



Lower Tregeen, Davidstow, Cornwall  
Archaeological evaluation trenching

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2016R026





Report No

2016R026

Report Name

Lower Tregeen, Davidstow, Cornwall,  
Archaeological Evaluation Trenching

Report Author

Ryan P Smith

Event Type

Evaluation

Client Organisation

Powerquinn Ltd

Client Contact

Mark Quinn

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From)

21/03/16

(To)

31/03/2016

(Created By)

Ryan P Smith

(Create Date)

01 April 2016

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Lower Tregeen Farm, Davidstow, Camelford, Cornwall

(Town – for urban sites)

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(Postcode)

PL32 9XU

(Easting) X co-ord

SX 16419

(Northing) Y co-ord

87872

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# 1 Project background

As a result of the geophysical survey carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd in June 2015, Phil Copleston (Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council, requested a brief for archaeological recording, which stipulated the requirements for evaluation trenching to be carried out on anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Appendix 1).

In March 2016, Cornwall Archaeological Unit was contacted by Mr Alan Thomas of Archaeology and Planning Solutions (Malmesbury) on behalf of Mr Mark Quinn of Powerquinn Ltd with a request to carry out evaluation trenching within four fields at Lower Tregeen Farm, Davidstow. Ten 50 metre trenches were to be excavated across anomalies of potential archaeological significance.

This work was to be undertaken in advance of a planning determination for the potential installation of a 5MW solar array (planning reference PA15/11004).

# 2 Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study was to gain a better understanding of the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits within the proposed development area, the likely impacts of the development on them and the possible methods by which any negative impacts resulting from development might be mitigated.

Key objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish if areas of archaeological deposits survived within the development boundary which would require further stages of archaeological recording.
- To locate and record any evidence for prehistoric and medieval settlement activity within the area of the proposed development.
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- To provide further information on the archaeology of Lower Tregeen and its environs from any archaeological remains encountered.

# 3 Working methods

All recording was undertaken according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. Drawings were made to a scale, where appropriate, of 1:10 for sections, 1:20 or 1:50 for plans.

## *Recording - general*

- The topsoil was stripped to the level of the natural subsoil (the level at which archaeological deposits could be expected to have survived) using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket.
- The locations of the trenches were surveyed using a Leica GPS CS10. Their positions were linked to a scaled base map tied to the National Grid.
- All features were accurately located at an appropriate scale.
- All archaeological contexts were described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering system.
- Photography: a Pentax F30 Digital SLR was used for record, illustrative and presentation purposes.
- Photography: black and white images were recorded using a Pentax 35mm SLR using Ilford B&W film (440ASA) for archival images.

## 4 Location, setting and site history

The site is located east of Lower Tregeen Farm, Davidstow, Camelford, Cornwall centred on SX 16419 87872 (Fig 1), sandwiched between the B3262 to the north and the A395 to the south. The four fields comprising the project area cover an area of approximately 10ha (Figs 1 & 2) and are enclosed by field boundaries built of stone and earth. The fields generally slope down to the south west. The area is presently pasture, and during heavy rain the soils were found to retain water, even on the slopes.

The underlying geology is the Tredorn Slate Formation with overlying alluvial deposits along the south western edge of the site (BGS, 2016).

### Archaeological background

The settlement of Tregeen was first recorded *circa* 1220, though may have early medieval origins. The surrounding area is recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly HER as siting a number of Bronze Age round barrows, together with evidence for medieval and post medieval agricultural settlements and associated activity.

Historic Landscape Characterisation carried out in 1996 by Cornwall Archaeological Unit had identified the land located to the east of Lower Tregeen Farm as Medieval Farmland (Herring 1998). This forms part of Cornwall's agricultural heartland, whose farming settlements are documented before the 17<sup>th</sup> century and whose field patterns are morphologically distinct from the generally straight-sided fields of later enclosures. Such fields may have either medieval or prehistoric origins.

## 5 Archaeological results

Ten trenches in total were excavated across the site on areas indicated by the geophysical survey to contain anomalies of a potential archaeological nature, these locations having been selected by the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) (Fig 2).

The topsoil in fields 1-3 (101) was a dark brown loose clay loam, containing common stone inclusions comprising quartz and mudstone. The subsoil (102) in fields 1-3 was a reddish brown loose clay loam, containing common stone inclusions, these being predominantly mudstones. The natural (103) was a greyish blue clay with common stone inclusions, comprising decayed mudstone interspersed with areas of broken mudstone in the process of degradation. The topsoil in field 4 was made up of (110), a dark almost peaty soil less than 0.2m deep lying over (111) a greyish white clay which contained few large quartz stones.

### Trench 1

See Figs 2, 3 & 4. SX 16296 88068 – SX 16284 88024

Situated on the north-west edge of the site, Trench 1 was designed to evaluate the presence of curvilinear and linear anomalies which had been interpreted as possible prehistoric roundhouses and associated features. Excavated on a north to south alignment, the trench was 50m in length, 1.5m in width and reached a maximum depth of 0.6m. Within the trench were several features, described below from north to south:

A gully [118] 0.61m wide, 0.15m deep, with shallow sides, and an almost flat base and moderate to good edge definition. The deposit within the gully (112) was a mid to dark brown plastic clay loam containing sparse stone inclusions. This incorporated a sherd of post medieval pottery and the bowl from a clay smoking pipe.

A linear ditch [119], 1m wide, less than 0.15m deep, with shallow sloping sides and an uneven base, orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, with poor to moderate

edge definition. This was filled by (115) a mid greyish brown plastic silty clay; sherds of pottery (post medieval) and slate fragments were found within the deposit).

A possible cut [116] was partially excavated by the machine and appeared to be part of a curvilinear feature. It was not possible to investigate this feature further.

A large depression containing (117), a dark brown loose silty clay with common stone inclusions comprising quartz and mudstone. Excavation revealed a poor to moderate edge to the depression [120]. The feature was 5m in length, 1m wide at its widest point and 0.2m deep; this may have been the remnants of a field boundary. Sherds of post medieval pottery were recovered from within (117).

Sherds of unstratified post medieval pottery were also recovered from within the trench.

## **Trench 2**

See Fig 2. SX 16340 88027 – SX 16323 87977

Located within field 1, and to the east of trench 1, trench 2 was excavated on a north to south axis running parallel to trench 1. Trench 2 was 50m in length and 1.5m in width, reaching a maximum depth of 0.4m. The geophysics results appeared to indicate the presence of pits within an associated field system.

The southern end of trench 2 revealed two shallow ditches running parallel and aligned east to west. The first ditch (104) when excavated proved to be ephemeral and was only defined by its surface deposit (104), a dark brown loose loam, 0.3m wide and 0.05 deep.

The second ditch [107] was 0.5m wide, 0.15m deep, linear with shallow sloping sides and an almost flat base, with moderate to good edge definition. It was filled by (106), a dark brown loose loam, and its basal layer was (108), a dark brown loose loamy silt with few stone inclusions, less than 0.08m deep.

No pits were found within the trench.

## **Trench 3**

See Fig 2 SX 16386 87984 – SX 16339 87963

Situated in the south-west corner of field 1, this trench was intended to intersect part of the possible field system within field 1. The trench revealed the continuation of ditches (104) [105] and (106) [107]. Trench 3 was 50m long and 1.5m wide, and reached a maximum depth of 0.4m.

Ditch [105] was excavated and found to be a shallow sided feature cut into the natural (103), 0.6m wide, 0.1m deep and filled by (104), a dark brown loose loam.

Located 2.9m north east of [105] was another ditch [107], a linear shallow sided feature 0.5m wide, 0.15m deep with a flattish base, orientated north-east to south-west, with a moderate to good edge definition. The ditch was filled by (106), a dark brown loose loam with common stone inclusions and (109) a dark brown loose loamy silt with few stone inclusions, 0.07m deep.

## **Trench 4**

See Fig 2 SX 16322 87887 – SX 16281 87863

Situated on the southern edge of field 1 and located within an part of the field reclaimed from a formerly poorly drained area, as indicated by the geology within the baulk of the trench. This trench was excavated on a north-east to south-west axis. Trench 4 was 40m long and 1.5m wide, reaching a maximum depth of 1m. Excavation of the trench was stopped due to water ingress, though it had been intended to intersect a linear feature and an area of magnetic debris identified by the geophysical survey.

Reaching a maximum depth of 1m the trench only revealed a single modern drain, and a change in geology from the upper reaches of the field. The top soil was (101), but the sub soils consisted of an almost black organic peat (110) overlying a layer of decayed mudstone, which was almost claylike in consistency (111).

No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

### **Trench 5**

See Fig 2 SX 16398 87973 – SX 16398 87925

Located on the western edge of field 2, this trench was excavated on a north to south axis and was intended to intersect features associated with a putative field system. It measured 50m in length and 1.5m in width reaching a maximum depth of no more than 0.5m was excavated.

A ditch [122] measuring 2m wide and 0.15m deep was excavated, this having very shallow sides, moderate edge definition, and a flat base orientated on an east to west axis. The base of the ditch, whilst flat, was very stony in appearance. The ditch contained a single deposit, (121) a dark brown loose silty clay, with common stone inclusions consisting of shillet and quartz.

A ditch [124] measuring 0.9m wide and 0.23m deep, with shallow sides, flat base and good edge definition, orientated east to west, filled by (123), a dark brown plastic silty clay, with sparse stone inclusions.

### **Trench 6**

See Figs 2, 6 & 7 SX 16429 87850 – SX 16428 87803

Located in the centre of field 2, trench 6 was intended to investigate the ridge and furrow cultivation indicated on the geophysical survey. A trench measuring 50m in length and 1.5m wide was excavated on a north to south axis.

Located within the trench were the remnants of a possible burnt pit (128), and a ditch [127].

Unfortunately the majority of burnt pit (128) in this trench was destroyed during machine trenching, though the edges of this feature were still present on both edges of the trench. The eastern side of the trench contained a shallow layer of quartz stones mixed with and overlying (141) a deposit of silty black charcoal. The section of quartz measured 0.6m long and less than 0.1m wide. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from within the quartz charcoal layer. The quartz layer of the pit appeared to be topped by topsoil (101). Excavation of the remnants of the pit did not identify a cut. A single piece of flint was recovered between (128) the quartz charcoal layer and the top soil (101).

Underneath the subsoil (102) was an area of soft ground within the trench floor (126); excavation revealed a piece of flint within the upper part of the deposit, whilst further excavation found a moderately defined cut to a possible ditch 1m wide, and 0.4m deep, with vertical edges, and an uneven base which appeared to slope to the south west, cut into the natural (103).

### **Trench 7**

See Figs 2 & 6 SX 16466 87775 – SX 16451 87728

Located in the south-east part of field 2, trench 7 was excavated on a south-south-east to north-north-west alignment across an elongated negative anomaly, possibly representing an undocumented field boundary. A trench measuring 50m in length and 1.5m wide was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m.

In the northern section of the trench a single burnt pit and a field boundary were revealed.



The burnt pit [129] was 0.65m in diameter and 0.1m deep, topped with a layer of small quartz stones, and a shallow layer of charcoal; the fill (130) was a dark brown loose clay silt with about 40% charcoal content. The pit was oval in shape, with very shallow sides, an uneven base and moderate to poor edge definition. The pit appeared to have been scraped into the sub soil (102).

The field boundary [131], 1.7m wide and 0.4m deep, showed as a linear ditch with a steep north side, a shallow south side and a rounded base, and was orientated on an east to west axis. Its fills contained (132), a dark greyish brown plastic clay silt with common stone inclusions comprising quartz and mudstone (shillet), with occasional flecks of charcoal; a single piece of flint was recovered from the upper part of the deposit (132).

### **Trench 8**

See Fig 2 SX 16557 87869 – SX 16514 87848

Located on the north-west corner of field 3, trench 8 was excavated on a north-east to south-west axis. This was intended to evaluate the ridge and furrow observed in the geophysical survey. The trench measured 50m in length and 1.5m wide, reaching a maximum depth of no more than 0.3m.

No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

### **Trench 9**

See Fig 2 SX 16613 87777 – SX 16564 87762

Located in the mid south-eastern part of field 3, trench 9 was aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and was intended to sample a possible early field boundary. A trench measuring 50m in length and 1.5m wide was excavated, reaching a maximum depth of no more than 0.4m.

Four field drains were found within the ditch. Only one was excavated, [133] (Fig 8). This measured 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep, with shallow sloping sides, a flat base and good edge definition. It had been cut into (103); the fill (134) was a dark brown plastic silty clay with common quartz and shillet inclusions.

All of the drains were aligned north to south across the slope of the field.

Unstratified material was found within the area of trench 9 including flint and a sherd of post medieval pottery.

### **Trench 10**

See Fig 2 SX 16504 87694 – SX 16456 87679

Located on the eastern edge of field 4, trench 10 was intended to intersect a possible field drain. A trench measuring 50m in length and 1.5m wide was excavated orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, reaching a maximum depth of 0.3m. The trench revealed two field drains of modern date, whilst a machine cut bisected the trench on a north-east to south-west axis.

No archaeological remains were observed within the trench.

## **6 Conclusions/discussion**

### **Trench 1 (Fig 2)**

Located on the western edge of the site, and the closest trench to the Lower Tregeen Farm buildings, a closer inspection of archive maps indicates that an older field boundary cut through this area in the 1840s. The presence of pottery associated with the post medieval period would corroborate the suggestion that the features within the trench are probably post medieval in date. The ground surface within this trench was noted to have been heavily disturbed and this may well relate to works carried out within this part of the site in the past couple of decades.

### **Trenches 2 and 3 (Fig 2)**

The two shallow ditches are those observed within the geophysical survey results and continue along the field intersecting trench 3 and then continue into field 2, where [107] appears to be intersected by trench 5. These are probably part of an earlier reclamation project for draining the fields. The weather on several days during the evaluation project was not conducive for excavation and the fields retained surface water, making the ground sloppy and wet. These drains, when installed, would have helped remove the water channelling down the slope to the local stream. A spring was noted in the area upslope from the fields which were evaluated.

### **Trench 4 (Fig 2)**

Excavated below the lip of a slight ridge within the field, the ridge being the location of a probable field boundary, the second field boundary observed on the geophysics was not found. A clear division between the geology within the upper sections of the fields and the peaty clays associated with the bottom of the valley could be seen in this trench, as also in trench 7.

### **Trench 5 (Fig 2)**

Two drainage ditches were found, one of these being similar to that in trenches 2 and 3. The second, lower ditch was wider and shallower. The geophysics results indicate that this ditch continues into field 1 on a south-west orientation. The ditch did not appear to be well excavated, and it might have been a natural feature which has expanded through time,

### **Trench 6 (Fig 2)**

This trench revealed the presence of a possible burnt pit with quartz stones. The lack of a well-defined cut implies a very temporary and shallow scrape. Of note was the presence of a sherd of pottery and two pieces of flint, one above the quartz layer and the second in the possible ditch (126) below the pit. The presence of the piece of flint within the upper part of the deposit (126) could be attributed to colluvial or natural hillside erosion, implying it was washed down from the slopes above this location.

### **Trench 7 (Fig 2)**

A burnt pit was revealed, topped by small quartz stones, situated in a very shallow depression. This was not as large as the pit found in trench 6 and there were no associated finds. The pit was located on the edge of what was once a very boggy area, as shown by the change in geology within the trench.

### **Trench 9 (Fig 2)**

Four ditches, all orientated on the same axis, were intersected by the trench. These are almost certainly early field drains, possibly associated with an original reclamation project to upgrade the fields from downland to pasture. They appeared to have been hand dug. A sample example was hand excavated.

## **7 Recommendations**

The evaluation of geophysical features at Lower Tregeen Farm did not confirm the presence of any of the structures or significant activity of an archaeological nature which had been suggested by the geophysical survey, though the two pits and accompanying flint within the immediate area of two trenches (6 & 7) does hint at some prehistoric activity within the surrounding landscape.

Should further work be necessary in the area above these fields (certainly in the area of the spring in the adjacent fields to the north), then an archaeological watching brief would be recommended to determine the extent of early activity within this part of the landscape.

The majority of the pottery recovered from the area adjacent to the farmyard was post medieval and appeared to be of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Whilst it was notable that flint was

not found in the topsoil in most of the trenches, the flint that was recovered appeared to date to the Late Mesolithic or early Neolithic period. One piece was a bladelet core, another was a blade. Burnt pits themselves are normally associated with the Neolithic period.

## 8 References

### 8.1 Primary sources

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

Ordnance Survey, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1840. *Parish of Davidstow* (digital copy held at Cornwall Archaeological Unit)

### 8.2 Publications

Archaeological Surveys Ltd, 2015. *Lower Tregeen Farm, Davidstow, Cornwall Magnetometer Survey Report for Otter Power Ltd (Ref no 615)*

Herring, P, 1998. *Cornwall Historic Landscape Character*, Cornwall County Council

### 8.3 Websites

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html> British Geological Survey (BGS).

## 9 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146573**

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.

A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.

Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE853/1-5)

Black and white photographs : GBP 2382

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin: \\Sites\\Sites L\\Lower Tregeen Evaluation

Digital photographs: \\Historic Environment (Images)\\SITES.I-L\\Sites L\\Lower Tregeen Davidstow

Electronic drawings: \\Historic Environment (CAD)\\CAD Archive\\Sites L\\Lower Tregeen Davidstow

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-247648

This report text is held in digital form as: ..\\TWE\\Waste & Env\\Strt Waste & Land\\Historic Environment\\Projects\\Sites\\Sites L\\Lower Tregeen\\Report

Artefacts and environmental material retrieved during the project are stored at the CAU Finds Archive Store, Cardrew Industrial Estate, Redruth. The site code is LT-16.



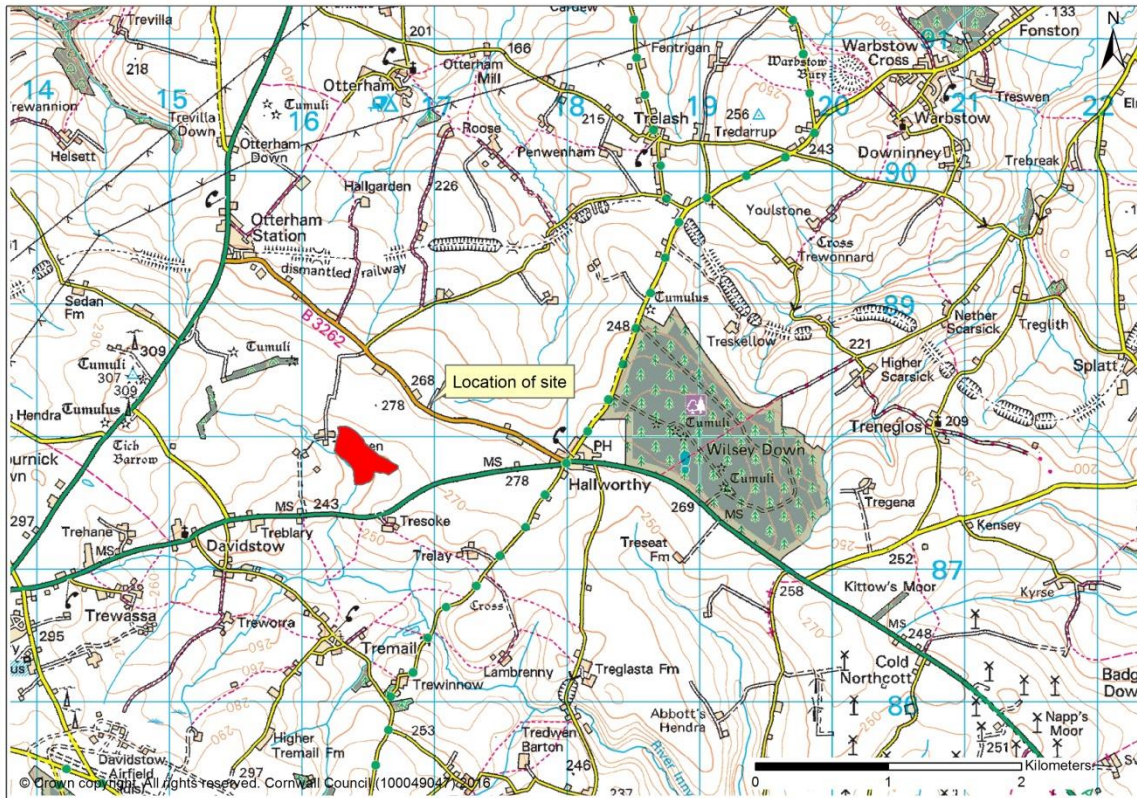


Figure 1: Location of Lower Tregeen Farm, Davidstow, Cornwall.

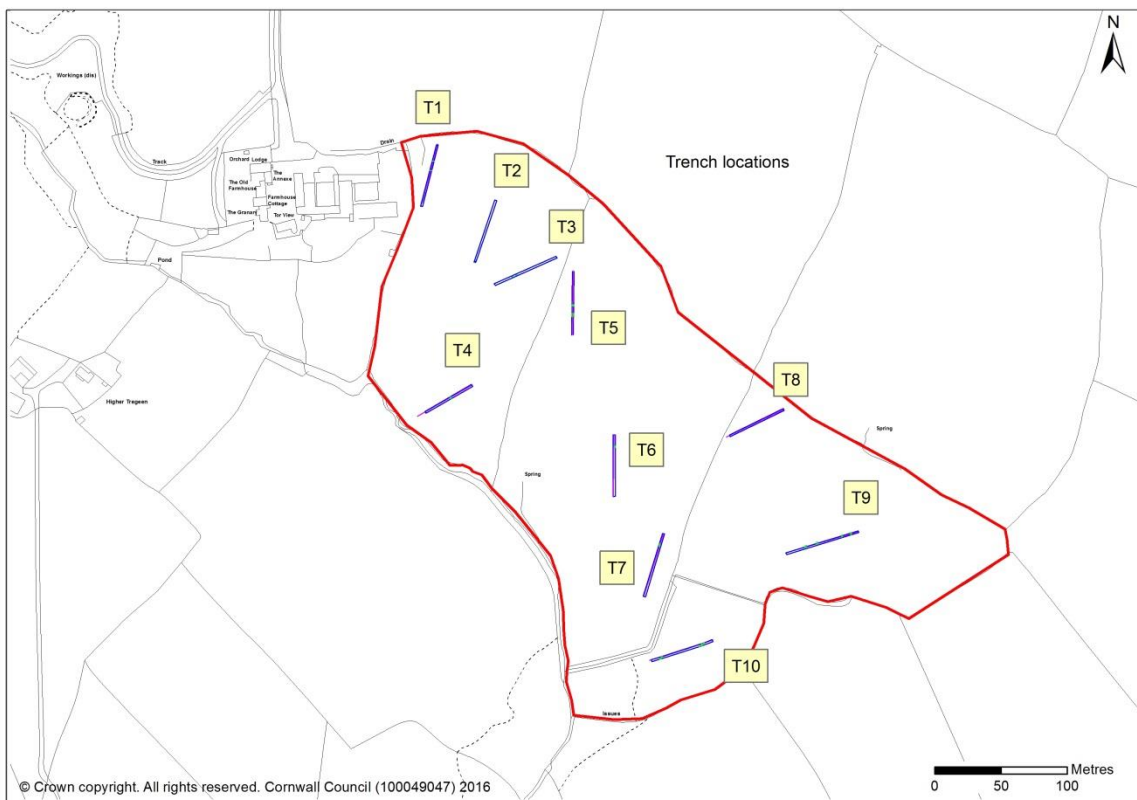


Figure 2: Extent of Lower Tregeen Farm showing location of trenches.

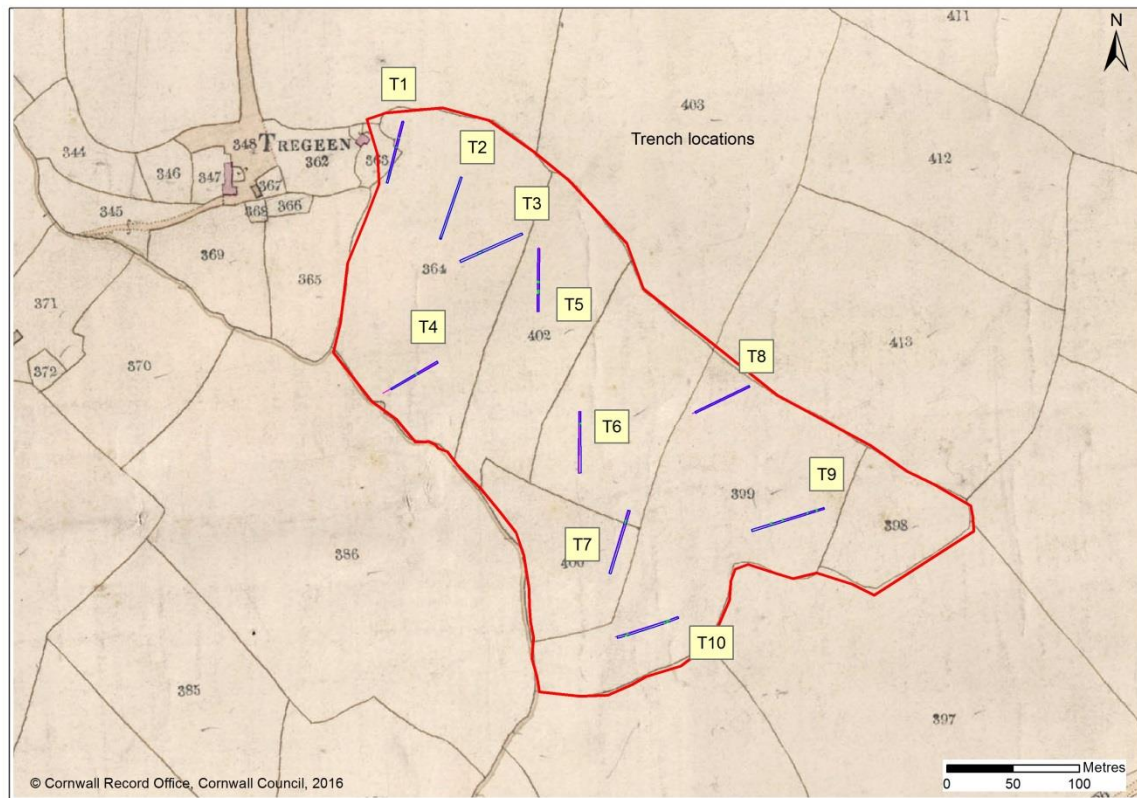


Figure 3: Tithe map for Davidstow c1840 showing extent of site and location of trenches.

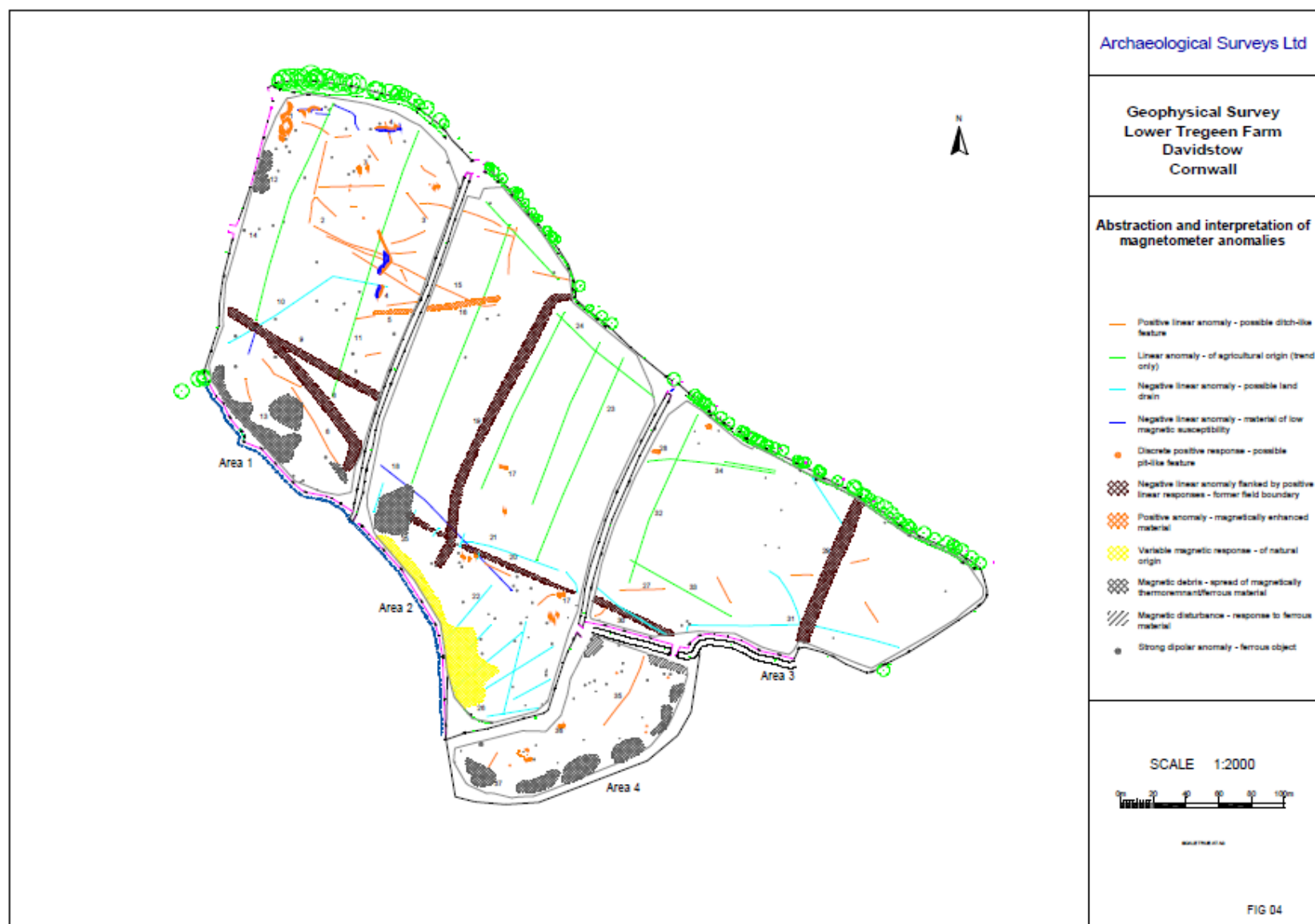


Figure 4: Geophysical survey results from Archaeological Surveys Ltd (2015).





Figure 5: Pre-excavation view of field 1 looking south.



Figure 6: View of trenches 6 and 7 in field 2 looking north.





Figure 7: Trench 6, field 2. Image showing section of baulk with remnants of burnt pit (128) in the upper layers and ditch [127].



Figure 8: Trench 9, field 3. Image showing post excavation view of an early land drain [133].



## Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

### Cornwall Archaeological Unit Cornwall Council



### Lower Tregeen, Davidstow, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation trenching

Client: Powerquinn Ltd.  
Client contact: Mark Quinn  
Client tel: 01288 352047

#### Project background

A solar farm is proposed for a location currently occupied by four pasture fields adjacent to Tregeen Farm to the east of Davidstow, the site being centred at SX 16419 87872. The underlying bedrock is the Tredorn Slate Formation, this being overlain by alluvial deposits along the south western side of the site and by soils of the Denbigh 2 association, these being well-drained fine loams.

Cornwall Archaeological Unit were contacted by Alan Thomas of Archaeology and Planning Solutions (Malmesbury) on behalf of Mark Quinn of Powerquinn Ltd. with a request to submit costs for excavating ten 50m evaluation trenches across anomalies of potential archaeological significance which had been revealed by a magnetometer survey (see below). This estimate was accepted by Powerquinn Ltd. Mr Phil Copleston, Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council requested a WSI (method statement) for this work on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to demonstrate that the proposed approach would adequately sample the anomalous areas of the site and enable Cornwall Council planners to determine the likely impact of the development proposal on the sub-surface archaeology of the site, and whether any further archaeological investigation and recording might be required in advance of, or during the development programme.

Dependant upon the results from the evaluative fieldwork, further stages of archaeological recording may be needed to mitigate the impact of development.

This might include one or more of the following elements:

- Controlled soil stripping of the remainder of the development
- Excavation of significant features
- Collation of archive and production of archive report
- Assessment, analysis (and archive deposition)
- Final publication (in an academic journal)

#### Site history

A brief archaeological assessment of the site was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd in advance of undertaking a magnetometry survey of the site. This reported that the settlement of Tregeen was first recorded in *circa* 1220, though may have early medieval origins. The surrounding area is recorded in the Cornwall

and Scilly HER as siting a number of Bronze Age round barrows, together with evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural settlements and associated activities. A map regression undertaken as part of this report showed this farmland to have remained largely unchanged between 1840 (Davidstow Tithe Map) and the end of WW2 (aerial photographic evidence), though a degree of boundary removal has taken place since then. The Historic Landscape Character of the project area is Anciently Enclosed Land – Farmland Medieval reflecting the fossilised strip field alignments which characterise many of the boundaries within this area.

As well as evidence for removed field boundaries and for cultivation activity (evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation), the magnetometry survey revealed a cluster of linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies in the north western corner of the site which were considered to potentially reflect possible settlement features. A group of linear features to the east and south east might represent elements of an associated field system, within which are located a number of pit-like features, most of which appear to be contained within an enclosing boundary. Whilst additional features were found across the remainder of the site, these are far less frequent and some were interpreted as being of natural or uncertain origin.

## **Project extent**

The site extends to approximately 10ha and occupies parts of four fields immediately to the east of Lower Tregeen Farm, Davidstow.

## **Aims and objectives**

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits within the proposed development area, the likely impacts of the development on them and potential methods by which any negative impacts resulting from the development might be mitigated.

Key objectives are:

- To establish if areas of archaeological deposits survive within the development boundary which will require further stages of archaeological recording.
- To locate evidence for prehistoric and medieval settlement activity within the area of the proposed development.
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- To provide further information on the archaeology of Lower Tregeen and its environs from any archaeological remains encountered.

## **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.

## **Desk-based assessment**

A desk-based assessment was carried out in advance of a magnetometer survey of the project area by Archaeological Surveys Ltd. This included consultation of the Cornwall and Scilly HER and a map regression.

## **Fieldwork: archaeological evaluation**

### **Evaluation trenching**

Evaluation trenching will be carried out, in order to adequately assess the archaeological potential of the area of the development and test the results from the geophysical surveys.

In order to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area, ten 1m wide by 50m long trenches will be excavated across the site at locations supplied by Archaeology and Planning Solutions (see attached plan for the locations of these trenches).

- Trench 1 will be aligned north to south across the curvilinear and linear geophysical anomalies recorded in the north western corner of the site and possibly representing a prehistoric round house and associated features.
- Trench 2 will be aligned parallel to Trench 1 and to its east across the linear features and pits within the apparently associated field system.
- Trench 3 will be aligned south-west to north-east across to the south-east of Trench 2 and again across part of the possible field system which appears to contain a strong curvilinear anomaly which may represent evidence for a round house.
- Trench 4 will be aligned north to south over a linear feature at the eastern end of the putative field system.
- Trench 5 will be aligned south-west to north east in the south-western corner of the site across linear features and an area of magnetic debris identified by the archaeological geophysical survey.
- Trench 6 will be aligned south to north at the centre of the development area within part of the site which appeared on the geophysics to be characterised by evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation.
- Trench 7 will be aligned south-south west to north-north-east across an elongated negative linear anomaly which appears to represent an undocumented field boundary, possibly one of medieval origin.
- Trench 8 will be set near the northern boundary of the site near its central point and will be aligned south-west to north-east over an area which appears to contain evidence for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.
- Trench 9 will be located in the south-eastern corner of the site and will be aligned west-south-west to east-north-east in order to sample a possibly early linear boundary within this area.
- Trench 10 will be located in the eastern part of the site across a possible field drain.

Taken jointly, the ten evaluation trenches will not only sample specific features identified through geophysical survey but will also provide a general overview of the archaeology of the project area.

In advance of the evaluation trenching CAU will discuss with the client:

- Working methods and programme.
- Health and Safety arrangements.
- Treatment of artefacts.

### *Recording – general*

- Excavation of archaeological features will be restricted to the minimum necessary to assess their likely potential. In the event that very deep ditches are encountered they will be excavated down to a safe working depth.



- The positions of the trenches will be marked onto a scaled base map (linked to the National Grid). Prior to the start of the evaluation, the positions of the trenches will be marked out on the ground.
- The trenches will be excavated down to the level of the archaeology or the top of the natural subsoil by mechanical excavator/swing shovel fitted with a toothless (grading bucket. The trench will then be hand-cleaned, any archaeological features sampled to recommended levels and recorded.
- Site drawings (plans and sections) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.
- All features and finds will be accurately located at an appropriate scale.
- All archaeological contexts will be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence.
- Finds will be collected in sealable plastic bags, which will be labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier.
- Monochrome photography (prints and negatives) will be used as a primary record medium, with colour digital images also used to supplement this record and for illustrative purposes.
- Photography will include both general and feature specific photographs.
- Detailed photographs will include a metric scale. A north arrow will also be included where the subject is shown in plan.
- The archive standard photographs will be accompanied by a register detailing as a minimum the feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- Photographs of details will be taken with lenses of appropriate focal length.
- A tripod will be used to take advantage of slower exposures.
- Difficulties of back-lighting will be dealt with where necessary by balancing the lighting by the use of flash.
- If human remains are discovered on the site they will be treated with respect and the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council and Public Health will be informed. All recording will conform to best practice and legal requirements.

### **Treatment of finds**

The fieldwork is likely to produce artefactual material.

All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (eg, settlement features) should be plotted on a scaled base plan and described. Post-medieval or modern finds may be disposed of at the cataloguing stage. This process will be reviewed ahead of its implementation.

All finds predating 1800 AD will be collected in sealable plastic bags which will be labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier.

### **Fieldwork: photographic recording**

Photographic recording will include colour photography using a digital SLR camera (with a resolution of 10 million pixels or higher).

CAU follows Historic England guidance on digital image capture and file storage (2014).

The photo record will comprise:

- general views of the site.
- archaeological detail.

## **Creation of site archive**

An ordered and cross-referenced site archive will be produced. Site plans, photographs and other records will be completed and indexed, and any artefacts retrieved will be washed and marked (where appropriate) and catalogued.

A Historic England /ADS OASIS online archive index will be created at this stage of the project.

## **Archive report**

The results from the evaluation trenching will be presented in a concise report. Copies of the report will be distributed to the Client, the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) and the local and main archaeological record libraries. A PDF copy of the report will be produced.

This will involve:

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

The report will have the following contents:

- Summary - Concise non-technical summary.
- Introduction - Background, objectives, aims and methods.
- Results - Factual description of the results of the various aspects of the project, with separate sections as necessary for discussion/interpretation and potential for further analysis.
- Discussion - Discussion of the interpretation of the results, highlighting information gained on a chronological or thematic basis.  
Recommendations for further archaeological recording.  
Recommendations for further analysis and publication.
- Archive - A brief summary and index to the project archive.
- References - Sources referred to in text.
- Appendix -  
-
- Illustrations - General location plan.  
- Geophysical survey 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).

## **Report deposition**

A digital (PDF) copy of the report, illustrations and any other files will be held in the Cornwall HER. Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client, to local archives and national archaeological record centres.

## **Analyses and Dissemination**

- Where no further archaeological recording takes place provision should be made in agreement with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) for the deposition of the project archive/finds in an accredited museum. Where significant remains are recovered publication of the results may be required within an academic journal. Costs for final publication are not included within the attached estimate.
- A summary of the results/Events Record will be presented to the Senior Archaeologist (HER).
- An OASIS record will be made for the project.

## **Monitoring**

- This written scheme of investigation will need to be approved by the planning authority.
- The recording exercise will be monitored. Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council should be informed 1 week in advance of the intention to start the recording.
- CAU will liaise with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council 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), Cornwall Council 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), Cornwall Council.

## **Project Staff**

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

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

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

The project will be managed by a member of CAU staff 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.

## **Timetable**

The study is anticipated to be commenced during February and March 2016. CAU will require a minimum of one full week's notice before 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.



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

### **Health and safety statement**

As part of Cornwall Council, CAU follows the Council's *Statement of Safety Policy*. Prior to carrying out any fieldwork CAU will carry out a risk assessment.

### **Insurance**

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

### **Standards**

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

As part of Cornwall Council, CAU has certification in BS9001 (Quality Management), BS14001 (Environmental Management), OHSAS18001 (Health, Safety and Welfare), Investors in People and Charter Mark.

### **Copyright**

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to Cornwall Council. 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.

### **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 on site (including fencing, etc.), and it is assumed that welfare facilities will be made available.
- The post excavation programme (assessment, analysis and reporting) will need to be reviewed in the light of the fieldwork and agreed with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council.

Adam Sharpe BA MCIfA

Projects Archaeologist

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, TRURO TR1 3AY.

16<sup>th</sup> February 2016



## **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.

## **Cornwall Archaeological Unit**

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