



Archaeological recording at the St Nectan's Glen visitor centre, Tintagel, Cornwall

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2016R043



Report No

2016R043

Report Name

Archaeological recording at the St Nectan's  
Glen visitor centre, Tintagel, Cornwall

Report Author

Ryan P Smith

Event Type

Watching Brief

Client Organisation

St Nectan's Glen

Client Contact

Tom Corbishley

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From)

14/06/16

(To)

14/06/16

(Created By)

Ryan Smith

(Create Date)

16/06/2016

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

The Hermitage, Trethevey, Tintagel, Cornwall

(Town - for urban sites)

(Postcode)

PL34 0BE

(Easting) X co-ord

SX 208149

(Northing) Y co-ord

99538



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## **List of Figures**

*Figure 1: Location of site.*

*Figure 2: Extent of site.*

*Figure 3: Area of investigation covered by this report.*

*Figure 4: Close up of the area shown in Figure 3.*

*Figure 5: View of field wall looking west, 1m scale.*

*Figure 6: View of field wall after excavation, showing bedrock, 1m scale.*

*Figure 7: Entrance with filing cabinet in situ after cleaning, 1m scale.*

*Figure 8: View of Area B post clearance.*

## 1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council were commissioned by Mr Tom Corbishley, to undertake archaeological recording in advance of the construction of a new Visitor Centre at St Nectan's Glen, Tintagel, Cornwall (Fig 1). The development was subject to a Planning Condition (application number PA14/09299), which required that archaeological recording was undertaken during groundworks.

An archaeological assessment of the area had previously been undertaken (Archaeology and Planning 2015) and a detailed written scheme of investigation for the recording was produced by Archaeology & Planning Solutions, acting on behalf of Peter Wonnacott Planning (31/7/15) (Appendix B). A method statement was then produced by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit (24/11/2015) which covered the archaeological recording during the site works (Appendix A).

## 2 Aims and objectives

The general the aims of the monitoring were to:

- Record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (stone, sand, gravel, organic materials, etc), their archaeological formation (primary deposits, secondary deposits, etc) and their overall relationship to each other;
- Assess the presence and survival of archaeological remains relating to the main periods of occupation revealed;
- Assess the presence and condition of any artefactual evidence (including pottery, brick, tile, stone, metal, bone, small finds, industrial residues, etc);
- Assess the presence and condition of any ecofactual and environmental evidence (including bone, human bone, plant remains, pollen, charcoal, molluscs, soils, etc).

Specific aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- Record any evidence of settlement/funerary or any other past land use;
  - Recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past activity that may be identified; and
- Sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past environments.

## 3 Working methods

The groundworks were carried out using a machine fitted with a flat bucket and carried out under archaeological supervision. Any archaeological features or layers exposed in the stripped area were to be carefully excavated by hand and archaeologically recorded by written description, plan, section and photographic record as appropriate.

## 4 Location, setting and background

St Nectan's Glen or Knighton's Kieve (Walcott 1859) is situated 0.92 kilometres south east of Trethevey, at SX 08174 88557 OD (centred) in a deep wooded valley adjacent to the river Trevillet (Figs 1, 2 and 3).

The underlying geology comprises the Tredorn Slate Formation. Bedrock formed approximately 359 to 375 million years ago in the Devonian period. (BGS 2016).

Nectan's Glen is allegedly the site of a 5<sup>th</sup> century AD hermitage or chapel (MCO10243). However, earliest documented record of the site was made by the Reverend R.S Hawker Vicar of Morwenstow (Hawker 1869), who wrote 'When I first visited the Kieve in 1830 the outline of an oratory, or the reliques of a cell, stood by the brook, on a knoll, just where the waters took their leap'.

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record states that '*The records for this monument, allegedly a chapel or hermitage built by St Nectan, are confusing and*

*contradictory. Sergeant suggests that the present building, the 'chapel', is now a tea rooms, and that a structure known locally as St Nectan's Oratory is a small building 20m away in a field. It is 2m by 3m and survives mainly as foundations, with one corner up to 2m high. The OS, however, suggests that the 'chapel' is a cottage built on the foundations of the ancient structure which in 1879 were 6m by 4m ruins, with no signs of ancient components in the present building, which was erected in c1860'.*

The Historic Landscape Character (HLC) of the land on the northern edge of St Nectan's Glen is Medieval Farmland or 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (Cornwall Council 1996). This is Cornwall's agricultural heartland, which is associated with farming settlements documented before the 17<sup>th</sup> century AD, whose origins sometimes extend back into prehistory. To the north of the study area are two settlements of medieval origin Polpeer (MCO16401), which was first documented in AD 1337 and Genver (MCO11164), which was first recorded in 1086. This type of HLC often contains buried archaeological sites, although the glen itself has been characterised as a Steep Sided Valley.

The project area also lies within an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Great Scientific Value and is in close proximity to a site of Special Scientific Interest (Cornwall Council 2016).

## 5 Results

The majority of the site had been cut into the valley side and levelled with modern infill deposits. Most of the project area was comprised of a trackway and parking area. The area to the east of the field wall (Area A) (Fig 4) had already been cleared of modern debris prior to arrival of the archaeologist on site. The removed material included the remnants of an old shed, along with modern rubbish.

Before commencing any further works the field boundary wall was inspected and photographed using a 35mm digital SLR camera 14 Mp (Figs 5, 6 and 7).

### Area A

Located on the east side of the field boundary wall, Area A covered an area of about 200 m<sup>2</sup>, reaching a depth of about 1m before hitting the bedrock (105) and was comprised of ground that has been built up over a period of time, and to the north, the valley side, a steep south facing incline, facing toward the river which had been cut into. From top to bottom, the natural stratigraphical sequence was as follows (see Appendix C):

Topsoil (101), a dark brown loose loam, common stone inclusions, 0.1m deep, overlay the subsoil (102), a mid reddish brown silty loam, very loose with sparse to common slate inclusions. These varied shapes and sizes. The bedrock, which was below (102), was a dark grey slate, was evident in the cut and varied in depth.

The trackway cutting through this slope was made up of layer (103), a mid to dark grey decayed slate / mudstone with large stone inclusions and heavy clay. The large stone inclusions were probably taken from the bedrock which was exposed in on the north side of Area A (see above). The upper surface of the track was mixed with modern rubbish. The trackway to the 'glen' had been levelled over various periods and it had been widened in recent times (Site Manager, pers comm.).

Excavation of the ground immediately adjacent to the east side of the field wall revealed that it had been heavily disturbed. Layer (104) was a mid to dark grey clay plastic layer, which contained large quantities of modern plastics, glass, metal and organic waste. It also contained three large late slabs measuring up to 0.4m by 0.4m. This deposit was up to 0.6m and lay directly over the bedrock.

### Area B

Area B was located on the west side of the field wall. Within this area was a large pile of waste material, some of which was burnt, from the building that previously occupied the site, and a large oil tank sat on a concrete plinth.

Removal of the waste material revealed ground beneath it was undisturbed, and was comprised of (102), the mid reddish brown silty loam subsoil.

### Field wall

The wall which was divided Areas A and B from one another was aligned north-south. It was recorded for a length of approximately 14m and measured up to 1.53m high and was 1m wide. It was constructed from slate blocks with the addition of thinner slate slabs being used within the entrance way. Some modern bricks and pieces of quartz were also recorded within the wall, which suggests that repairs had been made to it.

The northern end of the wall comprised two distinct styles of construction, the lower courses were 'jack and jill' or herring bone and the upper courses laid flat (see Figs 5 and 6). Excavation of this section of wall revealed that the herring bone appeared to continue below the ground surface for at least three courses, to a depth of 0.6m, where they in turn sat on top of smaller stones. These had been laid flat and placed on top of the bedrock to a depth of no more than 0.15m. The three lower courses of the wall had been laid to create a level construction platform. The section of the wall running adjacent to the trackway appeared to be of modern construction and comprised of flat laid slates.

The southern section of the field boundary wall was divided from the north by a narrow doorway / entrance defined by larger slates, which had been laid flat in courses. Investigation of the entrance revealed it to be about 0.81m wide and 0.9m high. The upper layers of stones forming the lintel above the doorway appeared to have been placed quite haphazardly. These stone could not have been structural as they rested up the entrance blocking (see below). The original form of the lintel is therefore unknown. The threshold was defined by a single slate slab, 0.55m wide, and on either side of it were roughly shaped slate slabs set vertically. Each of the slabs stood to a height of up to 0.63m above the level of the threshold slab, and both were angled into the doorway (Fig 7). The entrance itself had been blocked by a metal filing cabinet filled with stones, which stood on top of four breeze blocks and larger pieces of stone had been placed on top of the cabinet.

The section of the wall to the south of the entrance was less than 0.9m high and 1m wide, and appeared to be staggered as it was not in line with the northern section. It was also found to be of dry stone construction.

## 6 Conclusion

The area covered by the archaeological watching brief had been heavily disturbed, and modern rubbish, which included, pieces of plastic, metal, glass, along with buried organic material had been dumped across it. Investigation of the wall which subdivided the area revealed that it was of dry stone construction and that it had been built on top of the natural bedrock. It does not appear to have been a load bearing wall, although may have supported a shed or lean-to type structure. The 1907 OS map shows that some kind of structure had been constructed on the western side of the wall. However, there was very little surviving evidence to indicate its presence. More recently, there had been a prefabricated building on the site but this had been burnt down. The fabric of the wall appeared to have been subject to rebuilding or repair.

The wall was, however, built in quite a decorative style and is of post-medieval date. It is possible that it was perhaps constructed in a style which reflected the valleys growing

association with the hermitage / chapel after Hawker's (1869) writings had stimulated interest about the hermitage in the mid nineteenth century.

No remains associated with the site of the early medieval chapel / hermitage was located within the project area, although it is possible that a structure was situated in closer proximity to the waterfall as stated by Hawker.

In summary, no archaeological features were uncovered during the fieldwork and no artefacts were recovered.



## 7 References

### Primary sources

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

Ordnance Survey, c1907, *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed copy at Cornwall Archaeological Unit)

Ordnance Survey, 2007. Mastermap Digital Mapping

### Publications

Archaeology and Planning 2015, *Proposed Visitor Centre, St Nectan's Glen, Tintagel, Cornwall*, Archaeological Assessment

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

Hawker, R.S, 1869, *The Cornish Ballads and other poems*, Oxford and London, James Parker and Co.

Walcott, M, 1859, *A Guide to the South Coast of England, from the Reculvers to the Land's End, and from Cape Cornwall to the Devon Foreland*. London, W. Clowes and Sons. p549.

### Websites

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html>

British Geological Survey (BGS).

<http://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap>

Cornwall Council (2016).

## **8 Project archive**

The CAU project number is **146594**

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 S\St Nectan's Glen visitor centre

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-255284



Figure 1: Location of site.

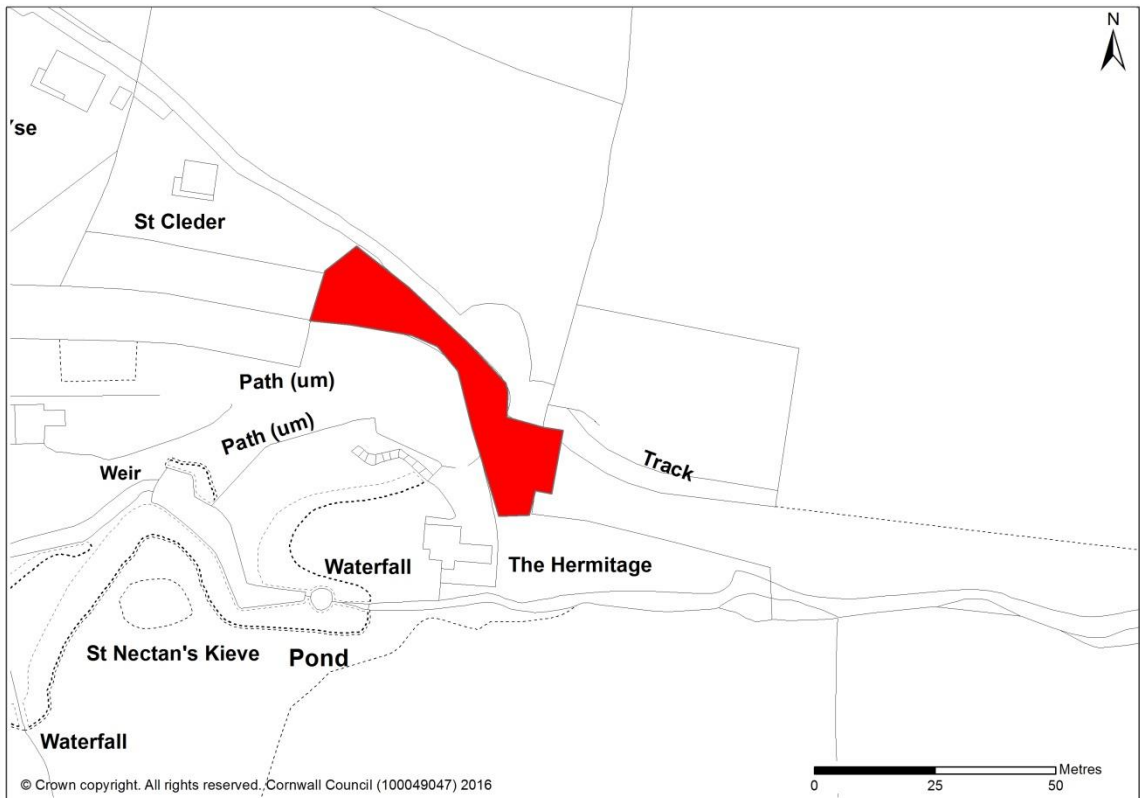


Figure 2: Overall extent of site (shown in red).

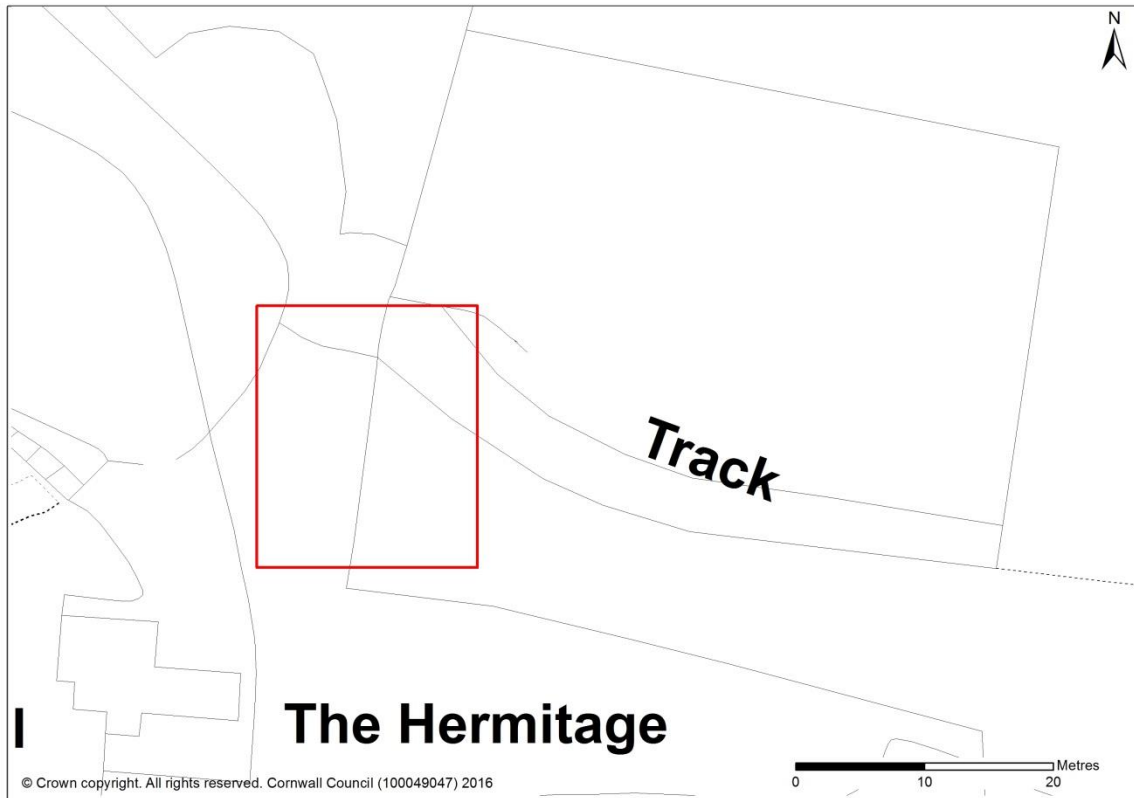


Figure 3: Area of investigation covered by this report.

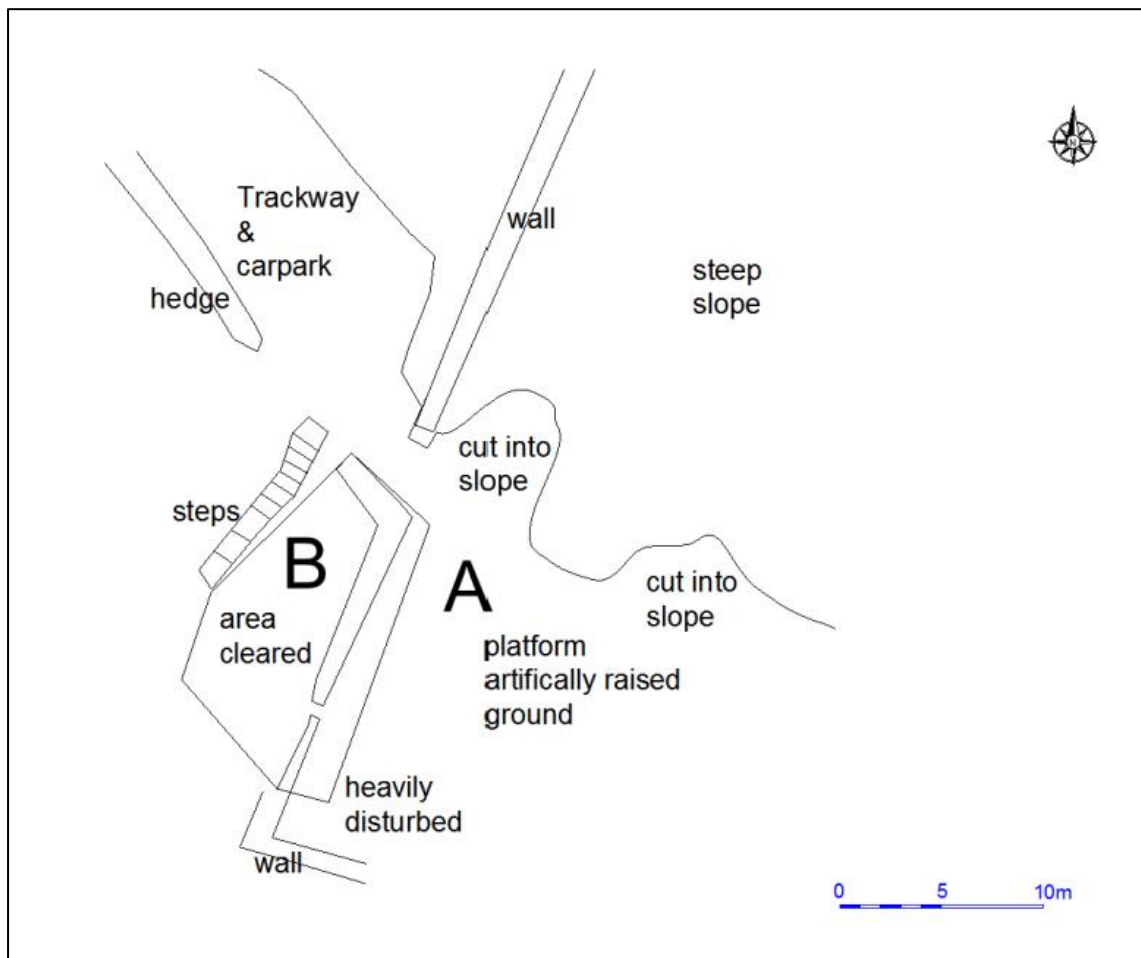


Figure 4: Close up of the area shown in Figure 3.



Figure 5: View of field wall looking west, 1m scale.

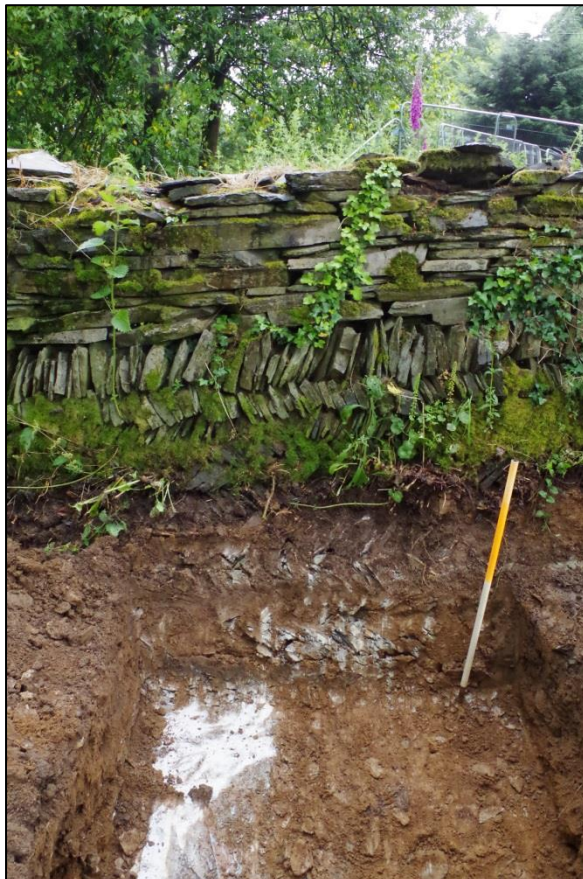


Figure 6: View of field wall after excavation, showing bedrock, 1m scale.



Figure 7: Entrance with filing cabinet in situ after cleaning, 1m scale.



*Figure 8: View of Area B post clearance.*

# Appendix 1: Method Statement for Archaeological Recording at the St Nectan's Glen Visitor Centre

## Cornwall Archaeological Unit

### Method statement for Archaeological Recording at the St Nectan's Glen Visitor Centre

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#### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 Background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council have been requested by Tom Corbishley to provide an estimate and method statement for a programme of archaeological recording ahead of the construction of a new Visitor Centre on land at St. Nectan's Glen, Tintagel, Cornwall. The development is subject to a planning condition (application no. PA14/09299), which requires that archaeological recording, is undertaken during groundworks. A detailed written scheme of investigation for the archaeological recording has been produced by Archaeology & Planning Solutions, acting on behalf of Peter Wonnacott Planning (31/7/15).

This method statement covers the archaeological recording during the site works. It is focussed upon recording archaeological deposits and recovering artefacts during groundworks. **The Written Scheme of Investigation will need to be approved by the Local Planning Authority.**

#### 3. Methodology

The archaeological programme will follow three stages: fieldwork; archiving; reporting.

##### 3.1 Fieldwork

###### 3.1.1 Archaeological Recording

The ground-works for the new track will be excavated by a machine fitted with a flat bucket and carried out under archaeological supervision. 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.

If complex and/ or significant archaeological deposits are encountered then the archaeological requirements should be reviewed by the client and CAU. **In the event that remains cannot be preserved *in situ* then full-scale excavation may be required.** The significance of the remains should be agreed between the client, CAU and the Local Planning Authority.

###### *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

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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 Public Health 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 method statement.
- Illustrations - General location plan.  
- Detailed location plans to link fieldwork results to OS map.  
- Selected plans and section drawings (as 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**

- 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 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 part 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Code of Conduct and is a Registered Archaeological Organization.

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## **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 method statement 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**

- 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 and is not included in the estimate.

Dr Andy Jones 24/11/15

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Fall Building

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TR1 3AY

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## Appendix B: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation



Visitor Centre,  
St. Nectans Glen,  
Tintagel,  
Cornwall

Written Scheme of  
Investigation for  
Archaeological  
Mitigation

Prepared for:  
Peter Wonnacott  
Planning

31<sup>st</sup> July 2015



## **Contents**

1	Introduction
2	Site Location and Description
3	Archaeological Background
4	Aims of Archaeological Monitoring
5	Fieldwork Methodology
6	Recording Systems
7	Finds and Samples
8	Monitoring
9	Health and Safety
10	Post-Excavation
11	Archiving
12	Requirements of Archaeological Contractor

Appendix: Desk Based Archaeological Assessment (19.2.2015)

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological mitigation has been prepared by Archaeology & Planning Solutions (APS), acting on behalf of Peter Wonnacott Planning (hereafter referred to as "the Client").
- 1.2 It follows a request by the Historic Environment Service of Cornwall Council, hereafter referred to as the 'council's advisor', for archaeological mitigation works to be completed in respect of the construction of a new Visitor Centre on land at St. Nectans Glen, Tintagel in Cornwall (see Appendix 1, Figure 1). These archaeological works are required as a condition of planning permission (application no. PA14/09299).
- 1.3 No pre-determination archaeological works have been carried out on the site. However, according to the Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) the alleged site of a chapel or hermitage used by St. Nectan in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD is located close to the footprint of the proposed Visitor Centre, although the HER acknowledges that references to the chapel or hermitage are confusing and contradictory.
- 1.4 Accordingly, following the grant of planning permission, condition 6 was attached requiring archaeological mitigation. This condition states that:

*"No development shall take place within the area to be developed until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording based on a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority."*

- 1.5 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) therefore presents a detailed methodology for the archaeological mitigation work to address condition 6 of the planning permission. Nevertheless, it will be augmented with a Method Statement, which is to be supplied to the council's advisor by the appointed fieldwork contractor prior to commencement on site. This Method Statement will identify the appointed contractor, the project manager for the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis/reporting, key site staff and post-excavation specialists and also details of the relevant systems and processes that will be implemented to deliver the aims and objectives of the WSI once it has been approved by Cornwall Council.

## 2 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site to which this WSI refers lies within the grounds of a building known as The Hermitage which is currently used as a café and is centred on NGR: SX 0816 8855. Approximately 50m to the west the River Trevillet flows over a waterfall approximately 18.5m in height into a deeply wooded valley.
- 2.2 The underlying geology comprises the Tredom Slate Formation (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk>).

## 3 Archaeological Background

- 3.1 No archaeological fieldwork has previously been carried out within the site. However, according to the Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) the alleged site of a chapel or hermitage used by St. Nectan in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD is located close to

the footprint of the proposed Visitor Centre, although the HER acknowledges that references to the chapel or hermitage are confusing and contradictory. Ordnance Survey maps of 1884 and 1907 also mark the site of a rectangular building just to the south of the proposed Visitor Centre as a former chapel. It has been assumed that this rectangular building has been incorporated into an existing café known as The Hermitage which was built around 1900.

- 3.2 However, previous research indicates that there is no historical basis for assuming that a chapel ever existed at the site or that the site was ever used by St. Nectan, a 5<sup>th</sup> century holy man who moved to Wales from Ireland in 423 AD and then to Hartland in Devon. For example, Maclean writing in 1879 notes that the building later marked by the Ordnance Survey as a chapel "bears at present no indication of such a use, nor do the existing walls appear to be of ancient work". In addition the Cornish historian Charles Henderson, writing prior to 1933, failed to find any reference to the place in ancient documents studied for an article he produced on the cult of St. Nectan.
- 3.3 The most comprehensive study was published by the historian S. J. Madge in 1950. He notes that the chapel noted on historic Ordnance Survey maps was in fact an 18<sup>th</sup> century summerhouse or folly (folly) associated with Trevillet Manor which was located approximately 350m to the south and demolished around 1810. He states that the legends and stories associated with St. Nectan are based on a poem by R. S. Hawker called "The Sisters of the Glen". Hawker used the ruins of the 18<sup>th</sup> century summerhouse or folly for his poem turning them into the "reliques of a cell" (which he successively called Nathan's, Neott's and St. Nectans) which have since been interpreted as the ruins of an oratory, the abode of a hermit or saint or the chapel of St. Nectan. Madge also recites examples of Hawker's own confessions that the historical grounds upon which his poem was based were somewhat lacking. Madge concluded by saying that there never was any cell, oratory, chapel or hermitage associated with St. Nectan and that this was purely a poetic invention of Hawker.
- 3.4 In summary there is no historical evidence for the site ever having been used by St. Nectan or any other historical religious figure and this association is the result of a 19<sup>th</sup> century poem written by R. S. Hawker. The building often interpreted as a former chapel is more likely part of a summerhouse or folly overlooking the waterfall, which was built by the occupants of the former Trevillet Manor approximately 350m to the south, and which is now incorporated into the building known today as The Hermitage.

## **4 Aims of Archaeological Monitoring**

- 4.1 The archaeological monitoring aims to record the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered, as dictated by current best practice.
- 4.2 In general the aims of the monitoring are to:
  - record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (stone, sand, gravel, organic materials etc), their archaeological formation (primary deposits, secondary deposits etc) and their overall relationship to each other;
  - assess the presence and survival of archaeological remains relating to the main periods of occupation revealed;

- 5.4 However, it is recognised that there may be cases when individual features do not merit these levels of sampling. Nonetheless, any variation to these levels would need to be approved by the council's advisor.
- 5.5 All machine work must be completed under archaeological supervision. Care should be taken to ensure plant and machines do not damage underlying remains, particularly in soft conditions.
- 5.6 Any human remains that are encountered will initially be left in situ and reported to the appropriate authorities. Subsequent removal will comply with the relevant Home Office regulations and current archaeological best-practice.
- 5.7 All finds of gold and silver or hoards of prehistoric metals will be moved off site to a safe place and reported to the Coroner's Office according to the procedures set out in the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be completed on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage.
- 5.8 Suitable contexts will be subjected to environmental sampling at an appropriate scale. This work will meet the minimum standards recommended by the council's advisor.
- 5.9 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not (including material from spoil tips), will be collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts will be subject to preliminary study on site in order to help date excavated features.

## **6 Recording Systems**

- 6.1 The recording system must be compatible with the most widely used in the county. Pro-forma context sheets should include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and, for complex stratigraphy, a separate matrix diagram should be employed. The following plans and sections are required:
  - an overall site plan of the excavated area will be prepared detailing archaeological deposits, as well as the extent of the area relative to the National Grid on a 1:2500 plan. An overall excavation plan will be prepared at a 1:100 scale;
  - sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, should be drawn as appropriate. Section drawings should include heights above Ordnance Datum (aOD);
  - all archaeological plans and sections should be on drawing film and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and should include context numbers and aOD spot heights for all principal strata and features; and
  - an adequate photographic record of any significant archaeological remains is required, in both plan and section. The principle site record photographs must consist of film negatives.



## **7 Finds and Samples**

- 7.1 A high priority should be given to dating any remains and so all artefacts and finds are to be retained. Consideration should also be given to the recovery of specialist samples for scientific analysis, particularly samples for absolute dating, structural materials and cultural/environmental evidence. Environmental samples should be taken from suitable deposits and examined for carbonised remains, macroscopic plant remains, pollen, seeds, insects, molluscs etc.
- 7.2 All finds and samples are to be treated in a proper manner to prevent deterioration. This will involve cleaning and conservation, where necessary, and labelling, cataloguing and secure storage in appropriate containers.
- 7.3 The appointed archaeological contractor will submit as part of the Method Statement a strategy for palaeo-environmental sampling on the site and for processing and analysis of samples. This work should accord with the minimum standard guidance provided by the council's advisor. The contractor is expected to seek the advice of a palaeo-environmental specialist in this connection.
- 7.4 The appointed archaeological contractor will need to demonstrate that arrangements are in hand to cover all necessary processing, conservation and specialist analysis of finds and samples.
- 7.5 Every effort should be made to ensure that finds analysis is consistent with existing local systems.

## **8 Monitoring**

- 8.1 The council's advisor will be notified of the start of the works giving at least two week's notice in writing. If appropriate a review meeting will be held on site to consider the results and to progress the required works to a satisfactory standard.

## **9 Health and Safety**

- 9.1 All relevant health and safety legislation and regulations must be followed. All the health and safety requirements of the main groundworks contractor must also be adhered to. High visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear are to be used by all personnel. Other items such as dust masks, goggles and gloves will need to be worn as appropriate. The archaeological contractor is required to provide a full risk assessment and their Health and Safety manual for the approval of the client prior to fieldwork commencing. The archaeological organisation must be satisfied they are in receipt of all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before any site work takes place.

## **10 Post-Excavation**

- 10.1 The archive will be prepared immediately after site works are completed. This will be prepared in accordance with a specification agreed in advance with the council's advisor.

- 10.2 Each category of finds will be assessed by specialist staff and all artefacts and ecofacts will be processed in accordance with standard practice.
- 10.3 One draft copy of the report will be made available to the client as soon as it is ready. Once approved copies of the finished report will be submitted to the client before submission to Cornwall Council and their archaeological advisor, along with digital data on CD-ROM.
- 10.4 Arrangements will be made for deposition of the finds (with the written permission of the landowner) and the site archive with the relevant museum within twelve months of the completion of fieldwork. Written confirmation of this will be provided to the council's advisor.
- 10.5 Provision will be made for an appropriate level of academic publication of the results of the excavations. If appropriate a summary report will be submitted for publication in the relevant local journal. Additional publication requirements will be agreed with the council's advisor.
- 10.6 If appropriate the report should include:
- a review of the aims and methods used in the excavation;
  - a table summarising the descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts and their interpretation, with reference to the county artefacts type series;
  - artefact analysis to include the production of a descriptive catalogue, with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated;
  - the report should be illustrated with appropriate material including site and excavation area plans, sections, plans of any archaeological features and general and detailed photographs;
  - the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of the archaeological and environmental material uncovered with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites in the area;
  - an interpretation of the results should be produced and attention should be given to the significance of the remains in local, regional and national terms; and
  - a reconsideration of the methodology used, including a confidence rating of the strategy and the results.
- 10.7 Copies of all reports arising from fieldwork will be deposited with the Cornwall Historic Environment Record (HER).

## **11 Archiving**

- 11.1 The site archive, which will comprise records of the archaeological excavations and any materials recovered, including written elements, plans and drawings, digital photographs, photographic prints and transparencies (where appropriate) and other

primary data recovered during the investigation, must be quantified, ordered, indexed and made internally consistent. It should also contain as a minimum requirement a site matrix, site summary (a short report giving a preliminary account of the discoveries) and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.

- 11.2 All artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the archaeological monitoring will be made available to the contractor pending completion of the report, to be stored during the course of the archaeological investigation at the contractor's secure offices or usual place of secure storage of archaeological finds.
- 11.3 All artefacts recovered during the archaeological investigation are to be suitably washed (where the condition of the artefacts allows) and marked by the contractor and all artefacts and ecofacts bagged and boxed by the contractor, in accordance with current United Kingdom Institute for Conservation/RESCUE publication *First Aid for Finds* (3rd. ed. 1998). All 'small finds' will be boxed together, separate from bulk finds.
- 11.4 In preparing cost estimates for the archaeological monitoring, the contractor should include provision for at least a basic minimum level of conservation of finds liable to deterioration after excavation.
- 11.5 Within 12 months of completion of the written and drawn site archive, a microfiched security copy of these elements of the archive will be deposited by the contractor in the Historic Environment Record and shall send confirmation in writing of such deposition at the same time to the council's advisor, except if further excavation/post-excavation work is required, when, by agreement, the period may be extended.
- 11.6 The contractor is advised to contact the council's archaeological advisor for advice and/or a suitable microfilming/microfiching contractor in connection with the making of this copy and to consult *Microfilming Archaeological Archives* (IFA Paper No 2, 1999). Cost estimates for the microfiching/microfilming of the site archive should be included within the contractors' quotations for this project.
- 11.7 Subject to the legislation of the Treasure Act 1996, all artefacts and ecofacts unearthed from the investigation and all other elements of the site archive should be deposited by the contractor in an appropriate public museum. No artefacts or ecofacts from the site shall be deposited in the museum without the prior written consent of the landowner.
- 11.8 Prior to the deposition of finds in the recipient museum, the contractor should agree with that museum the sample or quantity of bulk finds (pottery, animal bone, other ecofactual material, building material, burnt flint, worked flint and stone) to be deposited.
- 11.9 All excavated artefacts and ecofacts and all other elements of the site archive should be delivered by the contractor to the recipient museum as one deposit. Where this arrangement is not practicable lists will be submitted by the contractor to the recipient museum of objects not deposited, together with information as to the quantity involved and their current location, reasons why items have not been deposited and a timetable for their ultimate deposition.
- 11.10 The contractor should contact the recipient museum prior to preparing cost estimates for the work in order to discuss any special requirements for the deposition of finds.

- 11.11 Subject to the resources available and to discussion with the recipient museum, all articles needing conservation will be properly stabilised by the contractor prior to their deposition at the recipient museum and records of their treatment lodged with the museum. Those items for which available resources do not permit stabilisation will be separately packed and listed by the contractor.
- 11.12 Prior to commencement of the archaeological investigations, the contractor shall obtain from the recipient museum an accession number for excavated artefacts and ecofacts from the project and any guidelines regarding deposition of such artefacts and ecofacts specific to the recipient museum.
- 11.13 Subject to the agreement of the landowner, all artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the archaeological evaluation should be deposited by the contractor within the recipient museum within five years from the date of completion of the investigation.
- 11.14 Work on the site archive shall be completed within twelve calendar months of completion of the archaeological monitoring. Copyright of the written, drawn and photographic elements of the site archive shall be vested jointly with the contractors and the recipient museum.
- 11.15 The following document should be adhered to:
  - Museum and Galleries Commission - Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992).

## **12 Requirements of Archaeological Contractor**

- 12.1 The archaeological contractor will provide a Method Statement for undertaking the watching brief, which will be compatible with the requirements of the council's advisor. This will include all fieldwork and post-excavation work, including archiving.
- 12.2 This will include a brief statement on resourcing levels, a risk assessment and a programme/schedule for the works. The contractor should also provide a brief career profile of the site director, which demonstrates his/her suitability for undertaking the work.
- 12.3 A full cost estimate for the fieldwork, post-excavation and archiving should be provided to the client. This estimate should include costs pro-rata using day rates.

## Appendix C: List of contexts

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Description</b>
(101)	Topsoil, a dark brown loose loam, 0.1m deep containing common stone inclusions, of slate, irregular shapes and sizes.
(102)	Subsoil, a mid reddish brown silty loam, 0.2m deep (varying), containing sparse stone inclusions of slate pieces.
(103)	Surface of the trackway entering Area A, a mid to dark grey decayed slate / mudstone with large stone inclusions and heavy clay.
(104)	A mid to dark grey plastic clay 0.6m deep, containing modern plastics, glass, metal and organic waste. Also contained three large slate slabs, measuring up to 0.4m by 0.4m.
(105)	Bedrock, dark grey slate.

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