



Kier Bodmin College, Bodmin, Cornwall
Archaeological Mitigation

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2016R031

Report No

2016R031

Report Name

Archaeological Mitigation at Bodmin
College, Bodmin, Cornwall

Report Author

Ryan P Smith

Event Type

Mitigation

Client Organisation

Kier Construction

Client Contact

Steve Lee

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From)

05/04/2016

(To)

29/04/2016

(Created By)

Ryan Smith

(Create Date)

03/05/2016

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Former Caravan Park, Old Callywith Road, Bodmin,
Cornwall

(Town – for urban sites)

Bodmin

(Postcode)

PL31 2RW

(Easting) X co-ord

SW 08081

(Northing) Y co-ord

67596



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List of Figures

Figure 1: Location of site.

Figure 2: Site extent shown in red (Field boundaries A-C).

Figure 3: Tithe map of Bodmin circa 1840 showing the field boundaries, and identified sites (site extent indicated by red line).

Figure 4: First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880 (site extent indicated by red line).

Figure 5: Eastern field prior to excavation looking northwest.

Figure 6: Field boundary ditches [105] and [107] unexcavated looking north east.

Figure 7: Photograph of field boundary ditch [107] showing excavated slot (scale 0.5m).

1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council were commissioned by Mr Steve Lee on behalf of Kier Construction to carry out a programme of archaeological recording prior to the development (PA15/06688) of Truro and Penwith College buildings on the site of a former Caravan and Camping site at Bodmin, Cornwall covering an area of 4.3 hectares (Figures 1 and 2).

Prior to the archaeological watching brief, a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016) and archaeological assessment had been undertaken by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (Thorpe 2016). The assessment stage did not identify any major sites within the area of the development; however, several sites, including a medieval cross, were identified in the wider vicinity (Thorpe 2016).

The geophysical survey covered an area of 3.5 hectares which included the eastern and western boundaries of the site. The centre of the site, however, could not be surveyed as there were areas of hard standing and access roads associated with the site's former use as a caravan site. This meant that there was potential for buried archaeological features to survive within the development area.

A Written Scheme of Investigation outlining the methodology for archaeological recording was produced (23/02/2016) by Dr Andy Jones, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, (Appendix 1).

2 Aims and objectives

The aims of the project were:

- To ensure that the site works were carried out in such a way as to allow recording as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To establish the nature of the activity on the site.
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- To deposit the archive (including any finds) with the relevant museum and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

Key objectives were:

- To locate, 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 Working methods

The site soil strip was carried out by machines under archaeological supervision. The soil was stripped down 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, the soil then being removed from the site.

The majority of the field boundaries within the site had been removed prior to the arrival of the archaeologist; their remains were inspected and photographed. Drawings of features were recorded at 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.

Details of contexts are given in Appendix 2.

4 Results

The site was effectively subdivided by two northwest to southeast aligned field boundaries (C and B) and a third southwest to northeast boundary (A) which was located towards the northern end of the site (Figure 2). The northern end of the development area was further divided by a series of small paddocks. The boundaries around the paddocks had, however, already been removed prior to the start of the archaeological recording.

Field boundaries

All three boundaries are shown on the c1841 Tithe Map and are likely to be of earlier post-medieval date.

The northwest to southeast oriented field boundary (A) had been partially removed at the western end of the site and the eastern end had been completely removed (Figure 2). This boundary was a stone-faced earth bank measuring 1.3m high, and 2m wide, the north side of the bank was stone-faced with slate and granite stones. The northern side had an approximately 80 degree slope, and the southern side was a 45 to 50 degree slope. The bank was topped with vegetation and small hazel trees. The core of the bank was formed by a single layer (401), a deposit of reddish very loose, brown loam, with common stone inclusions. It was much disturbed by invasive roots from the covering vegetation. To the west the continuation of the field boundary had been totally removed.

The northwest to south east oriented field boundary (B) on the east side of the site had been partially removed (Figure 2). Examination of a remaining section revealed it to be an earthen bank faced on the west side with granite and slate stones. The bank was 1.5m high and 2.2m wide at the base. The core comprised, layer (402), a reddish brown loam with sparse stone inclusions. The west side of the bank was approximately 70 degrees in angle, while the east side was a gentler slope of 45 degrees.

The northwest to south east oriented field boundary (C) on the western side of the site had been completely removed, and the only surviving section was a stub which remained on the southern edge of the site. This, however, only showed the field boundary had been stone-faced on both sides, was steep-sided and contained modern waste material within its core (Figure 2).

Fields

The eastern field which was down to grass (Figure 5) gently sloped to the northwest. Its previous use as a caravan site was evident around the perimeter and centre of the field, where a trackway had been laid for the caravans/cars to access the inner area of the field. Utility trenches were also observed along with remnants of plastic pipes and yellow tape indicating powerlines; a manhole and waste pipes were also recorded within the boundary of this field.

The topsoil (101) was a reddish brown loam, very loose with sparse stone inclusions, between 0.2m and 0.3m thick. It contained sherds of post-medieval pottery and glass. Modern rubbish was also found with the matrix of the soil on the eastern side the field. The topsoil lay directly above the natural subsoil (102), a greyish yellow mudstone (shillet). The underlying geology and ground undulated throughout the field. No archaeological features were recorded within this field.

The central and western fields contained a large number of features which were associated with the caravan park. These included trenches, utility pipes, electrical cabling and hard standings for caravans. Unlike the eastern field the topsoil did not contain much post-medieval pottery.

The topsoil within the central and western fields (110) was a dark brown loose loam with sparse stone inclusions, and was up to 0.1m deep. The underlying subsoil (111)

was a reddish brown loose loam with common stone inclusions. It was up to 0.15m thick. The subsoil sealed (102), the natural shillet.

The soil stripping in the central field revealed two parallel ditches orientated northeast to southwest, [105] and [107] (Figure 7). These ditches belonged to a field boundary shown on the Bodmin Tithe Map of c1841 (Figure 3) but which was removed by the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Figure 4).

Ditch [105] was shallow, measuring 1.1m wide and 0.1m deep. It had shallow sloping sides, and an uneven base with moderate edge definition. The ditch had been cut into (102) the natural shillet, and the fill (104) was a dark brown loose loam with common stone inclusions. Three small pieces of clay pipe stem were recovered from the surface of (104).

Ditch [107] was shallow, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.15m deep (Figure 7). It was steep-sided on the northwest side but shallower on the southeast. The base was flattish. It was cut into (102) the natural shillet, the fill (106) was a dark brown loam with common stone inclusions.

The two ditches [105] and [107] ran parallel to each other, and were approximately 2m apart. It was likely that a now removed Cornish hedge bank had stood between them.

Close to the south western edge of the site the possible remnants of a northeast to southwest oriented field boundary, ditch [109] were uncovered (Figure 3). Ditch [109], was cut into the natural shillet (102). It measured 0.8m wide by 0.3m deep, and was steep-sided with a flat base. The cut was filled by (108), a dark brown loose loam with sparse stone inclusions.

A further examination of the ditch at the southwest end found it became shallower and less well defined. An examination of the geophysical survey results (Stratascan 2016) implies that there is a linear feature in this area but it cannot be positively identified as being the same as ditch [109].

5 Conclusion

Previous use of the site as a caravan park did not appear to have made any impact upon buried archaeological deposits and, with the exception of the field boundary ditches, the site was devoid of any archaeological features.

6 References

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, c1841. *Parish of Bodmin* (digital copy held at Cornwall Archaeological Unit)

Publications

Davies, R, 2016. *Bodmin College Campus, Cornwall*, Geophysical Survey Report, Stratascan

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

Thorpe, C, 2016. *Bodmin College campus development, Cornwall, Archaeological Assessment*, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Truro

Websites

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

7 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146581**

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.

Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE856/1)

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin: \\Sites\\Sites B\\Bodmin College Mitigation

Digital photographs: \\Historic Environment (Images)\\Sites A-D\\Sites B\\Bodmin College Mitigation 2016

Electronic drawings: \\Historic Environment (CAD)\\CAD Archive\\Sites B\\Bodmin College Mitigation 2016

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-250488

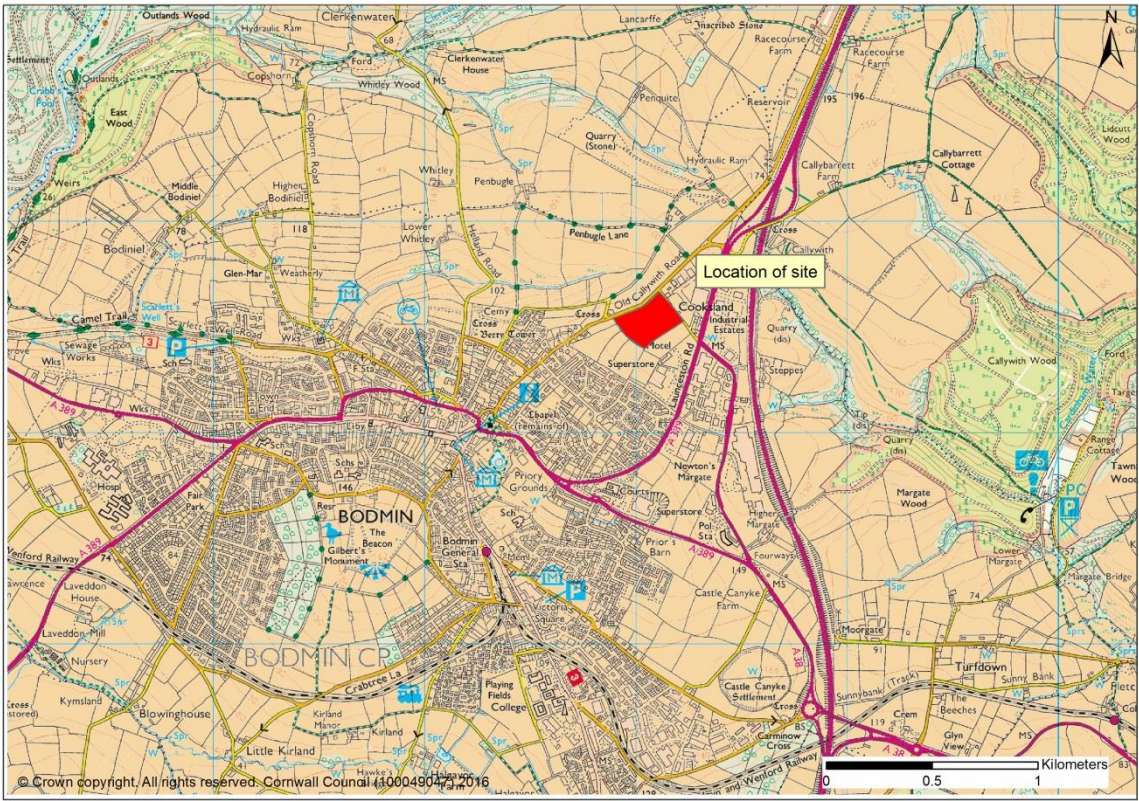


Figure 1: Location of site.

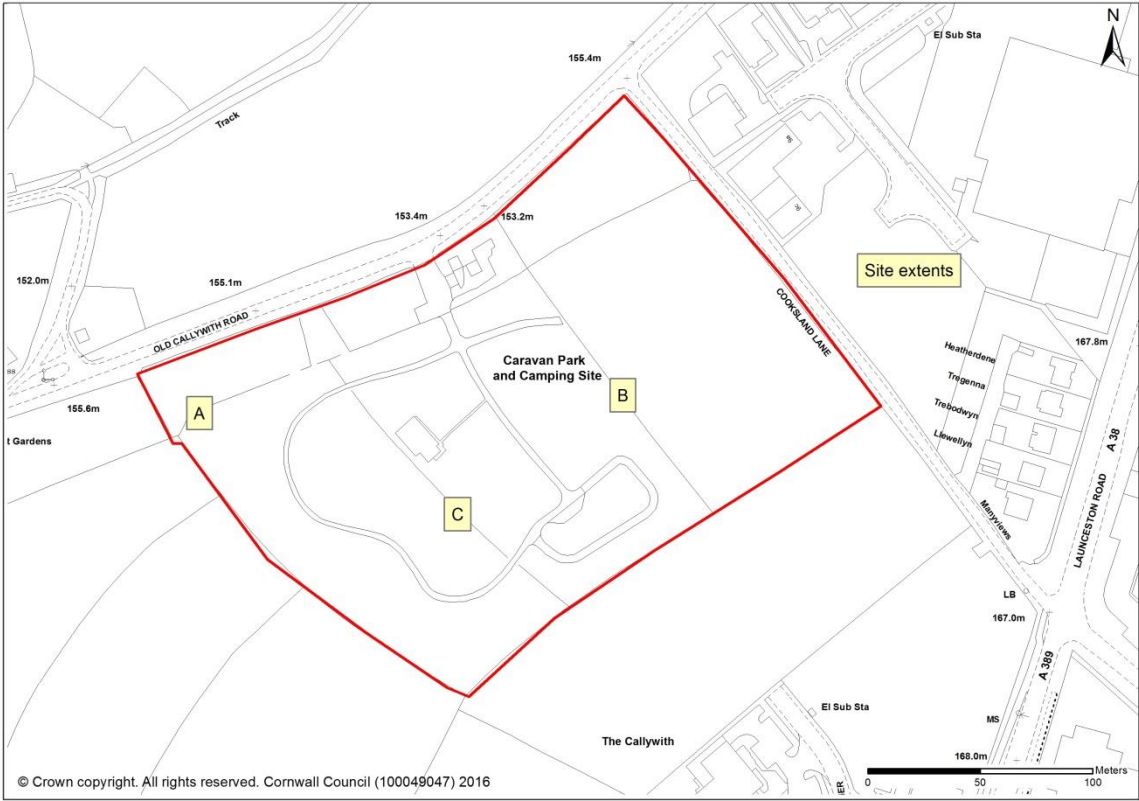


Figure 2: Site extent shown in red (Field boundaries A-C).

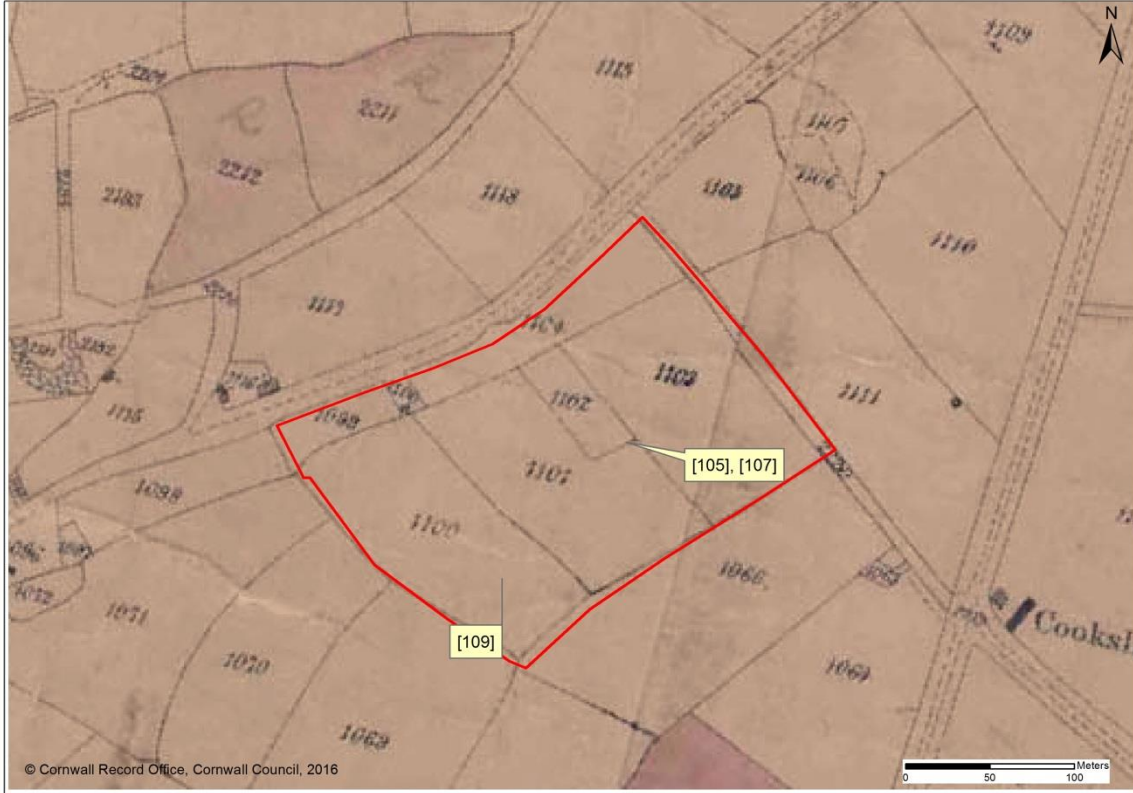


Figure 3: Tithe map of Bodmin circa 1841 showing the field boundaries, and identified sites (site extent indicated by red line).

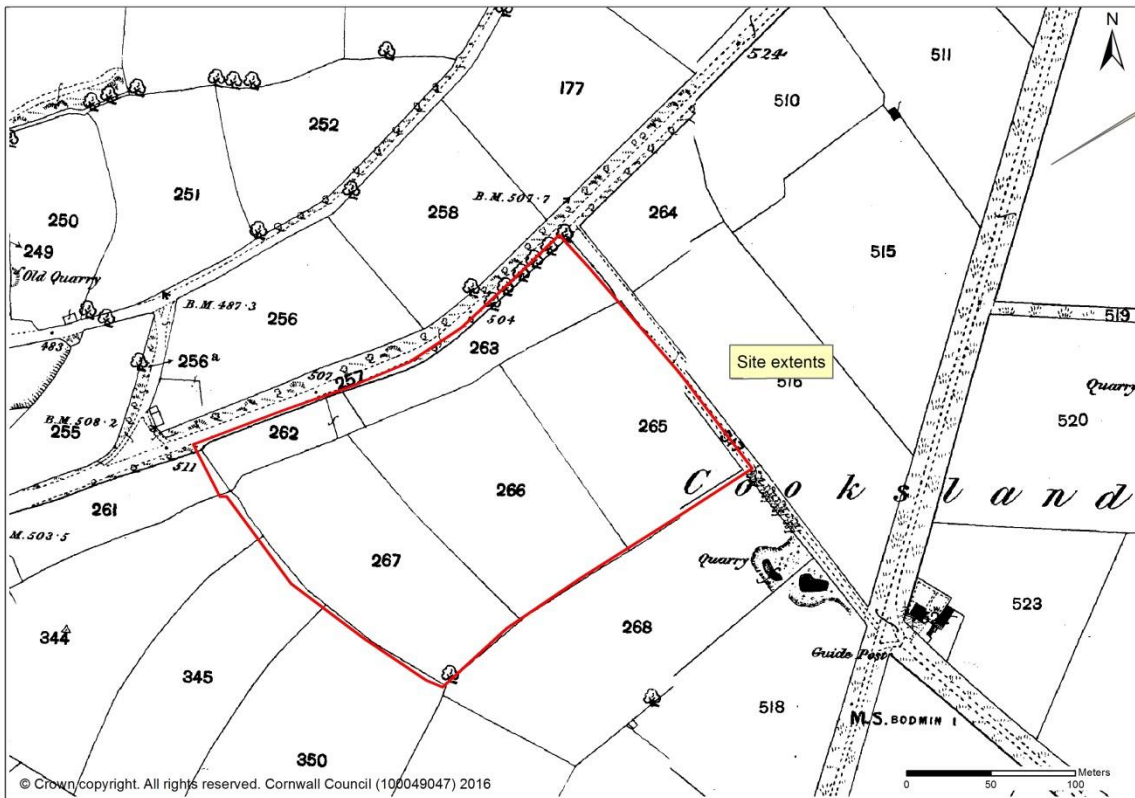


Figure 4: First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880 (site extent indicated by red line).



Figure 5: Eastern field prior to excavation looking northwest.



Figure 6: Field boundary ditches [105] and [107] unexcavated looking northeast.



Figure 7: Photograph of field boundary ditch [107] showing excavated slot (scale 0.5m).

Appendix 1 Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation at Bodmin College Campus site

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Mitigation at Bodmin College Campus site

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council have been requested by Mr Colin Spowart to provide a project design and estimate for a programme of archaeological recording ahead of the redevelopment of the Bodmin College campus site, which is located on the northeastern side of the historic settlement of Bodmin. The overall area of the site covers approximately 4.3 hectares.

An earlier archaeological assessment of the site by CAU in 2016 did not lead to the identification of any major sites within the development area, although several sites were identified in the wider vicinity (Thorpe 2016). A subsequent geophysical survey covering approximately 3.5 hectares of the site identified traces of medieval ridge and furrow but no major features were detected (Jones 2016). However, the central portion of the site could not be surveyed and there was potential for small features such as pits and postholes to survive in the project area. In light of this, it is likely that an archaeological watching brief will be required.

The current investigations are not yet the subject of a Planning Condition. However, it is likely that the Condition for archaeological recording will include the following wording:

A) No development hereby permitted shall commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the LPA in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:-

(i) The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;

(ii) The programme for post investigation assessment;

(iii) Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;

(iv) Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;

(v) Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;

(vi) A detailed method statement for construction activities within any archaeologically sensitive areas identified;

(vii) 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 brought into use 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.

This project design is for initial soil stripping on the site. It has been produced to cover the standards which are likely to be required by the Planning Condition for Archaeological Recording. In the event that the work is carried out in stages, additional project designs may be required.

1.2 Historical background

The development area is located within land which has been characterized as being 'Post-medieval Enclosed Land' (Cornwall County Council 1996). This is land enclosed in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, usually from land that was previously Upland Rough Ground and often medieval commons.

No major archaeological sites have been identified within the study area itself. However, a number of sites have been identified in the vicinity of the development area from the Historic Environment Record. They include:

- The Scheduled Castle Hill cross (DC0770, MC05109) is located to the west of the study area.
- Ridge and furrow of probable medieval origin was detected by the geophysical survey within the project area.
- A post-medieval milestone is located to the east of the development area (MC055324).
- The proposed development is situated near to post-medieval quarries (MC041436, MC041439, MC041440, and MC041442).
- Boundaries of probably post-medieval date were identified by the archaeological assessment.

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

Areas of hard standing associated with the caravan park and modern deposits (such as concrete) may be removed from the site may be removed without an archaeologist being in attendance.

Once any modern remains have been removed, 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 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).

A Historic England/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 will carry out the archaeological fieldwork and reporting.

The project will be managed by a manager who is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, who will:

- Take responsibility for the overall direction of the project.
- Discuss and agree the objectives and programme of each stage of the project with project staff, including arrangements for Health and Safety.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.

6. Timetable

The archiving and archive report will be completed within 12 months of the ending of the excavations. The timetable for further stages of assessment, analyses and publication will be agreed with 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 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Code of Conduct and is a Registered Archaeological Organization.

10. Copyright

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

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

Use of the material will be granted to the client.

11. Freedom of Information

All information gathered during the implementation of the project will be subject to the rules and regulations of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Notes

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

Dr Andy Jones 23/2/16

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Appendix 2 Context numbers

Context number	Description
(101)	Topsoil: a reddish brown loam, very loose 0.2m – 0.3m thick, contained sparse stone inclusions, post medieval pottery and glass.
(102)	Natural shillet: a greyish yellow mudstone, compacted and broken in varying degrees around the site.
(104)	Fill of ditch [105]: a dark brown loose loam 0.1m deep, with common stone inclusions.
[105]	Cut of shallow field boundary ditch, 1.1m wide, 0.1m deep, shallow sloping sides, an uneven base, with moderate edge definition, cut into (102), the natural shillet.
(106)	Fill of ditch [107], a dark brown loose loam 0.15m deep, with common stone inclusions.
[107]	Cut of shallow field boundary ditch, 1.3m wide, 0.15m deep, steep-sided on the northwest side, more shallow side on the south east. Base was flattish, cut into (102), the natural shillet.
(108)	Fill of possible ditch [109], a dark brown loose loam, with sparse stone inclusions, 0.3m deep.
[109]	Cut of possible ditch, 0.8m wide, 0.3m deep, steep sides with a flattish base, possibly becomes shallower as it progresses across the site. NE – SW orientation.
(110)	Topsoil within the central and western fields, a dark brown loose loam with sparse stone inclusions, 0.1m deep.
(111)	Subsoil within central and western fields, a reddish brown loose loam with common stone inclusions, 0.15m deep.
(401)	Soil matrix within field boundary (A): a reddish brown loam very loose, common stone inclusions, 1.3m high, 2m wide at base.
(402)	Soil matrix within field boundary (B): a reddish brown loam with sparse stone inclusions, 1.5m high, 2.2m wide at base.

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