

Jollsground, Altarnun, Cornwall
Archaeological desk-based assessment
and geophysical survey

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2016R044

Jollsground, Altarnun, Cornwall

Archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey

Client	Mr Matt Coles
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Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Mr Matt Coles and carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was Andy Jones.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Cornwall Archaeological Unit and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Freedom of Information Act

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



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Cover illustration

Aerial photograph 2005, showing the site area.

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Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMP	National Mapping Programme
OS	Ordnance Survey

1 Summary

Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, was commissioned by Mr Matt Coles (on behalf of Mr P. Coles and Son) to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment and geophysical (magnetometer) survey on a 0.55 HA proposed development site at Jollsground, near Altarnun.

The desk-based study identified a number of archaeological sites within the wider area, but very few within the immediate vicinity of the site. The nearest sites consisted of crop-marks associated with probable removed boundaries and cultivation practice and extraction pits and quarries.

The geophysical survey did not uncover any evidence for archaeological features in the form of pits, ditches or structures within the immediate area of the site. However, evidence was found for potential medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and modern ploughing, plus other recent or geological magnetic disturbance.

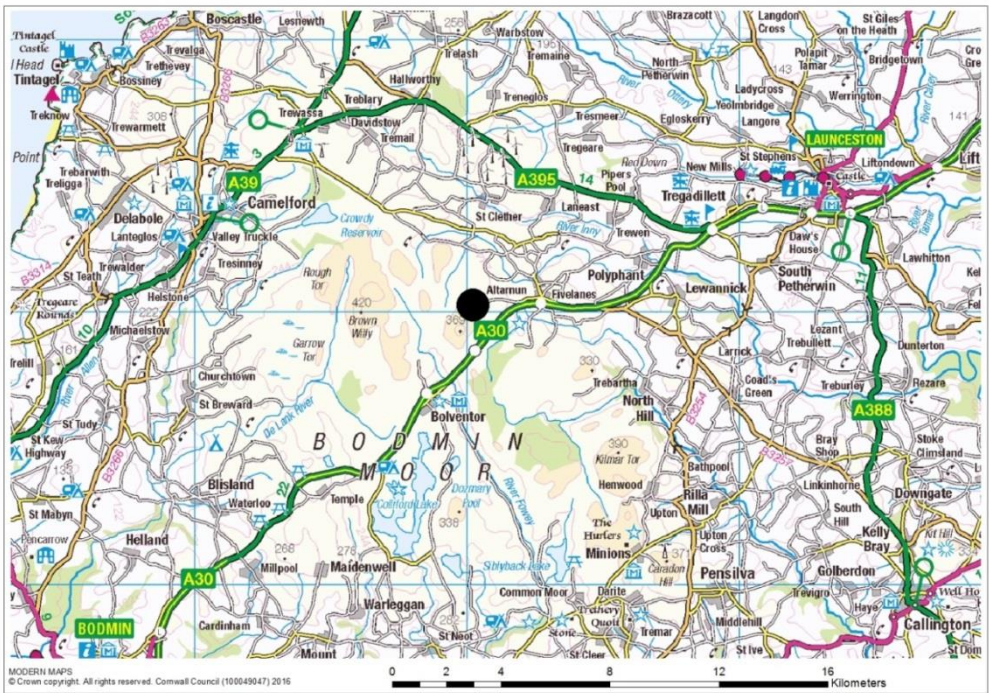


Fig 1 Location map showing the site location (black dot) on the north-eastern edge of Bodmin Moor.

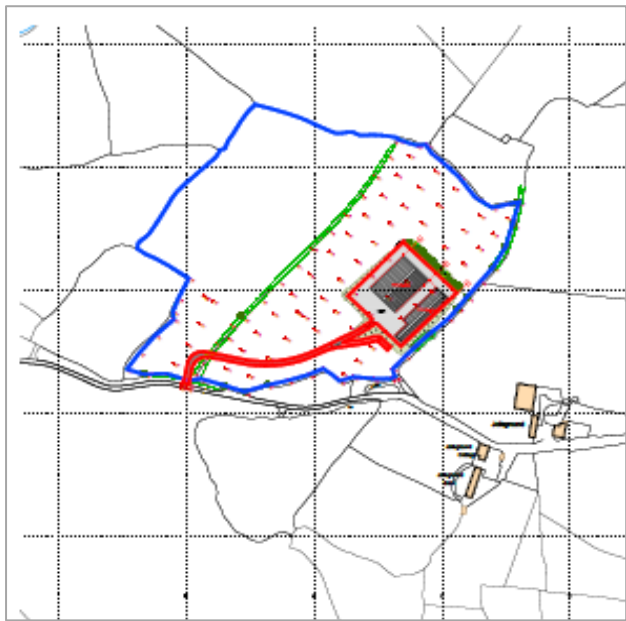
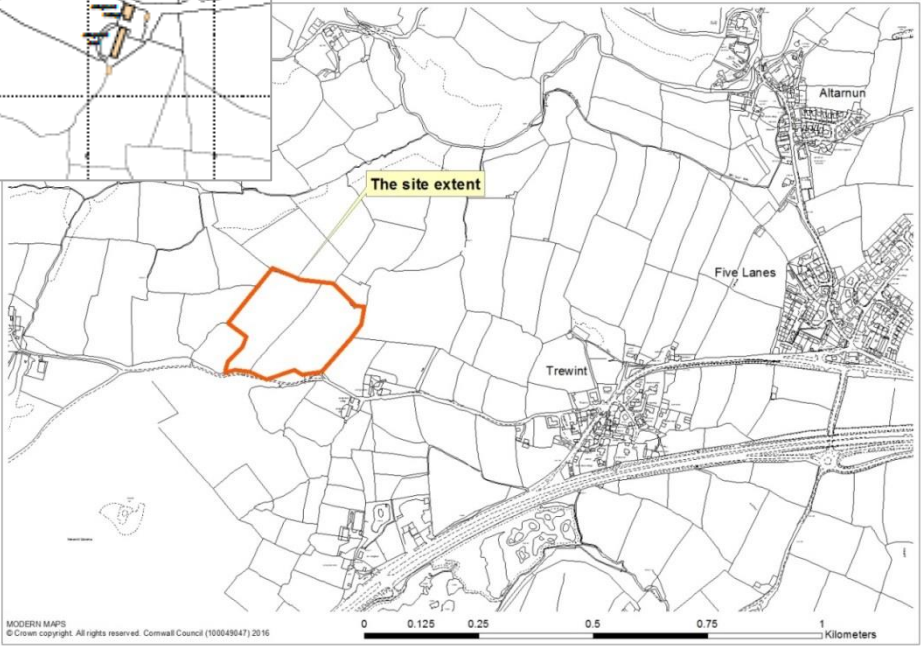


Fig 2 Map (left) showing the planned development. Below – showing the site extent, and its location in relation to the nearest settlements.



2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned by Mr Matt Coles to provide a project design and estimate for a desk-based archaeological assessment and geophysical survey of an area of land covering approximately 0.55 hectares at Jollsground, Altarnun (Figs 1 and 2), ahead of the proposed relocation of a livestock farm (including temporary occupational dwelling). The development was the subject of a Planning Condition PA16/03310.

The proposed development area is located to the west of Altarnun, within land with archaeological potential and that has been classified as 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (Countryside Commission 1996). 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (see Fig 7) is land which has been settled since at least the medieval period and which often contains buried archaeological remains dating to prehistoric and medieval times. As such, the site does have archaeological potential.

The proposed development site is set within fields of medieval origin. Within the immediate area there are cropmark boundaries (MCO47364) of medieval or earlier date, and post-medieval extractive pit workings (MCO24161) (see Fig 11). The wider area contains a considerable number of archaeological sites of all periods (see Fig 8).

2.2 Aims

The principle aim of the project is to undertake an archaeological assessment of the project area, and to produce a report containing recommendations for appropriate further stages of archaeological assessment and / or recording.

The overall project aims are:

- To identify and describe the archaeological resource.
- To assess the significance of the resource.
- To assess the impact of the proposal on the importance and integrity of the resource.
- To identify ways of minimising the impact upon the archaeological resource.
- To make recommendations for archaeological recording during the development and construction of the scheme.

All work has been undertaken according to the appropriate Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance*. The CIfA *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology* was followed. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

2.3 Methods

2.3.1 Desk-based assessment

During the desk-based assessment historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and any upstanding structures and features that were likely to survive. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall HER.
- Early maps and photographs (see Section 9.1).

2.3.2 Geophysical survey

The geophysical survey covered an area measuring approximately 0.55 HA.

The geophysical consultancy Stratascan was commissioned by CAU to carry out a geophysical magnetometer (gradiometry) survey of the land proposed for development at Jollsground. The survey took place in June 2016, when the site was under grass and the weather was cloudy and wet.

The data from the survey was presented as a series of greyscale images overlaid onto map data geo-referenced to the OS grid, and these were reproduced in a technical report along with a text and an interpretative figure (Stratascan 2016) (see figs 9 and 10, below).

2.3.3 Report

The following report outlines the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey.

An Historic England/ADS online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) record has been made covering this project.

2.3.4 Archive

This report, along with the geophysical survey report and all paperwork associated with this project has been collated as an archive in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006*.

The site archive will initially be stored at ReStore, with the eventual aim of deposition at Cornwall Record Office.

3 Location and setting

The proposed development site at Jollsground lies in east Cornwall, approximately 1.3km west-south-west of the village of Altarnun. The site is centred at SW 221304 080742, within the parish of Altarnun, and incorporates two fields with a combined area of around 0.55 Ha (Figs 1 and 2).

The site occupies a north-east facing slope, dropping from 260m OD in the south-west to 236m OD in the north-east. The surrounding landscape is typically one of hills and valleys feeding in to the River Inney catchment area. The 1809 First edition map (Fig 3), shows the hilly, undulating landscape with intervening river and main roads of the time.

The wider area is characterised by small-scale settlements surrounded predominantly by arable improved grassland. Land bordering the southern side of the site rises on to unimproved grassland and then patchy bracken and heath around Trewint Tor, located 420m to the south-west and standing at 296m OD.

The site spans two different geologies; Igneous Intrusion – Carboniferous to Permian bedrock in the south-western part of the site, and Teign Valley Group mudstone, siltstone and sandstone in the north-eastern two thirds of the site. The overlying soils are known as Hexworthy which are typical iron-pan stagnopodsols. These are gritty, loamy and acidic (Stratascan 2016, 1).

The site lies within land characterised through Historic Landscape Characterisation as 'Anciently Enclosed Land (Farmland Medieval), that is land which forms Cornwall's ancient agricultural heartland. Typically this has been farmed continuously since later prehistory (Fig 7). The pattern of enclosure within land of this character type sometimes partially fossilises older enclosure boundaries and alignments of late

prehistoric or Romano-British date, although these fields had often been substantially reorganised and realigned by the medieval period. This shift in patterning can indicate discontinuity, expansion and/or contraction of settlement and farming, particularly where it lies close to high ground (as Jollsgroud does).

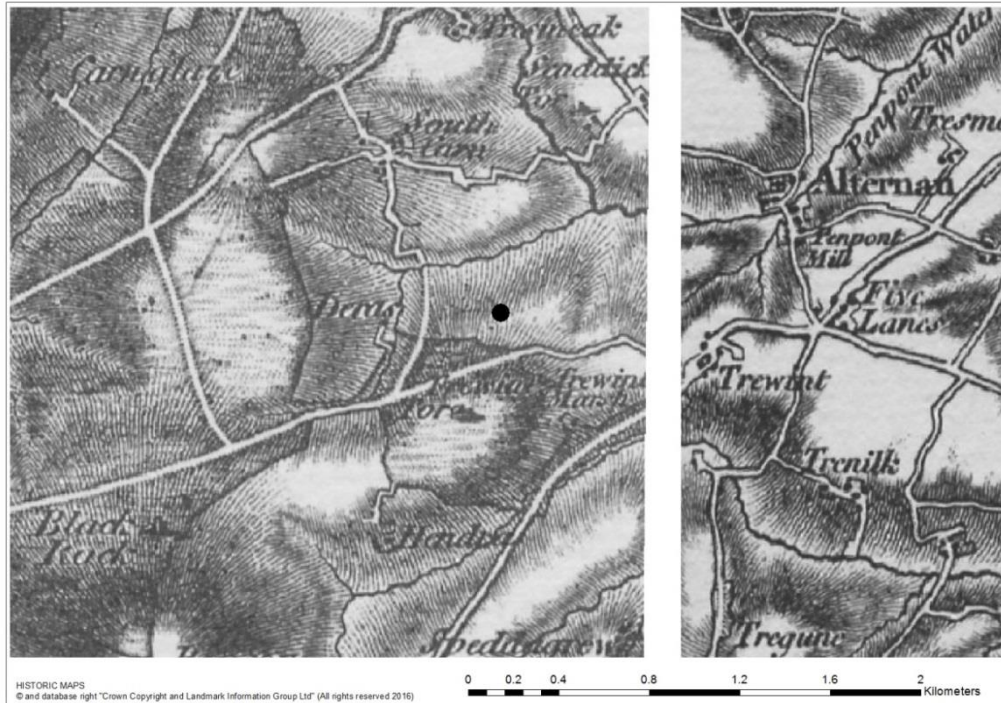


Fig 3 Extract from the OS First Edition One Inch Map c1809, showing the site as a dot.

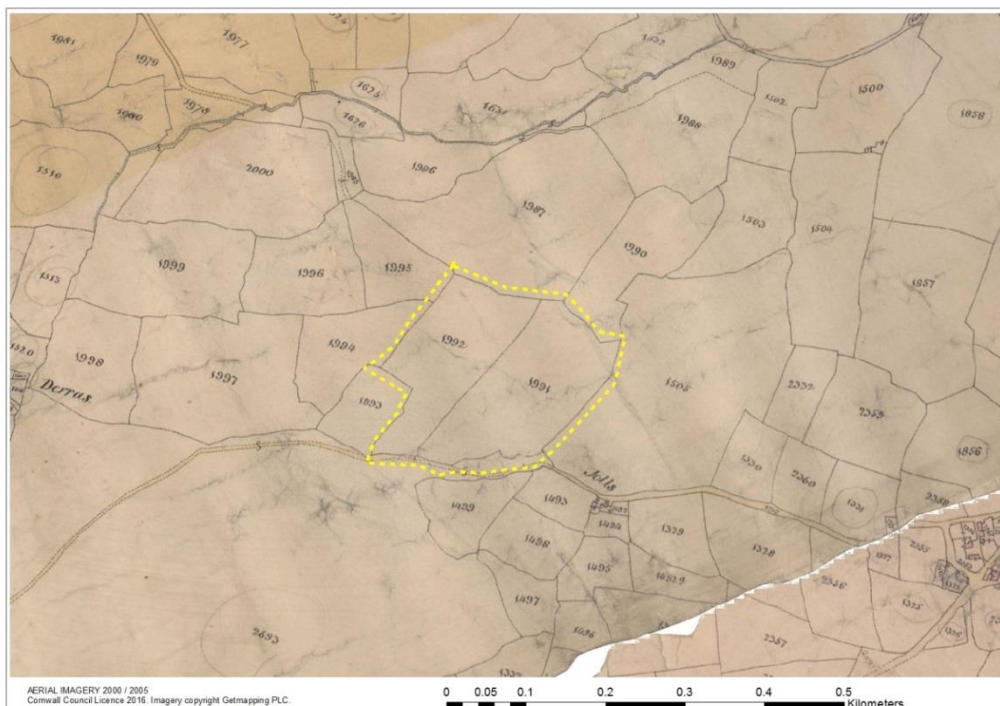


Fig 4 Extract from the Altarnun Tithe Map, 1843, showing the expanded site extent.

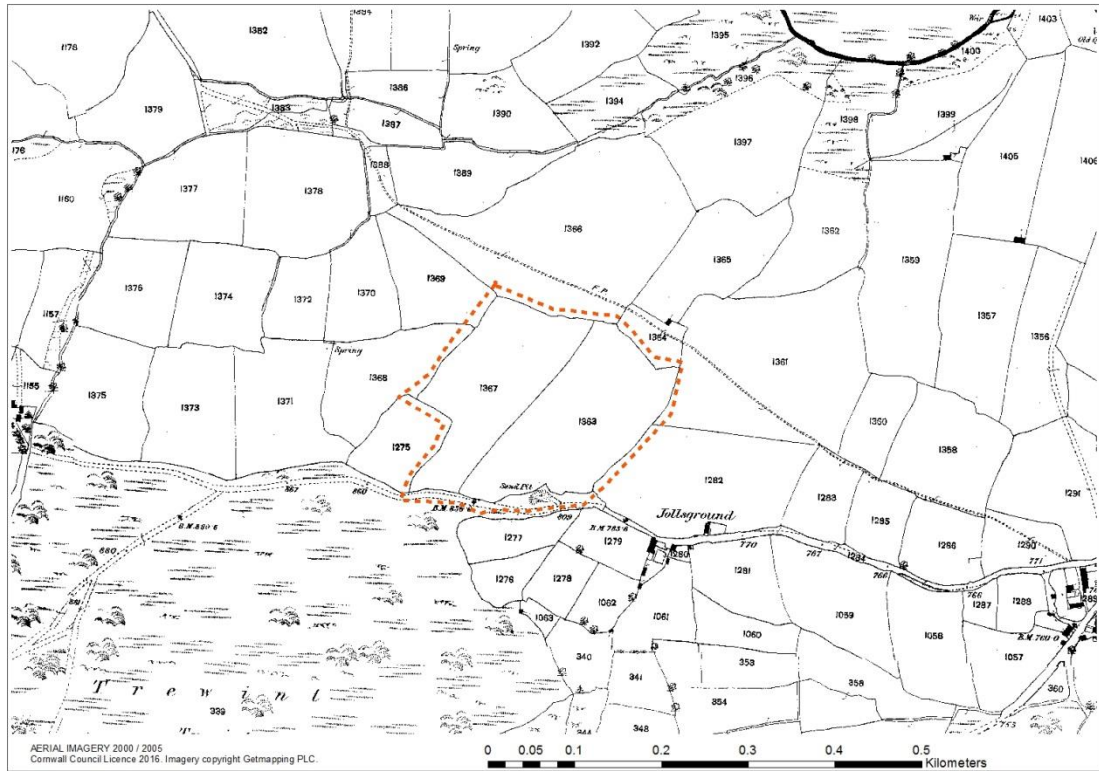


Fig 5 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880. Note the location of an extraction pit at the southern edge of the site.

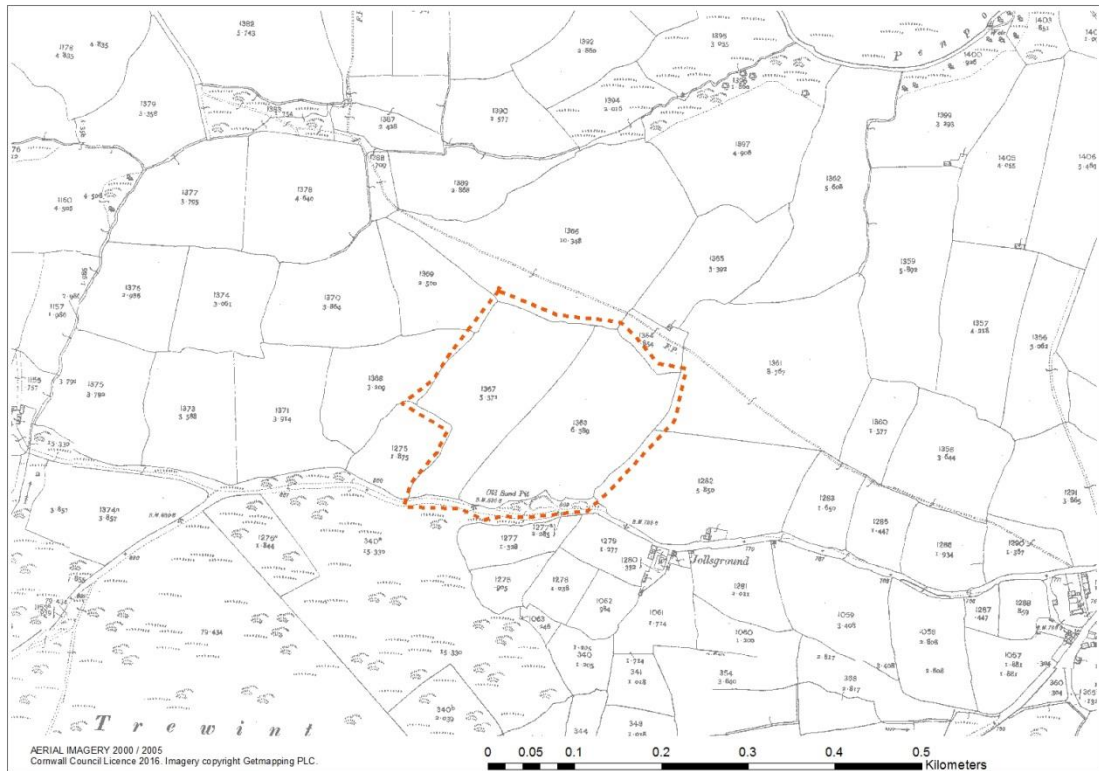


Fig 6 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907, showing superimposed National Mapping Programme features in red. These largely record removed field boundaries, plus areas of extractive (pit and/or quarry) workings, as are shown on the immediate northern and southern edges of the site.

4 Designations

4.1 National

There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings within the vicinity.

The site and surrounding area lies within the Bodmin Moor Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

4.2 Regional/county

The site and surrounding area lies within the Bodmin Moor Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV).

4.3 Local

No local designations apply to the site, although the project area directly abuts the North Bodmin Moor County Wildlife Site along its southern edge.

4.4 Rights of Way

No rights of way traverse the proposed development site, although there is a footpath running east to west just beyond its northern boundary.

The area of the site is not registered as open access land under the CROW Act 2005, although ground to the immediate south is.

5 Site history

The site lies within an area rich in archaeological sites (see Fig 8). These sites are briefly summarised below in chronological order from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period.

Located approximately 1km to the south, at Trewint Marsh, are a number of dispersed prehistoric hut circles and hut circle settlement MCO20379. At a similar distance due west are a number of Bronze Age cairns and a stone circle MCO55419, while west-north-west of the site is another hut circle settlement MCO20507 with outlying hut circles. These sites demonstrate this area was part of Cornwall's settlement and agricultural heartland since the prehistoric period.

Possible early medieval sites located 1km or less from the site include the settlement at Tregirls MCO17296 to the south-east and Trewint manor and settlement MCO18060 to the south-east, Trewint Marsh hollow way MCO48037, and a small number of field boundaries and low-lying earth banks, the nearest of which is Jollsground field boundary MCO47334, located just 200m to the east-north-east (see Fig 11).

Selected medieval sites located 1km or less from the site include a tinner's hut MCO23706 at Westmoorgate and the nearby settlement of Darras MCO14236, which was first documented in 1433 (located to the west of the site). Located to the north-east of the site is Altarnun, first recorded in c1100 as Altrenune. It has an early medieval well and monastery, a medieval church dedicated to St Nonna, granite cross and fifteenth century bridge among other medieval and later site types. A medieval field system MCO20865 at Trewint and nearby ridge and furrow MCO37925 lie to the south of the site (see also the geophysical survey – Site 1). The medieval settlement of Austle MCO13300 lies to the north-east, and a medieval granite cross base MCO6182 stands in Trewint.

Post-medieval sites in the area include a number of small quarries, prospecting and extractive pits, the nearest of which is MCO24161, which is located on the south-eastern edge of the site, and extractive pits associated with Trewint Mine MCO12723 to the south. Post-medieval settlements include Jollsground settlement itself MCO15071

(Site 4 – see Fig 11), first referred to on the 1888 OS map of the area. An additional undated field boundary MCO47364 is positioned at the south-eastern corner of the site.

The 1843 Tithe map for Altarnun (Fig 4) indicates that the pattern of historic enclosure in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site at Jollsground was one of irregular fields of various shapes and sizes. Many of the fields show clear evidence for the removal of intervening boundaries, to form larger fields. Subsequent historic maps show that little alteration has occurred in the surrounding field pattern since 1840, and that the southern periphery of these fields continues to respect high ground to the immediate south of the site.

The Tithe apportions record the eastern side of the site as field 1991, named 'Above Town'. The western side, field number 1992 was known as 'Higher Green Park'. Both fields were down to arable use. The occupier was listed as Henry Westlake, and the land owner was James Treleaven. The site and the surrounding area were part of lands associated with South Carne, located to the north-west.

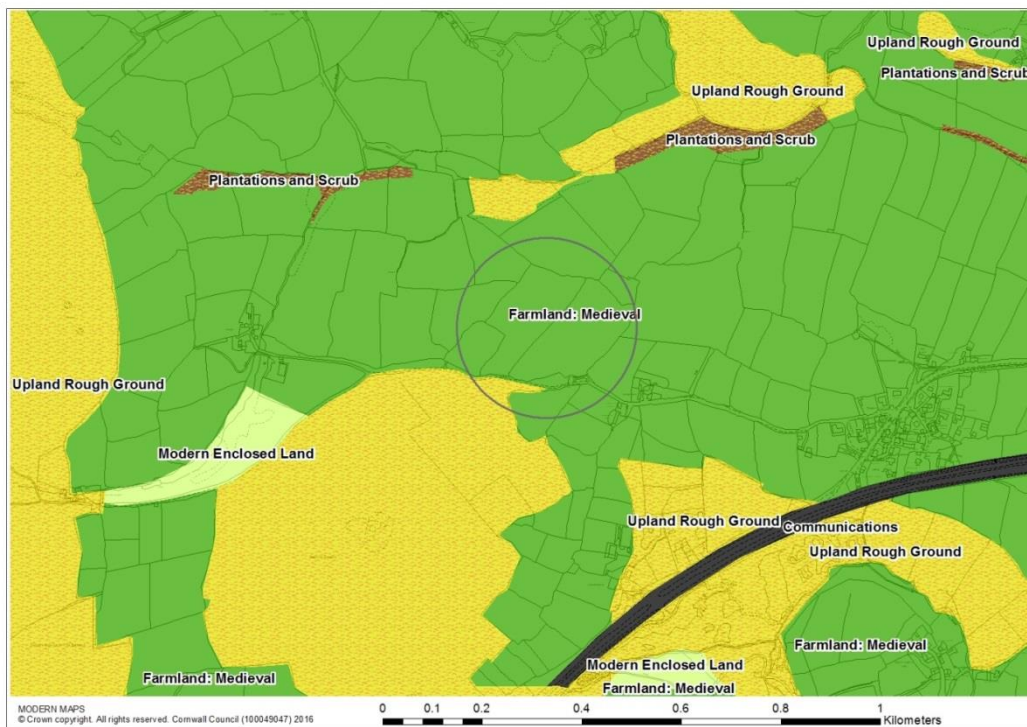


Fig 7 Map showing Historic Landscape Characterisation of the study area. The site is encircled.

6 Geophysical survey results

A detailed geophysical (gradiometer) survey was undertaken by Stratascan (2016). The report containing the processed results was received by Cornwall Archaeological Unit in June 2016.

The survey was carried out under wet conditions, although ground conditions were still suitable for magnetic contrasts across the site to be found. These did not reveal any significant archaeological features, although a number of cultivation associated features were identified (visible as dark diagonal north-east to south-west aligned lines – see Fig 9).

Figure 10 shows Stratascan’s interpretation of these results. The potential ridge and furrow (Site 1), identified as a series of linear diagonal readings could belong to the medieval period or later, while additional, closer spaced alignments may relate to modern ploughing. Both types of cultivation mirror the alignment of the south-eastern and north-western field boundaries. The ridge and furrow clearly relates to the extant, current field system.

Other anomalies and magnetic spikes have been interpreted as modern disturbance and/or natural magnetic variations in the geology.

No archaeological features were identified, beyond the agricultural features discussed above.

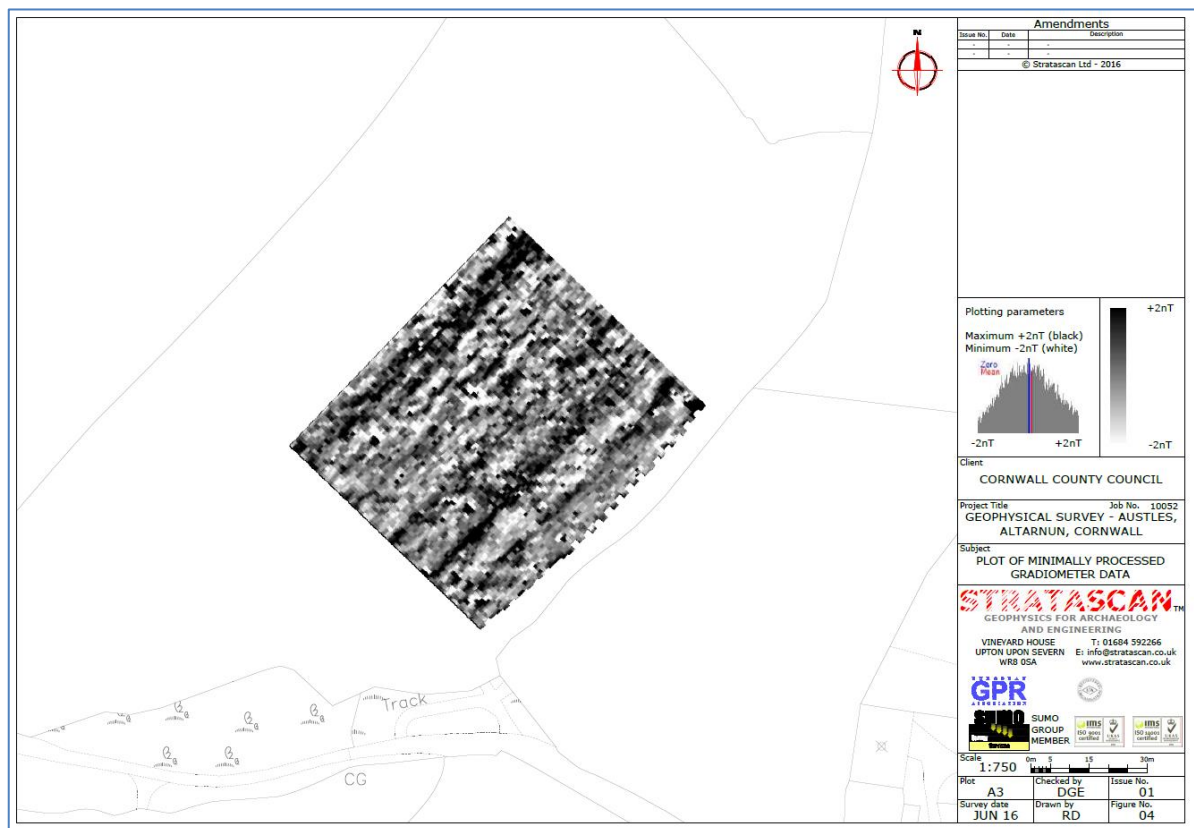


Fig 9 Processed gradiometer data - survey results (Stratascan 2016).

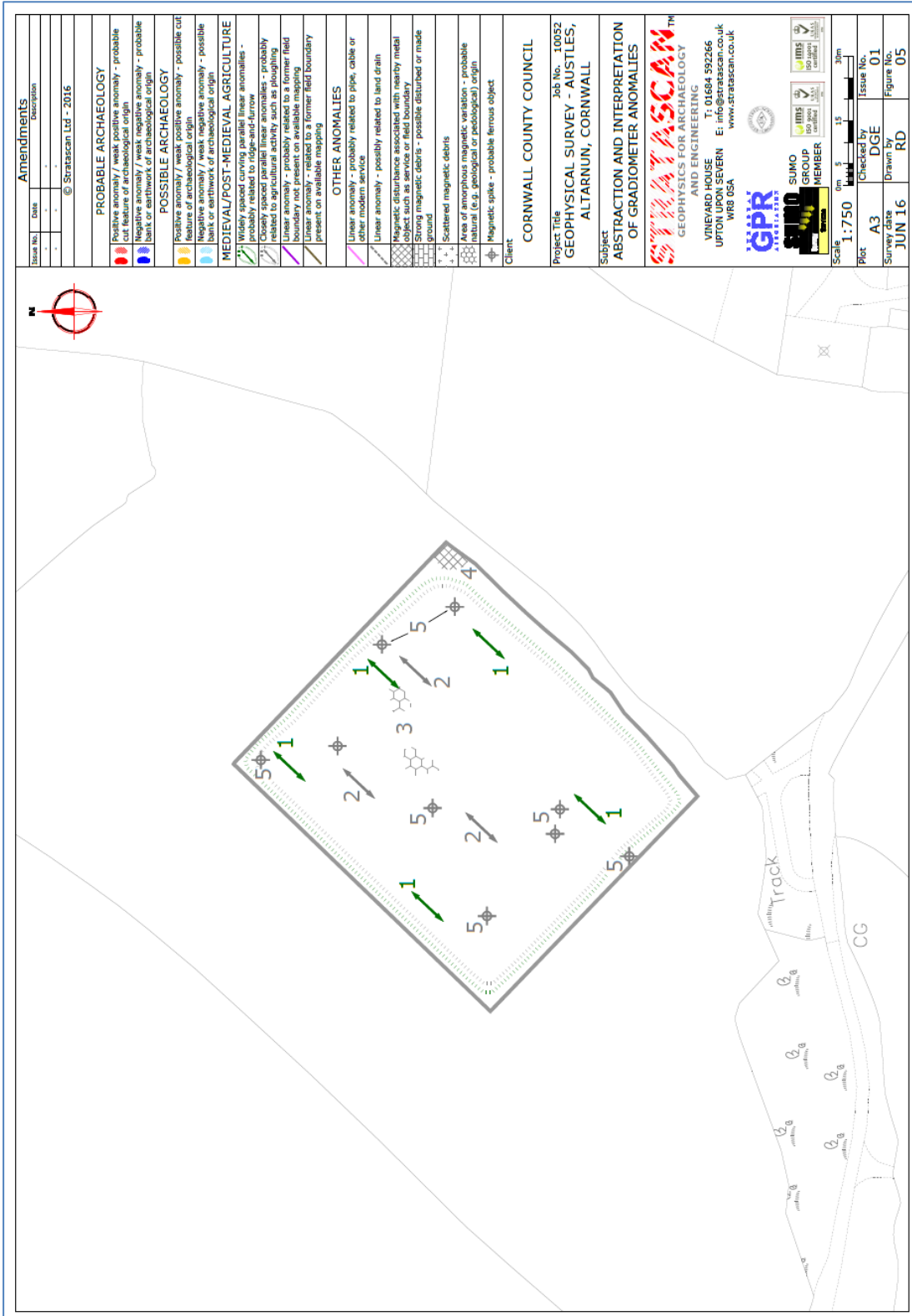


Fig 10 Interpretation of gradimeter anomalies (Stratascan 2016). Those marked as 1 on the survey, equate to Site 1 (as shown on Fig 11).

7 Site gazetteer and map

Site no.	Monument no.	Grid co-ordinate	Brief description
1	-	SX 21366 80696	Ridge and furrow cultivation marks located by the geophysical survey. These date to the medieval period or later.
2	MCO47364	SX 21292 80664	Undated cropmark field boundary identified from an aerial photograph.
3	MCO24161	SX 21298 80620	Probable 19 th century extractive pit, first shown on 1880 OS map and subsequently identified on aerial photographs by NMP.
4	MCO15071	SX 21437 80560	Post-medieval settlement focus, first identified on 1880 OS map. Still occupied.
5	MCO23708	SX 21067 80473	Trewint Tor post-medieval extractive pit located on Trewint Downs.
6	MCO47332	SX 21504 80834	Jollsground post-medieval quarry. Identified as two extractive pits or small quarries on aerial photographs by NMP.
7	MCO47334	SX 21552 80907	Jollsground early medieval field boundaries identified as a series of field bank and ditch earthworks on aerial photographs by NMP. Note: This remnant field system may extend in to the area of the site and be related to the ridge and furrow identified by the geophysical survey.

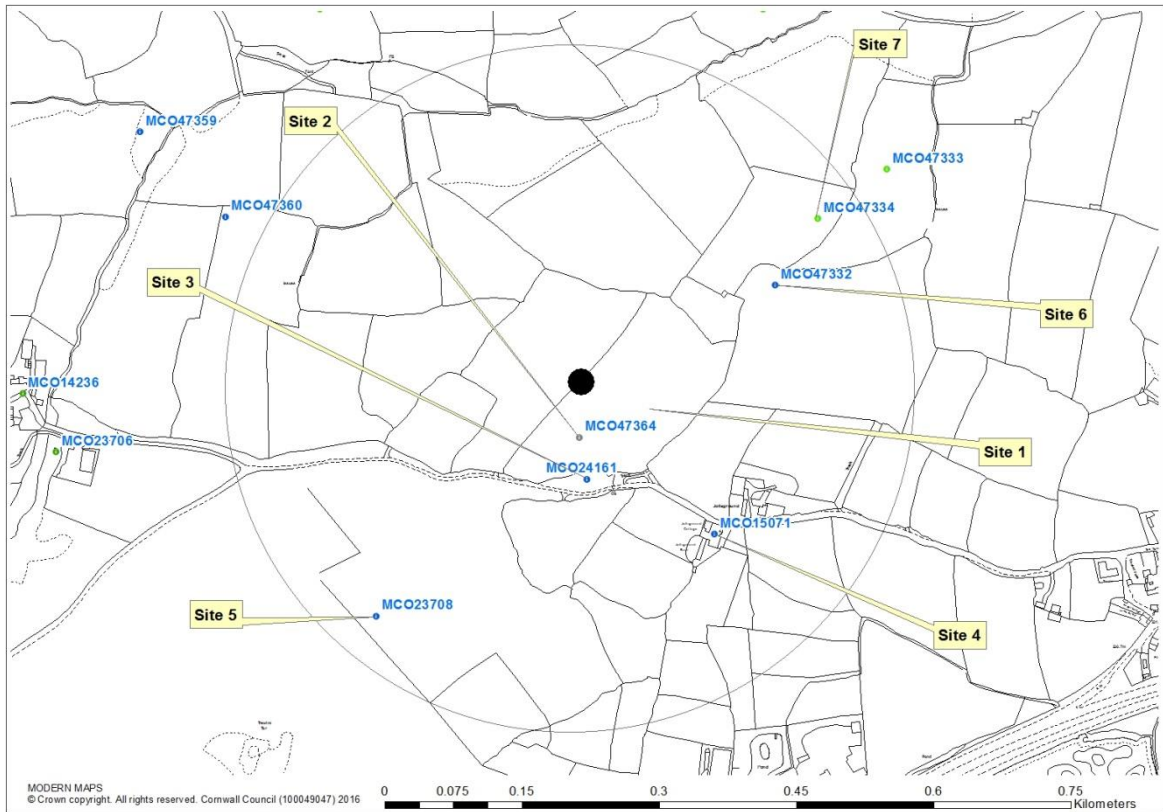


Fig 11 Map showing all sites within a 0.75 km diameter focussed on the site.

8 Significance

The desk-based assessment has shown that the project area at Jollsgroud lies within an area of Anciently Enclosed Land, medieval farmland; land traditionally forming the agricultural heartland of Cornwall from the later prehistoric period onwards. It has been shown that areas with this historic landscape character typically contain a substantial time-depth of archaeological remains (Cornwall Landscape Assessment 1996).

The proximity of land at Jollsgroud to the edges of the higher ground also makes it historically an area of transition, where settlement and land use saw periods of shift and discontinuity related to changes in population densities and pressures on good available arable land and pasture.

Within an approximate 1km range of the Jollsgroud site there is documentary and physical evidence for ritual burial monuments and ceremonial landscapes of typically Early Bronze Age date and the more settled farming landscape that followed, characterised by the roundhouses and field systems of later prehistory (typically ranging in date from the Middle Bronze Age into the early post-Roman period). In addition medieval farmsteads and settlements, many of which have been fossilised within today's settlement and enclosure patterns (including remnant field patterns and ridge and furrow cultivation), extend around and into the project area.

The geophysical survey has identified the potential fossilisation of ridge and furrow within the area of the site. This could represent cultivation practices dating to the medieval or post-medieval period. Their orientation mirrors the current field boundaries, implying that both the field boundaries and the ridge and furrow co-existed.

9 Recommendations

On the basis of the geophysical survey and the results of the desk-based assessment it is considered most unlikely that any large or significant archaeological features or deposits exist within the immediate area of the proposed development. However, given the sites characterization as Anciently Enclosed Land, there is likely to have been long-term use of the site and surrounding area in a number of different ways, including as hunting grounds, managed, improved or enclosed land and settlement.

No pre-works excavation or further evaluative work is recommended given the lack of geophysical evidence for sub-surface remains.

The landscape characterization, might, however, suggest that **a watching brief** would be required during works. This would provide a rapid check, and allow for the collection of probable non-feature specific artefacts in the form of stray or residual finds or scatters.

These recommendations are, however, of a guideline nature. Any further stages of archaeological recording will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment Archaeologist).

10 References

10.1 Primary sources

(Maps are listed in chronological order)

Ordnance Survey, c1809. 1 Inch Map First Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)
Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1843. Parish of Altarnun (licensed digital copy at CAU)
Ordnance Survey, c1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)
Ordnance Survey, c1907. 25 Inch Map Second Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)
Ordnance Survey, 2007. Mastermap Digital Mapping

10.2 Publications

Cornwall County Council, 1996. Cornwall Landscape Assessment 1994.
Stratscan Geophysical survey report – Austles, Altarnun, Cornwall. 2016.

10.3 Websites

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> English Heritage's online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings

11 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146600**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin: \\Mem-fst-cen-739\twe\$\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites A\Altarnun Jollsground assessment

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-257066

12 Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Project design for a desk based geophysical survey of Land North West of Jollsground, Altarnun

Introduction

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was requested by Mr Matt Coles provide a project design and estimate for the desk-based archaeological assessment and geophysical survey of an area of land covering approximately 0.55 hectares at Jollsground, Altarnun (Fig 1), ahead of the proposed relocation of livestock farm (including temporary occupational dwelling) (PA16/03310).

The proposed project area is a field which is located in an area where there are crop-marks associated with probable earlier field systems, as well as, later post-medieval activity. This project design is for a rapid desk-top survey followed by a geophysical survey and a report.

Background

The proposed development area is located to the west of Altarnun, within land that has been classified as 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (Countryside Commission 1996). 'Anciently Enclosed Land' is land which has been settled since at least the medieval period and which often contains buried archaeological remains dating to prehistoric and medieval times.

The proposed development is located'.

Known archaeological sites

The project area is situated in an area with archaeological potential. Identified sites in the vicinity, include:

- The development area is set within fields of medieval origin.
- The proposed development area is located within an area of crop-mark boundaries which are likely to be of medieval or earlier date (MCO47364).
- A post-medieval extractive pit is located to the south of the proposed development (MCO24161).

Potential sites

There is the potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval sites to survive within the project area and for the survival of unrecorded buried archaeological remains and artefacts of all periods.

Objectives

The purpose of the project is to undertake an archaeological assessment of the project area, and to produce a report containing recommendations for appropriate further stages of archaeological assessment and / or recording.

The keys aims of the assessment are:

- To identify and describe the archaeological resource.
- To assess the significance of the resource.
- To assess the impact of the proposal on the importance and integrity of the resource.

- To identify ways of minimising the impact upon the archaeological resource.
- To make recommendations for archaeological recording during the development and construction of the scheme.

Method statement

The assessment will consist of the following stages:

Desk-top study;

Geophysical survey;

Production of the assessment report.

The resulting report will outline the results from the assessment. An entry to the OASIS/ADS-online record will also be made.

All work will be undertaken according to the appropriate Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance*. 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 rapid desk-based assessment will be undertaken, based on:

- Relevant published secondary sources held in the Cornwall Archaeological Unit Library.
- Relevant archaeological reports (previous archaeological assessment of the A30 road scheme).
- Historic maps, including:
 - Early county maps (Norden, Gascoyne, Martyn, *circa* 1810 1st Edition OS 1:1760 mapping;
 - *Circa* 1840 Tithe Map;
 - The *circa* 1877 and 1907 1st and 2nd Editions of the Ordnance Survey 25" to a mile mapping;
 - The current OS MasterMap;
- Relevant GIS layers curated by Cornwall Council and Cornwall Archaeological Unit;
- Aerial photograph cover dating from 1946 to the present day, including transcripts of archaeological detail produced by the National Mapping Programme;
- The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record.

Geophysical survey

The Geophysical survey will take the form of a detailed magnetometer survey. It will cover an area of approximately 0.55 HA.

Ahead of the survey the Cornwall Archaeological Unit will liaise with the geophysical contractor. This will include:

- Liaison to arrange access to the site.
- Supply of mapping of the survey area.
- Notification of significant risks.

Note:

Any areas of dense/high vegetation must be cleared before the geophysical survey takes place.

Report

A concise report will be produced summarising the results of the assessment. The report will also include a brief gazetteer of identified sites/components. Recommendations for further archaeological assessment and / or recording will be included in the report.

The report will have the following contents:

- Summary: description of resource, importance, impact, initial recommendations.
- Introduction: background; objectives; methods; the area/geology.
- Description of the resource:
 - Historic character: note on the historic landscape character types.
 - Identified sites: general description of the resource.
 - Other archaeological potential.
- Assessment of importance:
 - Designations, policies and guidance; of the proposed development area.
 - Other sites
- Recommendations, eg:
 - Further archaeological assessment and or recording (eg, an archaeological watching brief).
- CAU Archive
- References
- Appendices: Inventory of Sites.

Illustrations:

- General Location map.
- Detailed location map showing Designated sites/areas.
- Historic maps if appropriate (showing study area).
- Detailed colour A3 map showing location of gazetteer sites and adjacent features.
- Geophysical survey features
- **Gazetteer of sites**

The sites should be numbered sequentially from the east to west.

Deliverables/outputs

Will include:

- Completion of archive form and project record form.
- Completion of the English Heritage OASIS record (online access to archaeological investigations).
- A concise report (see above).

Project Staff

An Archaeologist employed by CAU, who is a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), and experienced in this type of project, will carry out the archaeological assessment.

The report will be compiled by experienced archaeologist employed by CAU.

The project will be managed by CAU Principal Archaeologist Andy Jones who is a Member of the CIfA, Andy 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.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.

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.

Health and safety statement

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

Insurance

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

Timetable

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.

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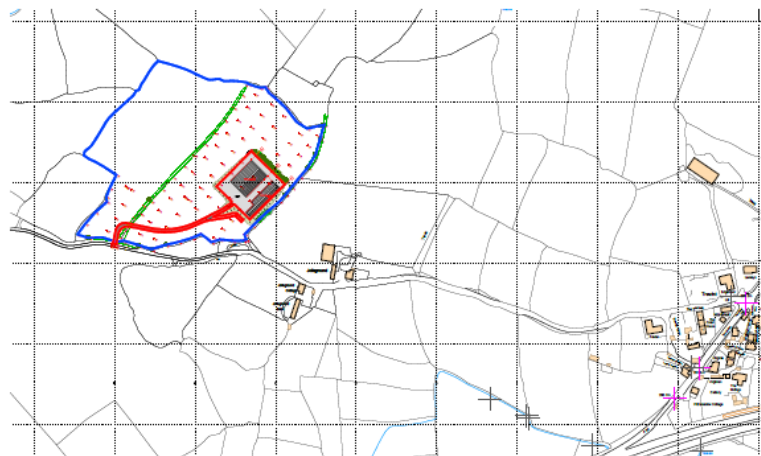


Figure 1: Map showing location of assessment area.

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