



Chysauster, Gulval and Carn Euny, Sancreed, Penzance, Cornwall
Archaeological watching briefs during replacement of interpretation

Chysauster, Gulval and Carn Euny, Sancreed, Penzance, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching brief during replacement of interpretation

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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

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Cover illustration

The completion of the installation of Panel 7 adjacent to the entrances to Houses 3a/3b at Chysauster.

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Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey

1 Summary

In July 2016 Cornwall Archaeological Unit were commissioned by Georgina Bishop, Interpretation Officer for English Heritage, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of interpretation panels within the Guardianship area of the English Heritage managed site of Chysauster Ancient Village, Madron, Penzance, Cornwall.

This phase of works consisted of the replacement of a small number of operational signs, four interpretation panels in the education hut, the replacement of three existing externally-sited interpretation panels and their concrete mounted stands and the installation of three interpretation panels at new locations within the site.

Another interpretation panel incorporating a model of the site derived from the recent Historic England survey of Chysauster was installed in August 2016, together with interpretative material at Carn Euny near Sancreed. These small-scale works were also the subject of an archaeological watching brief.

All the works relating to the installation of the new signage was undertaken by hand. Only very limited areas of the site were disturbed and only one artefact was recovered from Carn Euny.

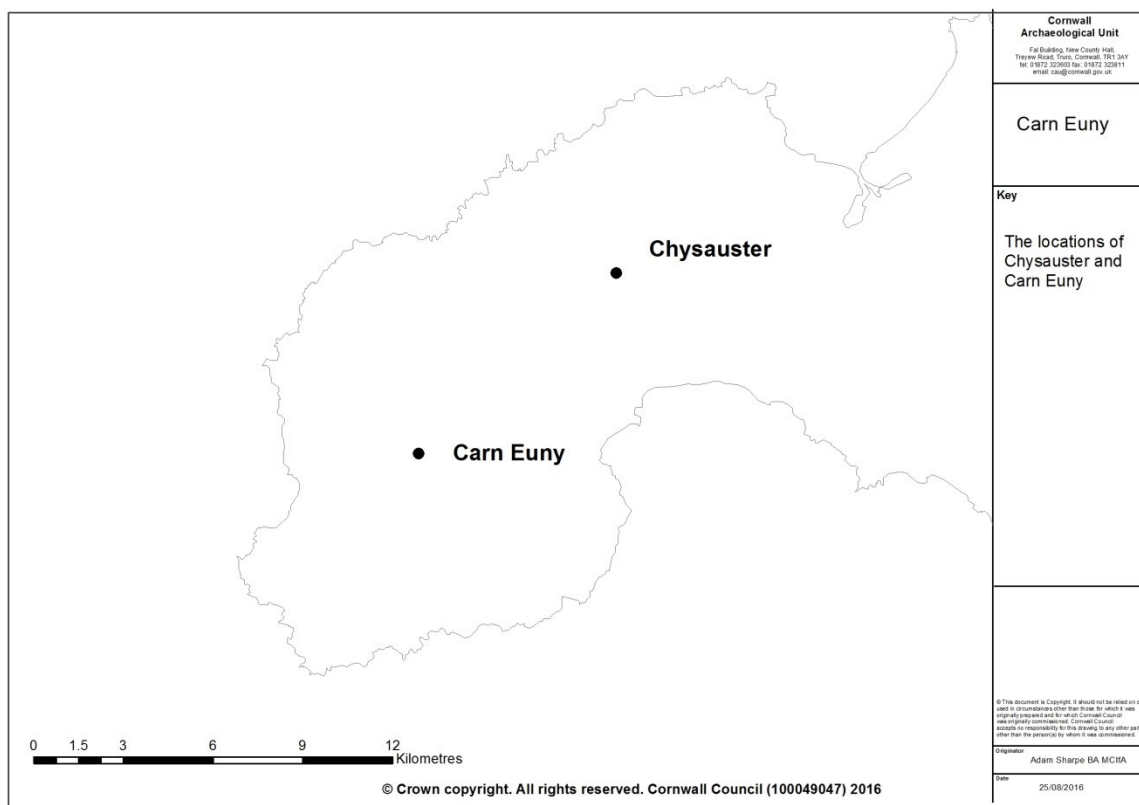


Fig 1. The locations of Chysauster Ancient Village, Gulval, and Carn Euny, Sancreed, Cornwall.

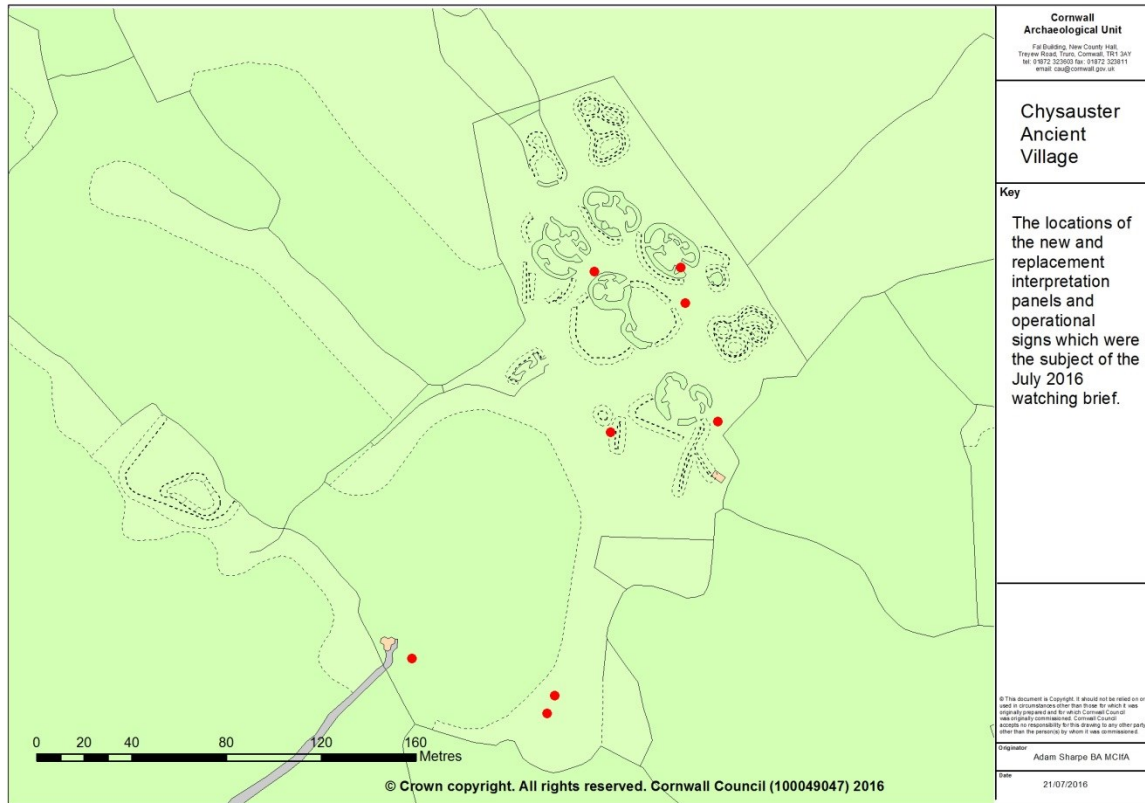


Fig 2. The locations of the new and replacement interpretation and signage (red dots) at Chysauster covered by the 2016 archaeological watching brief.

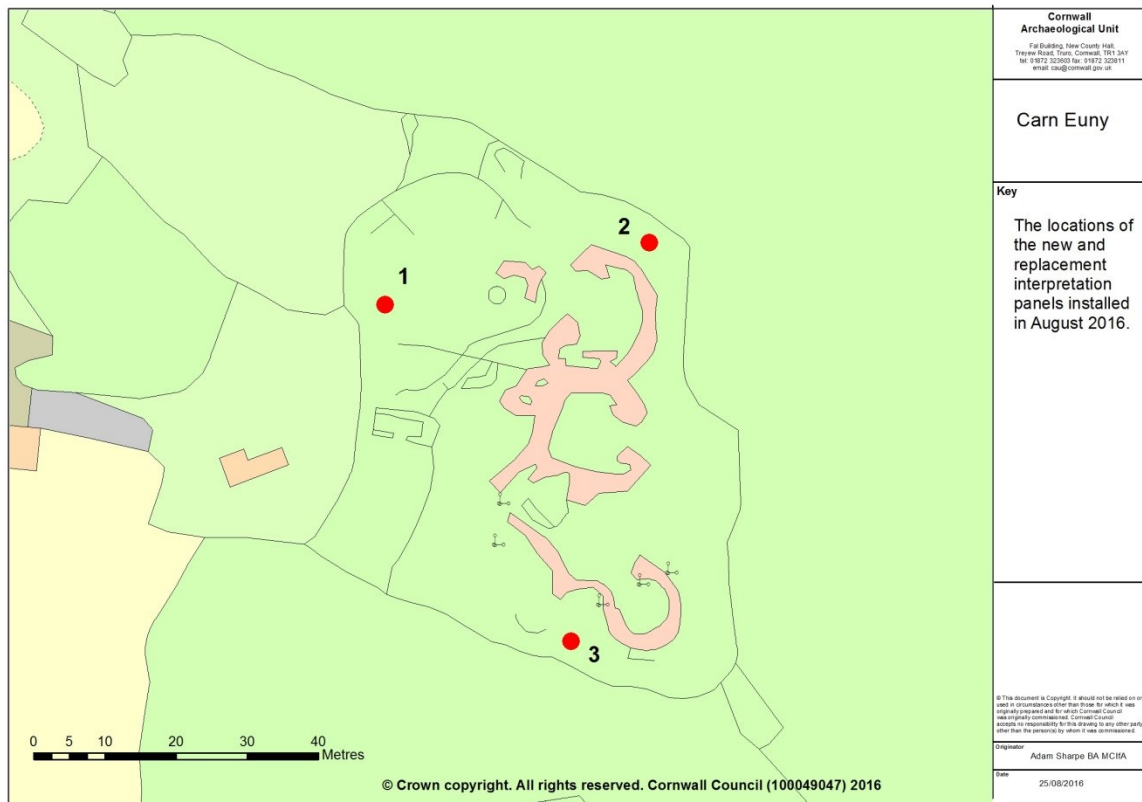


Fig 3. The locations of the new and replacement interpretation (red dots) at Carn Euny covered by the 2016 archaeological watching brief.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

In July 2016 Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Georgina Bishop, Interpretation Officer for English Heritage, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of interpretation panels within the Guardianship area of the English Heritage managed site of Chysauster Ancient Village, Madron, Penzance, Cornwall (Figs 1 to 3). In August 2016 CAU returned to Chysauster to undertake a watching brief during the replacement of a final interpretation panel. A watching brief was undertaken on the same day during the replacement of interpretation panels at Carn Euny, Sancreed.

This works at Chysauster consisted of the replacement of a small number of operational signs, four interpretation panels in the education hut, the replacement of three existing externally-sited interpretation panels and their concrete mounted stands and the installation of four interpretation panels at new locations within the site.

The externally-mounted interpretation panels and signs which are the subject of this watching brief were at the following locations;

- Operational sign 1 near the ticket hut (replacement).
- No 2. Adjacent to the Fogou (new interpretation board site).
- Operational sign 2 close to the fogou (replacement interpretation).
- No 3. At the southern approach to the courtyard house settlement (replacement interpretation).
- No 4. To the east of House 7 (new interpretation board site).
- No 5. To the east of Houses 5 and 6 (replacement interpretation).
- No 6. Within House 6 (replacement interpretation).
- No 7. At the entrance to Houses 3a/3b (new interpretation board site).
- No 8. A new lectern panel incorporating a site model near the ticket hut.

See Figures 2 and 3 for the general locations of the interpretation panels discussed in this report and Figures 2 to 9 for their detailed locations.

A panoramic view of the landscape surrounding Chysauster together with a viewing platform overlooking the upslope side of House 6 is to be installed subsequently as part of the overhaul of the site interpretation (subject to planning permission) but was not covered by this watching brief.

At Carn Euny one new and two replacement interpretation panels were replaced. See Figure 3 for the general location of these new panels.

2.2 Aims

At both Chysauster and Carn Euny, the project aims were to maintain an archaeological watching brief during the removal of existing interpretation panels and their mass concrete-footed stands and the excavation of replacement sockets and the excavation of sockets for the mass concrete to support the stands for new interpretation panels, to record any archaeological layers or features exposed during this work and to recover and record any artefacts exposed during these excavations.

The principal objective of the project was to produce a report detailing the results of the archaeological watching brief, setting its findings in context. A further project objective was to produce an entry to the Historic England OASIS/ADS-Online national database of archaeological projects.

2.3 Methods

All recording work was undertaken according to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. Staff will follow the Cifa *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of*

Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

2.3.1 Desk-based assessment

The project draws on the results of desk-based assessments undertaken by CAU during previous projects relating to the site, most particularly the recently-completed Conservation Management Plan for Chysauster (Fleming 2016). For Carn Euny, the results of Christie's excavations (Christie 1978), as summarised in the site guidebook, were used to inform the watching brief.

2.3.2 Fieldwork

At Chysauster the work on site comprised the re-excavation by hand of five small pits containing the mass concrete footings for existing post-mounted interpretation panels and operational signs and the hand excavation of four new paired pits into which mass concrete was placed to support the posts for new interpretation panels. At Carn Euny two existing signs were removed and replaced, their foundations being re-excavated; one entirely new interpretation panel was installed.

All archaeology revealed during the excavation of the pits was examined during the groundworks, and the pit locations were recorded using base maps and a hand-held GPS unit. During and following the excavation of the pits each excavation was inspected by an archaeologist and in the event that any archaeological features or layers were exposed they would be carefully excavated by hand and recorded by written description, plan, section and photographic record as appropriate by the CAU Project Archaeologist. The level of recording undertaken was appropriate to the character/importance of the archaeological remains.

An allowance was made at the outset that if complex and/or significant archaeological deposits were to be encountered then the archaeological requirements would be reviewed by the client and CAU. In the event that remains could not be preserved *in situ* then more detailed excavation might have been required.

Where necessary the detailed archaeological recording was to include:

- Excavation of archaeological features exposed areas 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) were, where required, made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans were to be linked to the Ordnance Survey Landline (electronic) map; all drawings were to include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point and location. All archaeological contexts were to be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence. No site drawings were, however, required in this instance.

All features and finds were to be accurately located at an appropriate scale. Sections are normally drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Drawings and photographs were to be recorded in a register giving details of feature number and location.

In the event of significant archaeological features (ditches and pits, etc.) with sealed/undisturbed buried soils, layers or deposits, these were to be sampled for environmental evidence and dating material. In the event that significant organic remains were encountered, advice was to be sought from Vanessa Straker (Historic England, Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science).

Were human remains to be discovered on the site the Public Health Officer, Cornwall Council would be informed. All recording was to conform to best practice and legal requirements. If human remains were uncovered which required excavation, they were to be excavated with due reverence. The site would have been adequately screened

from public view. Excavated human remains must not be exposed to public view. Should it have been decided that any human remains found on site should not be removed their physical security was to be ensured by back filling as soon as possible after recording.

Colour digital images were used for illustrative purposes. The photographic record included both general and site specific photographs.

Treatment of finds

Archaeological fieldwork can produce artefactual material.

All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (e.g., settlement features) were to be collected by context and described. An allowance was made for post-medieval or modern finds to be disposed of at the cataloguing stage through offering them to the site managers at this stage. This process was reviewed ahead of its implementation. All finds were to be collected in sealable plastic bags which were labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier. In the event only one artefact was recovered during these works (Fig 28).

2.3.3 Fieldwork: photographic recording

This was to consist of:

- Black and white photographs using a 35mm camera on fine grain archive quality film (no archive photographs were taken as no significant deposits were revealed during the works).
- Colour photographs taken with a digital camera (with a resolution of 8MP or higher).

The photo record comprised:

- general views
- examples of archaeological detail

2.3.4 Post-fieldwork

Creation of site archive

This included:

- Digital colour photographs (stored according to HER guidelines and copies of images made available to the client).
- Preparation of finished CAD drawings.
- Completion of the Historic England/ADS OASIS online archive index.

Archive report

An illustrated report summarising the results of the watching brief together with any recommendations for further work was produced (this report).

A digital (PDF) copy of the report, illustrations and any other files has been lodged in the Cornwall HER. A digital copy of the report was issued to the client. Paper copies of the report have been distributed to the client (where required), to local archives and national archaeological record centres.

Assessment/analysis

In the event that significant archaeological remains were uncovered, the structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual material were to be assessed to establish whether further analyses and reporting were appropriate. The outline of the final report, and the work required to produce it were to be determined in an updated project design.

In the event of significant prehistoric or medieval sites or associated artefacts being revealed it was deemed appropriate to:

- Consult with Historic England over the requirements for assessment, analysis and reporting.

- Liaise with specialists (e.g., artefacts, material suitable for scientific dating) to arrange for assessment of the potential for further analysis and reporting.
- Arrange for specialist analyses, where appropriate.

Final publication

In the event of significant archaeological remains being recorded the scope and final form of the report was to be reviewed; for example in addition to an archive report the results are normally published in an academic journal (e.g., *Cornish Archaeology*).

Archive deposition

An index to the site archive was created and the archive contents prepared for long term storage, in accordance with CAU standards.

The archiving comprises the following:

- All correspondence relating to the project, the WSI, a single paper copy of the report together with an electronic copy on CD, stored in an archive standard (acid-free) documentation box
- The project archive will be deposited initially at ReStore PLC, Liskeard and in due course (when space permits) at Cornwall Record Office.

3 Location, setting and management arrangements

Chysauster

Chysauster Ancient Village is located near Newmill, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8XA and is centred at SW 47241 34998, six kilometres to the north of Penzance in the parish of Gulval.

The site lies on granite (British Geological Survey 1970, sheet 351/358). The topsoils tend to be thin and acidic and are of the Moretonhamstead Series, whilst the weathered subsoil, locally known as 'rab', is clay-rich and derived from the degraded granite bedrock. A tin lode with a north-north-east to south-south-west aligned strike outcrops to the north-west of the settlement and has been worked both at surface and at depth. Evidence for prospecting and possibly also by extractive pits has also been found traversing the eastern side of the Guardianship area on a broadly north-south strike (Olaf Bayer pers. comm.).

The site lies within enclosed farmland on the hillslopes below Castle-An-Dinas hillfort, the core of the courtyard house settlement being at a height of 174m OD. The settlement occupies the south-west facing mid slope of the valley overlooking the Trevalyor Stream and commands clear views of the moors to the north and west as well as Mounts Bay to the south. It is intervisible with Lescudjack hillfort on the western outskirts of Penzance.

The overall responsibility for the management of the site lies with the English Heritage Trust Visitor Operations Manager. Chysauster Ancient Village is open to the public subject to an admission charge. The site is (2016) open every day from the end of March to the 1st November and receives between 10,000 and 20,00 visitors per annum as well as a number of educational visits by local schools. The site interpretation is deliberately low-key.

The site is serviced by a small car park with space for 15 vehicles which was originally built in 1969 under a lease arrangement, the car park being acquired by English Heritage in 1976. The car park also sites a small toilet block. There are currently only two modern buildings on the Chysauster Ancient Village site. These comprise the ticket/custodians' hut and the education room. There is no electricity or water supply to the site, whilst vehicular access for staff and contractors is across private land and by pre-arrangement only and the foot access to the site is not (and could not be made) DDA compliant.

The mowing of the grassed areas making up the lower part of the site is undertaken by a local farmer, whilst scrub and bracken management is undertaken by an external contractor.

Carn Euny

Carn Euny is centred at SW 40243 28843 (TR20 8QZ) just above the 152m contour to the south of and on the lower slopes of a col between Bartinney Downs 950m to the north-west and Caer Bran 500m to the north-east. The site has a south-westerly aspect. The site is underlain by the Lands End granite (British Geological Survey). Bartinney is crowned by a curious earthwork enclosure which encircles three large Bronze Age cairns; smaller cairns and barrows are sited on its upper flanks, whilst its eastern and south-eastern slopes were, until a few decades ago, the site of an extensive Bronze Age field system and round house settlement; this area also sited a number of enclosures of probable Iron Age date. Caer Bran is topped with a hilltop enclosure which contains three ring cairns, including a large central example; rounds (enclosed Romano-British farming settlements) are sited on its eastern, western and southern flanks. Goldherring, another courtyard house settlement excavated by Cornwall Archaeological Society between 1958-61, is just under two kilometres away to the south-east.

Carn Euny is a 'free site' whose overall management is the responsibility of the English Heritage Trust. The management of the vegetation on the site is undertaken by the Cornwall Heritage Trust.

4 Designations

4.1 National

At Chysauster, the main courtyard house complex (together with outlying house 10), the fogou, parts of the associated field system and the ticket hut are a Guardianship Site owned by and in the care of English Heritage. This area is also part of a larger Scheduled Monument (former Cornwall 37, National Reference 1006726) which includes a detached cairn to the north-west of the courtyard house complex and parts of the prehistoric field system to its north-east. These outlying elements of the Scheduled Monument are owned and managed by adjoining landowners. The carpark and public toilets are owned and managed by English Heritage, but lie outside the designated area.

Chysauster lies within an area designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Carn Euny courtyard house settlement complex is a Scheduled Monument (National Reference 1013802) and a Guardianship site. The site is wholly within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

4.2 Regional/county

The Chysauster courtyard house settlement lies within an area designated in the former Cornwall Structure Plan as an Area of Great Historic Value (AGHV), the recently demised West Penwith Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and an Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV). The area immediately to the north of the Guardianship site is a County Wildlife Site (CWS). The southern part of the site and the land to its south is Grade 3 agricultural land whilst the northern part of the site is Grade 4 agricultural land.

Carn Euny lies within an area designated in the former Cornwall structure plan as an AGHV and an AGSV.

5 Site histories

The earliest documentary references to Chysauster date to the early 14th century: these being references to its place name - *Chisalwester* in 1302 and *Chisalvestre* in 1313 (Padel 1988). The name derives from the Cornish place-name elements *Chy*, typically referring either to a cottage or a building used for agricultural or industrial purposes, and *Salwester*: the personal name 'Sylvester'. This name is Roman in origin, though adopted into Cornish, and is a derivative of *Silva*, 'wood', denoting 'a dweller in the wood'.

The Romano-British courtyard house settlement at Chysauster has been the subject of archaeological enquiry since the mid-19th century. It was first recognised by Henry Crozier in 1849 and a description of the upstanding remains of the settlement together with a plan was first published by J.T. Blight in the 1860s (Fig 2, Blight 1861a; Pool 1990, top left cover image). At that time the settlement was considered to comprise at least eight ruinous and overgrown stone-built 'huts' of 'elliptical form' (Blight 1861a).

In 1873 the well-known Cornish Antiquarian William Copeland Borlase cleared out the interior of one of the houses (his House 9) which he termed 'hut clusters' (Borlase 1873; 1880-81). In July 1879 W.C. Borlase and William Collings Lukis surveyed this house and in 1885 published a plan (Lukis 1885, plates XXXVII and XXXVIII and see Figs 3 and 4). This was later known as House 6 (Hencken 1933, plate LXXII).

Further excavation of House II by F. Holman and J.B. Cornish was undertaken in 1897 on behalf of The Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society. The site was accurately surveyed in 1928 by D.H. Watkins during excavations directed by T.D. Kendrick of the British Museum and Hugh O'Neill Hencken. In 1928 House 3 was excavated (Hencken 1928).

Three years later Chysauster came into Guardianship care, and in 1931, Hencken continued his work on behalf of His Majesty's Office of Works, excavating Houses 5 and 7; work was resumed on House 3, and some limited excavation, consolidation and repair work took place on Houses 6 and 7. Hencken published a full detailed account of the results of his excavations in *Archaeologia* soon after the fieldwork in 1933. Hencken's work soon began to draw a large number of visitors to the site, leading to some unfortunate deterioration of its structures.

Professional freelance archaeologist Charles Kenneth Croft Andrew was employed by the Office of Works to carry out work at Chysauster in 1937, 1938 and finally in 1939. His work involved some excavation, alongside the recording and consolidation of upstanding walls. Over these three consecutive years Croft Andrew worked on houses 3, 5, 4, 6, 9 and "hut 10". The results of these investigations have never been published.

In 1983, in the face of proposals for widespread moorland improvement on Great Downs, a survey of the area immediately upslope from the Guardianship site at Chysauster was undertaken by the Central Excavation Unit (CEU) and members of the Cornwall Committee for Rescue Archaeology (CCRA) (now CAU). A rescue excavation was undertaken of a kerbed cairn, whilst evaluation trenching of elements of the field system within this area was also carried out (Smith 1996). Palaeoenvironmental sampling undertaken as part of these works threw significant light on the developmental history of the local landscape in prehistory.

A survey of 71.92 Ha of the remaining unenclosed moorland and partially reclaimed croftland to the north and north-west of Chysauster was undertaken between December 1985 and February 1986 by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (Nowakowski and Sharpe 1986), whilst the aerial photographic plotting of West Penwith undertaken by CAU staff between 1997 and 1999 as part of the National Mapping Programme considerably extended the evidence available for the extent of prehistoric settlement and fields systems within the surrounding landscape.

A comprehensive review was undertaken by CAU in 2010 of the Croft Andrew Archive and other regional and national archive material relating to Chysauster (Nowakowski

and Gould 2010). This review examined material relating to the work undertaken at the site by William Copeland Borlase in 1873, Holman and Cornish in 1897, Kendrick and Hencken in 1928, Hencken in 1931 and Croft Andrew between 1937 and 1939 and included a consideration of artefactual material, maps, plans, photographs and other related documentation such as site daybooks and correspondence.

An interim Conservation Management Statement had been produced for the Chysauster Ancient Village site in 2002 (Coe 2002). This was reviewed in 2015/16 and a new Conservation Plan was produced by CAU (Fleming 2016).

A drone-flown photogrammetric survey has recently been commissioned by English Heritage. In addition, Historic England has undertaken an interpreted high precision GPS-based topographic survey of the whole of the Guardianship area (Bayer, forthcoming).

Current evidence for dating the occupation of Chysauster Ancient Village is limited to pottery and finds recovered during the 19th century excavations and by Hencken and Croft Andrew during the 1930s. The chronology of the finds archive for Chysauster is in the process of review but the main span of occupation is thought to date to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. A recent re-evaluation of the pottery from the site by Henrietta Quinnell suggests that its occupation might have been limited to the second century AD, and that almost all of the material consists of native wares (Olaf Bayer pers. comm.). Possible Iron Age material was recovered from Houses 3 and 7 during excavation of these by Hencken (1931; 1933), however, which may indicate earlier origins for at least some house components. It is notable that many courtyard house settlements, and Chysauster is no exception, occupy prime locations that clearly demonstrate significant longevity of settlement and farming landscapes. The phasing, modification and development of settlement in these areas is very likely, therefore, to reflect many centuries of use and re-use.

The roundhouses and associated fields adjacent to and within the wider area of settlement at Chysauster are thought to date to the late 2nd and 1st millennia AD (Smith 1996). Field survey by Cornwall Archaeological Unit in the 1980s (Nowakowski and Sharpe 1986) identified several possible additional courtyard houses on what is now the periphery of the main site, reinforcing the theory that the settlement was once more extensive in size and dispersed in nature. Analysis of the surrounding fieldscape suggests the potential locations of a number of further detached courtyard houses. The relative phasing of the nucleated and detached courtyard houses is unknown, though it is generally considered that the courtyard houses lying within the Guardianship area are likely to be secondary features, and were constructed within an already-established lynchetted field system.

Current interpretation considers that the principle surviving houses at Chysauster are of contemporary date deriving from one phase of construction, possibly with a 'planned' element. It was originally thought that they were built on either side of a central 'street' (Hencken 1933), but it is now considered that their arrangement derives from their construction on two parallel lynchets which represent elements of a pre-existing field system.

The evidence for phased occupation and remodelling of houses seen at other courtyard settlement, such as Carn Euny, is deemed to be absent. On this basis settlement at Chysauster is considered to have been relatively short-lived (this appears to be supported by Quinnell's recent analysis of the pottery from the site). Evidence for a sudden abandonment 'event' is also absent, the settlement considered to have sunk into a peaceful decline before the final occupants left (Hencken 1933). However, this argument was largely based on the apparent planned nature of the settlement. It is likely that the 'planned' elements of the settlement are broadly contemporary, and represent a later phase of construction than other elements of the original wider village.

Accounts of Chysauster Village by Blight (1861a; 1861b) and Borlase (1873) note that the settlement had suffered from significant removal of stone for building by the late 19th century. Hencken (1928, 150) quotes Richard Edmonds in 1861 as writing 'so

much of the old village has lately been removed that the cave (fogou), although originally within, now lies without it'. A degree of historical modification and repair of the site was also carried out by Borlase (1873), Cornish and Holman (1897), Hencken (1928; 1931) and Croft Andrew (1937-1939) based on the site's interpretation at those dates.

Carn Euny was formerly known as *Chapel Euny*, referring to a small (now demolished) medieval chapel associated with the holy well of St. Uny 250m to the west of the courtyard house settlement. The modern name references a *carn* or natural rocky outcrop and a version of the saint's name.

The earliest evidence for human activity at Carn Euny itself is represented by a few Mesolithic flints and a small number of Neolithic and Bronze Age finds recovered during Christie's excavations. A possible Neolithic long barrow is sited 825m to the south at the settlement in fields to the south of Brane farmstead and an entrance grave of Early Bronze Age date is sited 660m from Carn Euny in the same direction. A field system with associated round houses which survived on the adjacent lower slopes of Bartinney Hill until a few decades ago is assumed to have been of Bronze Age and Iron Age date and the surrounding area contains the sites of a number of Romano-British rounds. In 1864 the field immediately to the south of the settlement was the findspot of a Bronze Age pennanular armet or neck ornament made from Irish gold.

However, the earliest dated structures at Carn Euny itself belong to the Iron Age. The fogou was constructed around 500 BC and continued in use until c 30 BC (Christie's Phase 1), there being some evidence that its long passage was added during the later part of this period, replacing a previous means of access (an eastern extension to the creep passage). The earliest settlement on the site appears to have been associated with timber and turf houses (Phase II). The full extent of this settlement is unknown, but it is thought to have been occupied between c 300 BC and 50 BC. At the end of this period a number of stone-built houses were constructed (Phase III), though it is suggested that at least some of the timber houses remained in use. These round houses appear to have been occupied until the second century AD when a mixture of oval plan houses and courtyard houses were constructed on the site (Phase IV), one of which (House H) was built over the round chamber of the fogou. The later phase houses seem to have been occupied until around AD 400, when the site was abandoned.

In the mid-18th century a small cottage was built within the western part of the site and some new boundaries were constructed, almost certainly in part utilising stones from the courtyard houses. The cottage was abandoned by the mid-19th century and became derelict.

The fogou at Carn Euny is said to have been discovered by miners prospecting for tin during the early decades of the 19th century. William Copeland Borlase excavated this feature between 1863 and 1868 describing it as '*The Cave and Hut Circles at Chapel Euny*', discovering that its long passage had been backfilled and its eastern entrance deliberately blocked with a boulder on its abandonment. Borlase subsequently presented the results of his work to the Society of Antiquaries. In his publication *Naenia Cornubiae* he describes how, during his 1863 excavations, he found '*among other things, an iron spear-head, a crook and a rivet of the same metal, a small perforated stone or spindle-whorl, a quantity of black pottery, bones of animals, and a piece of Samian ware*' within the fogou. In the 1920s houses 1 and 2 were partially excavated by Dr. Favell and Canon Tyler.

Carn Euny was taken into Guardianship in 1953 by the Ministry of Works, who cleared scrub vegetation from the site; between 1962 and 1974 both the fogou and courtyard houses were archaeologically excavated (Christie 1978) demonstrating settlement activity from the Iron Age through to the beginning of the 4th century AD. Christie concluded that the settlement is likely to extend further to the west and south – these areas of the site remain unexcavated.

6 2016 Archaeological watching brief results

See Figures 2 to 9 for locations.

The archaeological watching brief was concerned with the installation of a number of post-mounted interpretative panels and operational signs. Many replaced existing post-mounted panels and signs, whilst the remainder were on entirely new sites (Panels 1, 2, 4 and 7 at Chysauster and Panels 1 and 3 at Carn Euny). All work was undertaken using hand tools by Rivermeade Signs under the supervision of Georgina Bishop of English Heritage at Chysauster and Helen Astill of English Heritage at Carn Euny. The first round of work at Chysauster was undertaken on 19th and 20th July 2016 and the second round of works at Chysauster and Carn Euny on the 24th August 2016.

6.1 Chysauster

6.1.1 Operational sign 1

SW 47150 34852. See Figures 2, 4, 11 and 12.

Two existing post-mounted signs at the lower end of the site directing visitors to the ticket office and the fogou were removed and replaced with a new double-sided sign on a single post. Whilst the sign to the fogou had simply been driven into the ground, the ticket office sign had been set into a 300mm x 300mm x 400mm deep mass of concrete overlain by turf and 100mm of the dry sandy loam which forms the topsoil across much of the site. The concrete was broken out by hand and the post for the new sign was set in the original socket, together with all of the original broken concrete and some additional Postcrete. The topsoil and turf were reinstated.

The topsoil at this point was found to be in excess of 400mm deep. No artefacts were recovered from the excavation.

6.1.2 Panel 1/Model

SW 47146 3855. See Figures 2, 4 and 22.

A new lectern-style interpretation panel interpreting the courtyard house settlement and incorporating a landscape model derived from the 2016 Historic England site survey and cast in in GRP mixed with bronze powder was installed close to the Custodian's Hut during the second watching brief in August 2016.

A pair of 200mm diameter post sockets for this panel were to be excavated close to the north-eastern edge of the mown path skirting the northern side of the Custodian's Hut. The first of these was successfully excavated to 500mm from surface, and was wholly within a fine mid-brown sandy, largely stone-free topsoil, though this had begun to transition into a more orange-coloured rab (subsoil) at this depth. The second posthole bottomed onto a large and immovable rock at 350mm from surface.

This pair of postholes was abandoned and a second pair was excavated immediately to their south-east. The first (to the south-east) showed a stratigraphy similar to that found in the first post hole, the topsoil extending to 500mm from surface, at which point the natural became progressively stonier, clean rab being found at 750mm from surface. That to the north-west became stony at 500mm from surface.

The new interpretation panel was Postcreted into place and the original turf was reinstated.

The stratigraphic evidence suggested a partly-gravity-sorted and deepened plough soil (the site for this interpretation board being near the lower edge of a long-standing agricultural enclosure). No artificial features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered.

6.1.3 Panel 2

SW 47207 34829. See Figures 2, 5 and 13.

This new panel interpreting the fogou was sited close to its entrance and just to its south-east.

A 200mm x 200mm post socket was hand excavated to a depth of 600mm on the eastern side of the path leading to the fogou. The turf covered very dry, friable mid-brown sandy topsoil. Small stone inclusions were found from 200mm below surface, whilst larger tabular pieces of granite were encountered below 500mm. The post for the new sign was set in a mixture of stone, soil and Postcrete and the turf was reinstated.

The topsoil was found to be in excess of 600mm deep at this point, though was notably more stony in its lower section. No artefacts were recovered from the excavation.

6.1.4 Operational sign 2

SW 47208 34836. See Figures 2, 5 and 13.

The existing 'Dangerous Drop' sign just to the north of the entrance to the fogou was replaced.

The post for the original sign had not been set in concrete. A circular posthole 200mm in diameter was hand excavated to a depth of 600mm once the original post and sign had been removed. Loose dry sandy topsoil was found to a depth of 500mm; below this, small stones were encountered. The new post was set in a mixture of excavated material and Postcrete and the turf was replaced.

No artefacts were recovered from the excavation.

6.1.5 Panel 3

SW 47238 34966. See Figures 2, 6, 14 and 15.

This panel replaced an existing example adjacent to the path leading into the area of courtyard houses, and was sited to the south-west of House 7. The new panel depicts the layout of a typical courtyard house.

The original post had been set into a block of mass concrete measuring approximately 300mm x 300mm x 500mm deep which incorporated some pieces of granite. Most of this was broken out by hand; the sides of the excavation were formed of topsoil throughout. The new post was set into the lower section of the original concrete socket, the hole was backfilled with broken concrete, stone, soil and Postcrete and the turf was removed.

No artefacts were recovered from the excavation.

6.1.6 Panel 4

SW 47276 34954. See Figures 2, 7, 16 and 17.

This new panel is located to the east of House 7, and interprets its use as a Methodist preaching arena. The post socket for the panel was excavated into the eastern edge of a slightly raised area just to the east of the eastern entrance to the house.

A socket measuring 250mm in diameter was hand excavated once the turf had been removed. Fine mid-brown sandy topsoil was found to a depth of to 150mm; below this depth the topsoil incorporated numerous small pieces of granite. The hole was terminated at 600mm from surface at the interface between the topsoil and the notably more orange rab (subsoil). The post for the sign was set in a mixture of stone, soil and Postcrete and the turf was reinstated.

No artefacts were retrieved from this excavation.

6.1.7 Panel 5

SW 47261 35009. See Figures 2, 8 and 18.

This interpretation panel replaces that formerly set to the south-east of House 6, and carries a depiction of the view from this location during the period when the courtyard house settlement was occupied.

The post for the original sign was found to be set within a 350mm x 350mm x 500mm mass of concrete covered by a small amount of topsoil and turf. The majority of the concrete was broken out by hand to a depth of 500mm from surface. Below this depth the concrete incorporated large stones which proved difficult to remove and were thus left in place. As a result the post for the new sign was shortened slightly so that

the sign could be set at the optimal reading height. The sides of the excavation consisted of slightly stony mid-brown sandy soil for the full depth exposed during the works. The new post was set into the remains of the original socket and the excavation was backfilled with a mixture of stone, broken concrete, soil and Postcrete, following which the turf was reinstated.

No artefacts were recovered from this excavation.

6.1.8 Panel 6

SW 47260 35021. See Figures 2, 8 and 19.

This panel replaces an original within the interior of House 6 interpreting its appearance during the Romano-British period of occupation.

Following de-turfing and the excavation of 150mm of dry, slightly pinkish sandy topsoil, the upper surface of a mass of concrete measuring 350mm x 350mm was revealed. This was broken out to a depth of 580mm. The sides of the original excavation were composed of topsoil to a depth of 450mm from surface, below which it had been cut through orange rab (subsoil). Whilst the concrete had incorporated pieces of fist-sized granite the sides of the excavation were relatively stone-free. The excavation was backfilled with broken concrete, stone, soil and Postcrete and the turf was reinstated.

No artefacts were recovered from this excavation.

6.1.9 Panel 7

SW 472224 35019. See Figures 2, 9, 20 and 21.

This new interpretation panel is located immediately east of the entrances into Houses 3a/3b and interprets their development.

Following de-turfing, a 200mm x 200mm post socket was hand excavated through sandy mid-brown slightly damp topsoil to a depth of 100mm, below which the soil became notably stonier. Below 400mm from surface larger stones were encountered. The base of the posthole was at 550mm from surface at the interface between the topsoil and the underlying rab (subsoil). The posthole was backfilled with stone, soil and Postcrete and the turf was reinstated.

No artefacts were recovered from this excavation.

6.1.10 Panel 8

Approximately SW 47268 35032

A panoramic view of the site and its surroundings is to be installed at a later date together with the new viewing platform to the north of House 6 (subject to Scheduled Monument Consent being granted by Historic England). These works were not the subject of this watching brief.

6.1.11 Replacement courtyard house signage

The identification number signs for each of the courtyard houses were replaced as part of this contract. As these were spiked into the ground at the locations used for the original signs, and as each ground spike measured 25mm square and was inserted into the ground to a maximum of 150mm depth, no archaeological watching brief was required for this work.

6.1.12 Replacement interpretation panels in the Education Hut

Four new interpretation panels were wall-mounted within the Education Hut. There was no requirement for an archaeological watching brief during this work.

6.2 Carn Euny

6.2.1 Panel 1

SW 40221 28859. See Figures 3 and 23.

The first of the features to be installed on the site in August 2016 was a new interpretation panel adjacent to the site entrance in the north-western quadrant of the site. A pair of 200mm diameter post sockets were hand excavated to 600mm depth to

take the legs for this panel. These small excavations were wholly within a medium brown sandy topsoil. One of these produced a body sherd of lightly-abraded Iron Age or RB pottery from about 300mm from surface (Fig 28).

The legs for the new interpretation panel were Postcreted into place and the turf was replaced.

6.2.2 Panel 2

SW 40258 8867. See Figures 3, 24 and 25.

An existing interpretation panel adjacent to the north-eastern quadrant of House 1 was replaced. On examination, the legs for the original panel were found to be supported on a 500mm x 400mm x 25mm thick steel plate set at around 75mm below the existing ground surface. It had been proposed that the new interpretation panel would be set on twin posts set into the ground. The first posthole was excavated to 300mm from surface through topsoil, though below this depth the ground became significantly stonier. The hole was eventually terminated at 400mm from surface. The second hole became very stony at 200mm from surface, and at this point it was decided to re-utilise the original sheet steel mount. The old sign was removed from this and, following some shortening of the new panel's legs, the new replacement interpretation panel was installed in the original excavation.

No artefacts were recovered during this work.

6.2.3 Panel 3

SW 40249 28811. See Figures 3, 26 and 27.

The original panel at this location, together with all evidence for its mounting, had disappeared. A new panel set on paired legs was installed close to the original location.

Two postholes 200mm in diameter were hand-excavated to 500mm deep through topsoil to 400mm from surface, rab being encountered below this depth. The panel's legs were Postcreted into place and the turf was replaced.

No artefacts were recovered from this area of the site.

6.2.4 Site information panel

SW 40269 28812.

A replacement information panel is to be erected at the south-eastern entrance to the site by the Cornwall Heritage Trust. The works associated with the replacement of the information panel were not the subject of this watching brief.

7 Dating evidence

One residual sherd of undecorated Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the excavations from Panel 1 at Carn Euny (Fig 28). No artefacts were recovered during the small-scale excavations at Chysauster.

8 Discussion

Given the methodology used for the installation of the new post-mounted interpretation panels and operational signage, namely the posts for five of the new signs being set within existing sockets, the hand excavation of very small-scale sockets for the posts for the remaining panels and the provision of an archaeological watching brief during the works, there were no negative impacts on the archaeology of the Guardianship sites at Chysauster and Carn Euny.

Given the approach taken for these works and the almost total lack of finds recovered during the groundworks, little new information has resulted from this archaeological watching brief. The almost universally deep (450mm to 600mm) topsoils encountered in the sockets excavated for the posts for the interpretation panels was somewhat

unexpected, though this might well be explained by the suggestion advanced by Olaf Bayer on the basis of interpretation of his 2016 survey of Chysauster that the courtyard house group forming the heart of this site had been established within a pre-existing lynchetted field system, within which soil depths at the lower edges of each terrace would have been significantly enhanced by plough action. Prehistoric agricultural activity may well have artificially deepened the natural soils at Carn Euny.

Whilst each of the excavations associated with the installation of the replacement interpretation panels was very limited in scale, it may be notable that only one (at Carn Euny) produced any artefactual material, even though some of these post sockets were located close to the courtyard houses at both sites. This may suggest that generalised rubbish scatters do not exist at either site, and that domestic waste was disposed of at specific midden sites for subsequent use in manuring operations on the nearby fields and 'garden plots'. The excavations within the settlement area at Chysauster and Carn Euny have to date been almost wholly targeted on the upstanding courtyard houses; there is thus little archaeological information about activities within their environs, and relating to the ways in which the inter-house areas were utilised. There may be some potential for evaluative excavation targeted on such area, in particularly on the garden plots at Chysauster which survey suggest are closely associated with each of the courtyard houses, and where artefacts associated with manuring activities might be expected to be most concentrated. In a similar fashion, the depth of the soils downslope from the courtyard houses at Carn Euny seem likely to have been enhanced by associated agricultural activities, and are thus potentially artefact rich.

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10 Project archive

The CAU project number is **PR146609**

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: \\Sites\Sites C\Chysauster interpretation replacement WB 2016\

Digital photographs: \\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.A-D\Chysauster interpretation replacement WB 2016

Historic England/ADS OASIS online references: cornwall2-258523 and cornwall2-261195

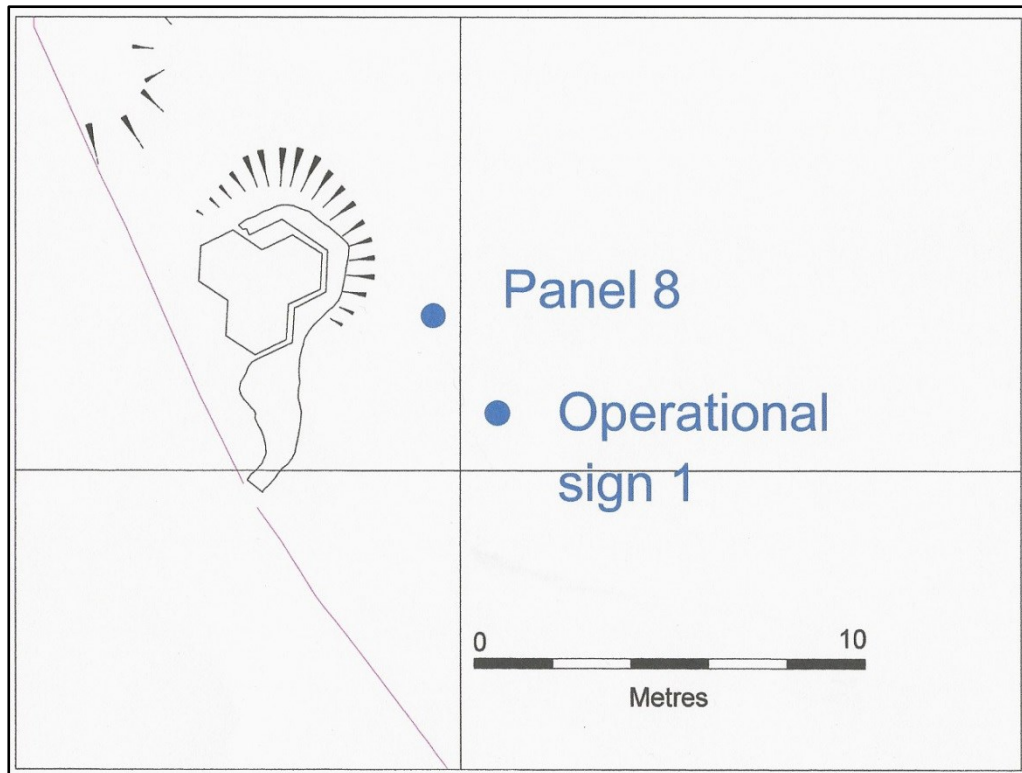


Fig 4. The location of Operational Sign 1 and Panel 8 near the Chysauster Ticket Hut. Historic England 2016 draft base survey.

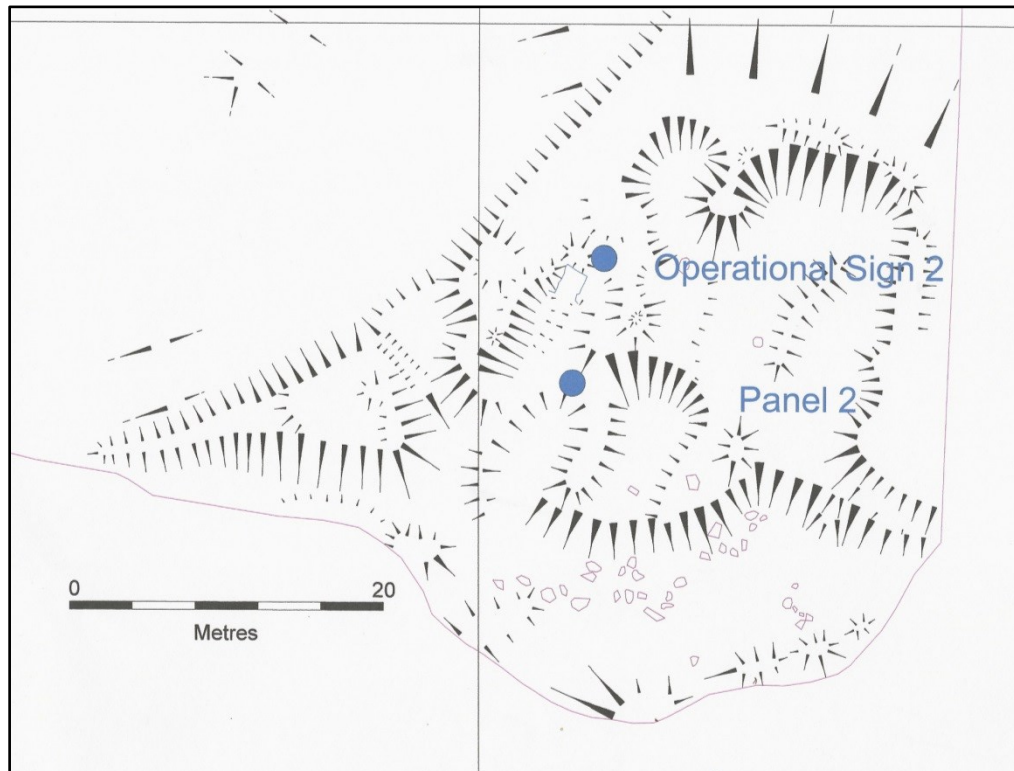


Fig 5. The locations of Panel 2 and Operational Sign 2 adjacent to the Fogou at Chysauster. Historic England 2016 draft base survey.

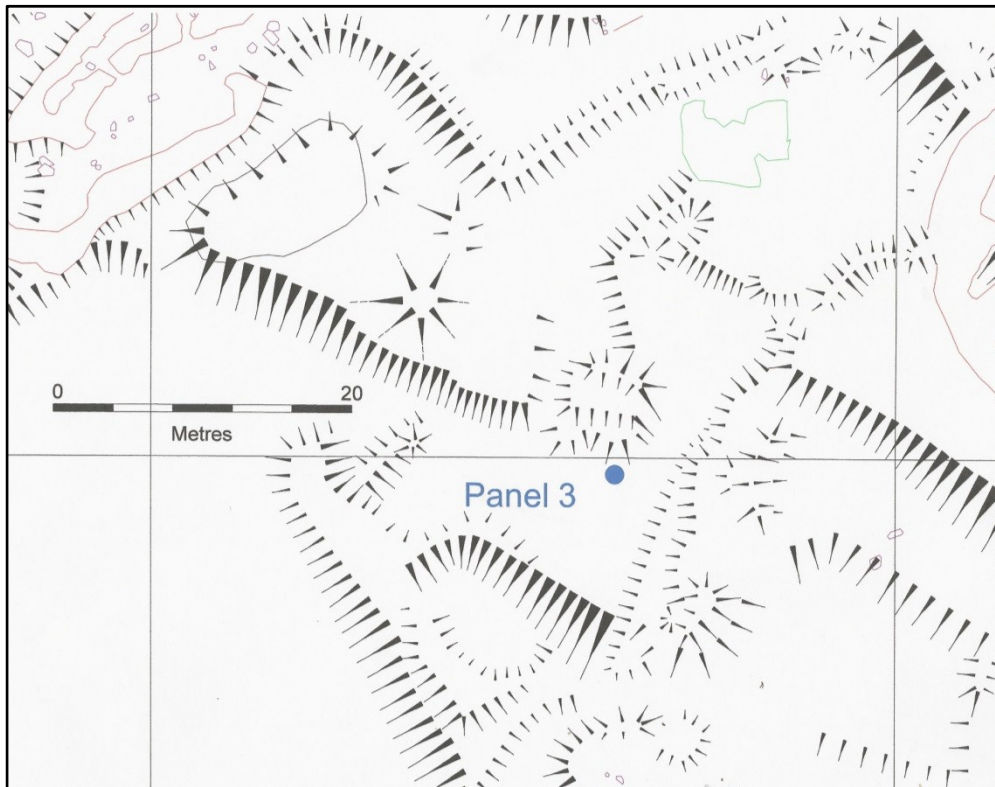


Fig 6. The location of Panel 3 to the south of the Chysauster courtyard house settlement. Historic England 2016 draft base survey.



Fig 7. The location of Panel 4 to the east of House 7 at Chysauster. Historic England 2016 draft base survey.

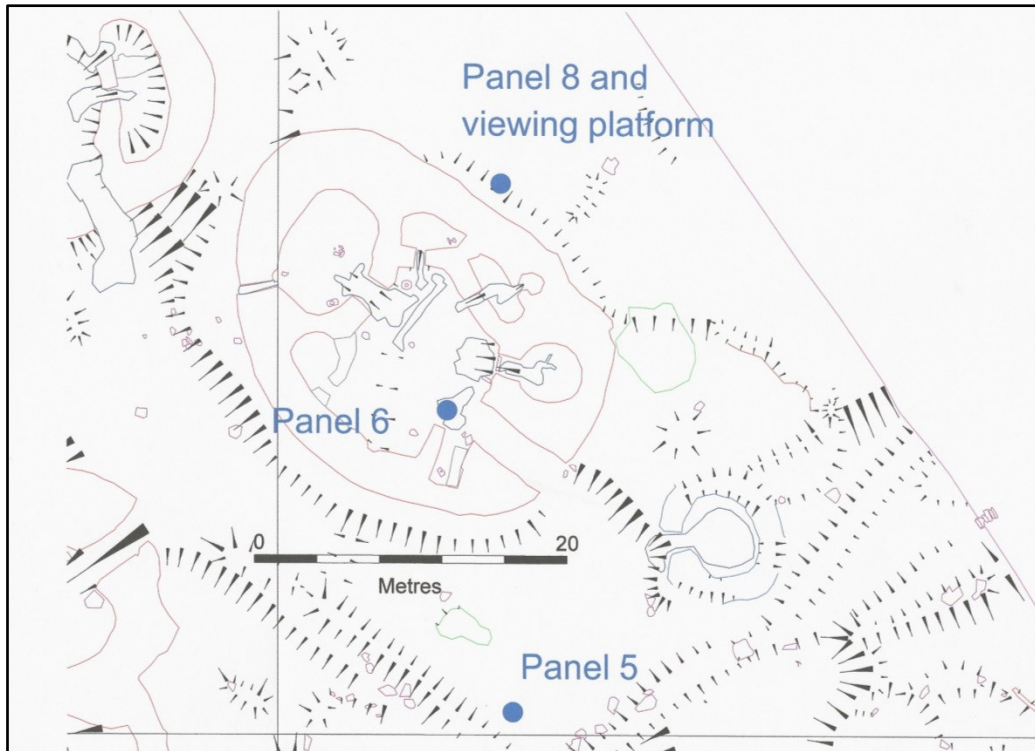


Fig 8. The locations of Panels 5 and 6 near House 6 at Chysauster, as well as the proposed viewing platform and panoramic interpretation panel. Historic England 2016 draft base survey.

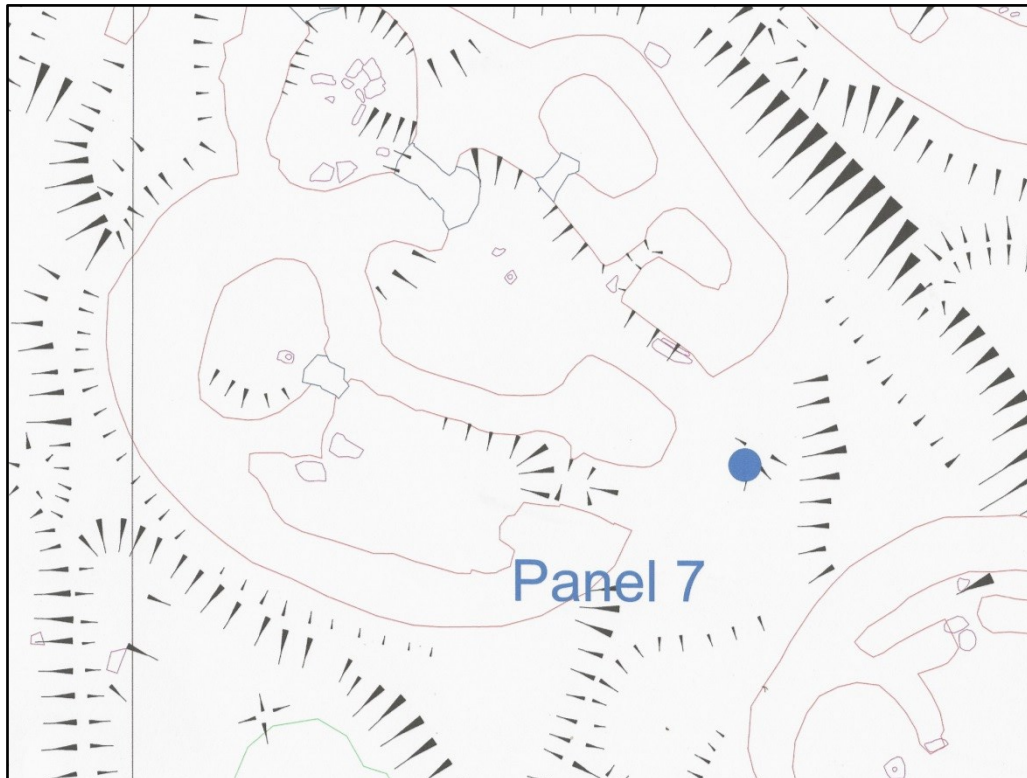


Fig 9. The location of Panel 7 just to the east of Chysauster Houses 3a/3b. Historic England 2016 draft base survey.



Fig 10. One of the existing faded interpretation panels at Chysauster requiring replacement, in this instance in House 6.



Fig 11. Hand excavating to remove the original Operational Sign 1 near the Chysauster ticket hut.



Fig 12. The replacement Operational Sign installed adjacent to the Chysauster ticket hut.



Fig 13. The new Panel 2 and (background) Operational Sign 2 adjacent to the entrance to the fogou at Chysauster.



Fig 14 Excavating the original mount for Panel 3 at Chysauster.



Fig 15. The replacement Panel 3 to the south of the Chysauster courtyard house settlement.



Fig 16. Installing new Panel 4 adjacent to House 7 at Chysauster.



Fig 17. The view from new Panel 4 into House 7 at Chysauster.



Fig 18. New Panel 5 installed just to the south of House 6 at Chysauster.



Fig 19. New Panel 6 installed inside House 6 at Chysauster, replacing that shown in Fig 10.



Fig 20. Completion of the installation of new Panel 7 adjacent to Houses 3a and 3b at Chysauster.



Fig 21. New Panel 7 installed at the entrance to Houses 3a/3b at Chysauster.



Fig 22. Concreting in the legs for new Interpretation Panel 1 near the ticket hut at Chysauster. This panel incorporates a 3D plan of the site derived from the 2016 Historic England survey.



Fig 23. Removing the protective film from new Panel 1 at Carn Euny. The right hand posthole in this view produced a sherd of Iron Age pottery.



Fig 24. The original Interpretation Panel 2 at Carn Euny following its removal, showing the heavy steel plate which had anchored it into the ground.



Fig 25. Replacing the turf at the site of Panel 2 at Carn Euny. The new interpretation panel was mounted on the original shallowly-buried baseplate rather than being set into postholes.



Fig 26. Panel 3 at Carn Euny following its installation.



Fig 27. The image shown on panel 3 at Carn Euny: a reconstruction of the view from the panel's location during the Romano-British period.



Fig 28. The sherd of Iron Age or RB pottery recovered from the topsoil during the excavation for Panel 1 at Carn Euny. 4 cm scale.

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