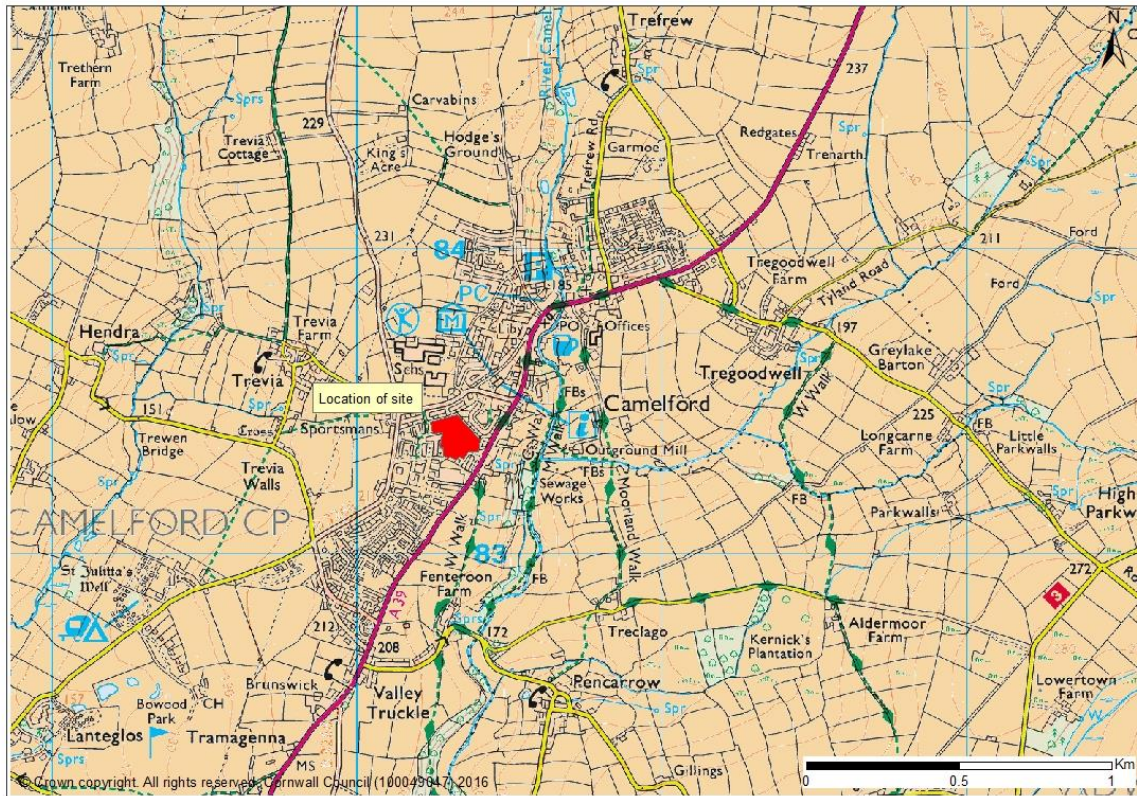


Figure 1: Location of site.

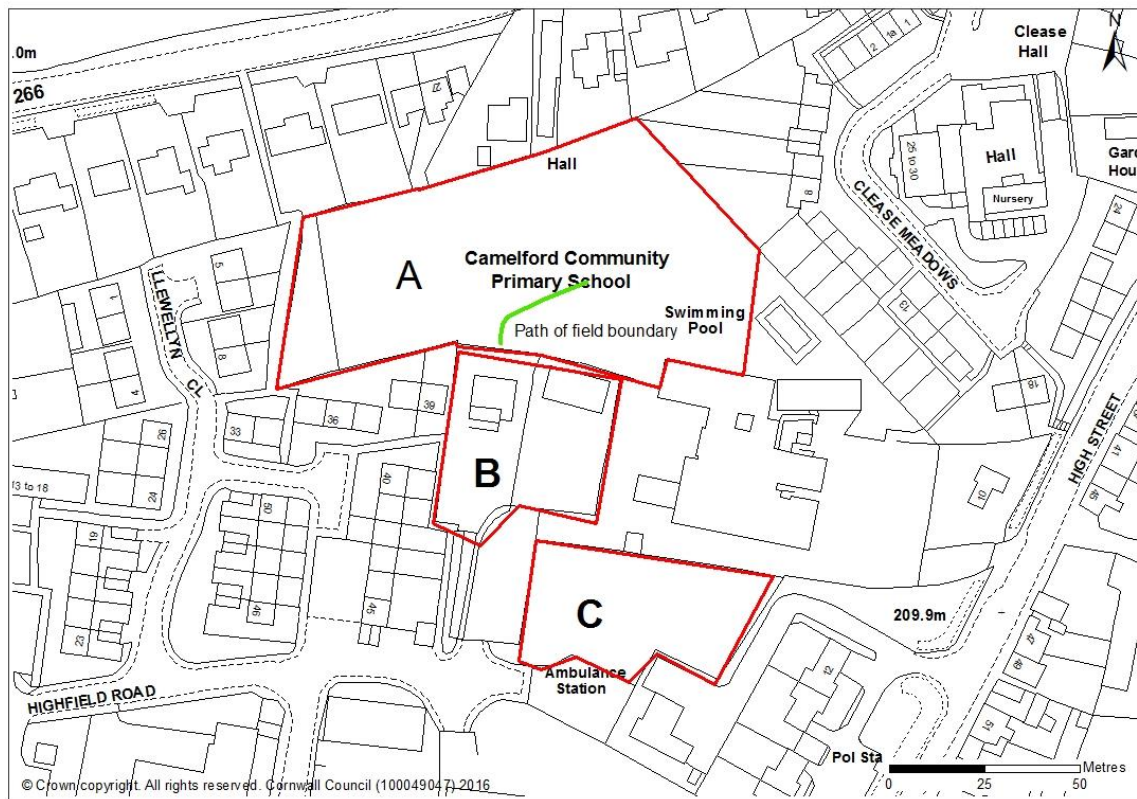


Figure 2: Site showing areas referred to in the report and the path of the old field boundary.



Figure 3: Pre excavation view looking west of area A.



Figure 4: Post excavation view looking south west of area A showing the remains of the field boundary indicated on the earlier mapping.

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Mitigation at Camelford former primary School

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council have been requested by Mr Sam Harding on behalf of Ocean Housing to provide a project design and estimate for a programme of archaeological recording ahead of the construction of 32 affordable houses at the former Primary School site, Camelford. The site covers an area of approximately 0.8 HA. Previous archaeological recording carried out by CAU has included a desktop assessment and the interpretation of a geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Lawson-Jones 2014; Jones 2015). The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies which may relate to historic/early field systems.

The current investigations will be required as part of Planning Condition (PA15/01111). Condition 9 is worded as follows:

A) No development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation*

B) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

D) The archaeological recording condition will normally only be discharged when all elements of the WSI including on site works, analysis, report, publication (where applicable) and archive work has been completed.

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of NPPF, Section 12, paragraph 141. A pre-commencement condition is considered necessary to allow for the necessary archaeological investigations prior to the ground being disturbed.

This project design covers the archaeological recording during the site works at the former Primary School site. It is focussed upon the two open/undeveloped

areas which were covered by the geophysical survey. In the event that extensive/significant archaeological remains were uncovered which required further excavation analysis, further project designs for these stages will be produced.

1.2 Historical background

The development site is situated within the core of Camelford, a historic settlement of medieval origin. No major archaeological sites are known within the development area; however, there is the potential for buried archaeological remains to be found in those parts of the site which have not been built on already. A large number of below-ground archaeological sites of prehistoric and Roman period date were uncovered and excavated at Sir James Smith's Community School in 2008, which lies to the north of the project area. The geophysical survey carried out in 2014 did not reveal many potential features; however, it did lead to the identification of boundaries which are likely to be associated with earlier field systems (Fig 1).

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 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.

Dr Andy Jones 2/9/15

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