



Cotehele Biomass Heating Main, Cornwall.  
Archaeological Watching Brief

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2017R009



Report No

2017R009

Report Name

Cotehele Biomass Heating Main, Cornwall.  
Archaeological Watching Brief.

Report Author

C. M. Thorpe

Event Type

Watching Brief

Client Organisation

The National Trust

Client Contact

Peter Bee

Monuments (MonUID)

House. Ref 1140255	Great Barn. Ref 1140258	Retainer's Court. Ref 1138043	Coach House. Ref 1138080	Dairy Cottage. Ref 1140257	
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Fieldwork dates (From)

22/11/16

(To)

23/01/17

(Created By)

CMT

(Create Date)

Jan 2017

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Cotehele House. The parish of Calstock.

(Town - for urban sites)

St Dominick

(Postcode)

PL12 6TA

(Easting) X co-ord

SX 42239

(Northing) Y co-ord

68609



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## Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BGS	British Geological Survey
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
HER	Historic Environment Record
NT	National Trust

## **1 Project background**

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned by Peter Bee, SW Project Manager, Renewable Energy Investment Programme, National Trust, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and recording during trenching required for the distribution pipework associated with the installation of a biomass heating system at Cotehele House (centred at SX 42239 68609). This work involved the excavation of several sections of trench, totalling roughly 300m in length, connecting the Dairy Cottages, the Main House and the Great Barn to the heating system. The trenches were on average 0.6m wide, and dug to a depth of 1m (Fig 3).

The watching brief was required to fulfil conditions set by planning application PA16/06602 and Listed Building Consent PA16/06603.

A brief for this work had been prepared by Jim Parry, National Trust Regional Archaeologist for the National Trust. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1), was produced (05/08/2016) by Adam Sharpe (Archaeology Projects Officer, CAU).

This short report covers the results of an intermittent archaeological watching brief carried out by Ryan Smith and the author between the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.

## **2 Location and background**

Cotehele House is located about one mile (1.6 Km) to the west of the town of Calstock (SX 42239 68609) situated on the top of the steeply sloping west bank of the River Tamar (Figs 1 and 2). It is within the parish of Calstock. The underlying geology is interbedded sandstones and shale of the Lower Carboniferous Cotehele Sandstone Formation (BGS 1994).

Cotehele was originally part of the manor of Calstock and first occurs as a surname in 1280 (Gover 1948, 179). The Cornish place-name, earlier in origin, means 'wood on an estuary' (Padel 1985, 66, 127).

From the late fourteenth century until 1947, Cotehele was owned by the Edgcumbe family. In 1353 Cotehele had its own house chapel or oratory dedicated to Saints Cyricus and Julitta and the north wall of this may survive. By 1480, Cotehele was described as a 'mansion place' with a hall, chambers, kitchen, 'divers doors', and servants. Fragments of the medieval house, including recycled window openings, appear to survive and suggest a courtyard plan like the present house.

The major development of Cotehele is likely to have begun in the period 1485-9 when Richard Edgcumbe consolidated his knightly status by acquiring the manor and honour of Totnes, including a mansion at Meavy, as well as the forfeited lands of the Bodrugans. Cotehele remained the main seat of the Edgcumbes when not in London during the following centuries. From 1493, or perhaps 1497 when Piers Edgcumbe came into his full inheritance until about 1520, Cotehele was subjected to a major rebuilding programme. Further rebuilding took place in the mid-sixteenth century with the replacement of some detailing and the extension of ranges and the construction of the north-west tower.

Further alterations were made to the house during the mid-seventeenth century and again in the early eighteenth century after a period of neglect when the family had rarely been in residence. During the first half of the nineteenth century the interiors were remodelled in the then current Romantic style, and from 1861 the house underwent a further series of internal re-arrangements.

Cotehele was acquired by the National Trust in 1947. All the major buildings within the complex are Listed, with the House (Ref 1140255), Great Barn (Ref 1140258) and Retainer's Court and Screen Wall (Ref 1138043) being Grade 1 Listed Buildings. Other buildings are either Listed Grade II\* or Grade II (Sharpe 2016).

The surrounding grounds are a Registered Park and Garden are Listed at Grade II\* (Ref 1000648). Cotehele House is wholly within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the area immediately to the east of the house was designated as an Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV) in the former Cornwall Structure Plan.

The Historic Landscape Character of Cotehele is classified as ORN (ornamental land). This is the deliberately and carefully manipulated landscape, parklands and gardens surrounding large country houses, normally of eighteenth and nineteenth century origin. There are often three elements to this, a) Pleasure gardens usually immediately around the house, b) Parkland, land that is a mix of grazed or mown lawns and scattered trees and c) Ornamental plantations used as shelter belts, frames for views, cover for game, and as sources of timber (Cornwall County Council 1996).

### **3 Aims and objectives**

The aims of the project were:

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

### **4 Working methods**

Trenching was carried out by a small 1.6 tonne swing shovel fitted with a 0.45m toothless bucket. Where service cables were suspected, or unexpectedly encountered, trenching was undertaken by hand digging. Trenches were then left open to allow them to be inspected by an archaeologist. The archaeologist examined the trenches for any archaeological features or artefacts and a photographic record was made. Notes were made of the soil profile encountered. The spoil was also examined for any artefacts.

A plan showing the location of the trenches was made at a scale of 1:500 (Fig 3) that also recorded the position of where soil profiles were recorded. The trench numbering system was that adopted by the contractor: Dunster Biomass Heating.

### **5 Results**

See Figure 3 for locations.

#### **Trenches 1 and 3. Dairy Orchard.**

Roughly 70m of trench was examined running in an approximately south-west to north-east direction from the north wall of the building located at SX 42207 68477 (part of the south western range of sheds attached to Dairy Cottage), curving in an arc through the orchard to the north of the hedge forming the garden boundary to Dairy Cottage before connecting with the west wall of the gardeners' workshop building that is to house the new biomass boiler at SX 42238 68520 (Figs 3, 4 and 5).

This trench was on average 0.6m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1m.

The average profile recorded along the length of the trench consisted of 0.05m of grass roots and topsoil overlying 0.1m of grey-brown clay loam, and 0.1m of yellow, grey-

brown clay. This in turn overlay 0.5m of yellow, grey-brown clay with numerous stone fragments and 0.25m rotten decayed bedrock which was not bottomed.

The only place where this profile varied was immediately adjacent to the gardeners' workshop building at the eastern end of trench 1. This range of buildings had been dug into the side of the hill slope with the eaves of the buildings on the western side were roughly level with the ground. Part of the construction cut for these buildings was observed within the trench where it was found that approximately 2.1m before the wall of the building the natural bedrock had been cut away at an angle of roughly 30 degrees sloping to the east. Once the buildings had been erected the gap between the wall and the hill had been backfilled with dark brown clay and angular stones which was then overlain by grey-brown clay loam and topsoil.

Several modern services were encountered along the length of the trench. A group of three plastic conduits running roughly north to south were located at approximately SX 42234 68516 at a depth of around 0.3m below the surface. These were for BT lines and possibly electrical services. Two high voltage power cables were encountered at roughly SX 42224 68510, again running roughly north to south towards Dairy Cottage at a depth of about 0.7m below the surface.

A ceramic drain of roughly 0.2m diameter running approximately north-east to south-west across the line of the trench towards Dairy Cottage was located at SX 42224 68507 at a depth of about 0.5m.

No archaeological features were recorded along the length of the trench apart from these modern services and no artefacts were recovered.

### **Trench 2. Dairy Cottage.**

This trench connected with trenches 1 and 3 at roughly SX 42224 68507 and ran for about 28m in a south-easterly direction to connect with the north wall of an outbuilding on the east side of Dairy Cottage at SX 42236 68485. This trench was on average 0.6m wide and dug to a depth of 1m (Fig 3).

A similar soil profile to that recorded in trenches 1 and 3 was observed. No archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

This trench breached the wall separating the orchard from the garden. The wall was 1.2m high and approximately 2m wide. It was a stone faced earthen bank upon which hazel had been planted. The fill of the bank was a very friable loose black-brown silty clay with few stones.

### **Trench 6. Gardeners' Garden.**

This trench was located within the garden of the Head Gardener. Roughly 20m long the trench ran north-west to south-east across the eastern side of the garden (centred at SX 42212 68578). The trench was on average 0.45m wide and dug to a depth of 1m (Figs 3 and 6).

The average profile recorded along the length of the trench consisted of 0.05m of grass roots and topsoil overlying 0.15m of grey-brown clay loam, and 0.2m of grey-brown clay. This in turn overlay 0.4m of yellow, grey-brown clay with numerous stone fragments and 0.2m of rotten decayed bedrock.

Several modern services were encountered at the south eastern end of the trench. These included two plastic conduits running roughly west to east, along with a copper earthing ribbon located at roughly SX 42213 68373 at a depth of approximately 0.5m below the surface and a further iron pipe some 2m to the north of these again at a depth of 0.5m. Apart from the modern services, no archaeological features were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered.

### **Trench 7. Bowling Green.**

Traversing the north western corner of the bowling green and the lawn that lies in front of the south gateway into the courtyard of the house, this trench running roughly south-west to north-east from SX 42234 68548 to SX 42244 68570 was about 36m long. With an average width of 0.7m, the trench was dug to a depth of 1m (Figs 3 and 7).

The average profile recorded along the length of the trench consisted of 0.05m of grass roots and topsoil overlying 0.1m of grey-brown clay loam, and 0.05m of yellow, grey-brown clay. This layer in turn overlaid 0.5m of yellow, grey-brown clay with numerous stone fragments and 0.3m of rotten decayed bedrock.

An electric cable running north-west to south-east was intersected at SX 42243 68556 at a depth of 0.4m below the current surface. This was within a trench 0.3m wide, and 0.45m deep that had been infilled with yellow-brown clay.

A copper pipe (possibly a heating oil feeder pipe) orientated north-east to south-west across the trench was located at SX 42242 68560 at a depth of 0.2m.

A group of four service cables running roughly west to east was encountered just south of the turning circle of the driveway (centred at SX 42244 68568). These consisted of a corrugated plastic duct, two phone cables, and an iron pipe. These lay at depths varying between 0.1m and 0.8m below the surface.

No archaeological features were recorded along the length of the trench apart from these modern services and no artefacts were recovered.

### **Trench 8. Hall Court.**

This trench emerged from the south wall of the southern range of buildings of the Hall Court at SX 42237 68584 and curved around the carriageway turning circle in a roughly south-easterly direction to connect with trench 7 at SX 42245 68570. This trench was roughly 22m long, averaged 0.6m in width and was dug to a depth of 1m (Figs 3, 8 and 9).

Within this trench the average profile recorded consisted of 0.02m black, grey-brown clay with gravel (the surface of the driveway) overlying 0.03m yellow, grey-brown clay, 0.05m light grey-brown clay, 0.08m light yellow to cream-brown clay and 0.02m dark black-brown clay. These layers formed the make-up of the carriageway. These in turn overlay 0.6m yellow, grey-brown clay with numerous stone fragments and 0.2m of decayed bedrock.

Numerous modern services were found along the length of this trench. At SX 42238 68578 a copper oil pipe was recorded at a depth of 0.2m below the surface running in a north-east to south-west direction.

Across the width of the carriageway, but with the majority concentrated within a distance of roughly 2m from the base of the wall (Fig 9) of the southern range of buildings (centred at SX 42237 65883), a large number of services were recorded. These included a ceramic drainpipe (roughly 0.3m diameter), a ceramic pipe (0.2m diameter), an iron water pipe, two corrugated plastic ducts, four other plastic ducts, and two electric cables. These all ran roughly north-east to south-west parallel to the range of buildings at depths varying between 0.1m and 0.5m below the current ground surface.

Apart from these modern services no other archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

### **Trench 9. Carriageway.**

This trench connected with trenches 7 and 8 at SX 42245 68570 and ran for a distance of roughly 30m in a north-easterly direction along the carriageway and path to a point



within the pathway to the north of the Great Barn at SX 42275 68585. This trench was on average 0.6m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1m (Figs 3 and 10).

A similar soil profile to that recorded in trench 8 was noted. Again the trench came across numerous modern services along its length though the majority were concentrated to the north of the Great Barn.

At SX 42265 68581 an electric cable with a copper earthing ribbon was located at a depth of 0.4m.

Within the final (easternmost) 12m of this trench (centred at SX 42270 68584) eight services were encountered. These included two corrugated plastic ducts, one plastic pipe of 0.15m diameter, one iron pipe (a possible heating oil feed), a blue alkathene water pipe, two black cables in plastic ducts (possibly BT phone lines), and an iron pipe (0.2m diameter) probably for water. These all ran roughly north-west to south-east across the trench at depths varying between 0.1m and 0.5m below the current ground surface.

No other archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

#### **Trench 10. Mansion East Range.**

This trench ran from SX 42237 68606 (just to the north of the porched entrance into the East Range of the house), south-easterly along the pathway and then curving eastwards to connect with trench 9 at SX 42275 68585. This trench was approximately 30m long, on average 0.6m wide, and was dug to a depth of 1m (Figs 3 and 11).

Within this trench the average profile recorded consisted of 0.02m black, grey-brown clay with gravel (the surface of the pathway) overlying 0.03m yellow to grey-brown clay, 0.3m dark grey-brown clay, and 0.1m compacted orange to red-brown clay. These layers formed the make-up of the pathway. In turn these overlaid 0.5m yellow to grey-brown clay with numerous stone fragments and 0.05m of decayed bedrock.

Two ceramic sewage pipes were recorded at SX 42262 68591, one running north-east to south-west, and one running east-north-east to west-south-west. Both had a diameter of 0.3m and were at a depth of 0.4m.

Centred at SX 42264 68588 was a group of services consisting of a blue alkathene water pipe, two plastic conduits, and a BT cable. These ran roughly north to south and varied in depth between 0.5m and 0.7m.

Where this trench passed along the frontage of the Eastern Range of the house (a length of roughly 15m) nine further services were recorded. These included two iron pipes (one possibly containing an electrical power supply), two ceramic pipes (probably for drains), three plastic ducts, a copper earthing ribbon, and a blue alkathene water pipe. These all ran approximately west to east across the line of the trench and varied in depth from 0.1m to 0.7m below the current ground level.

Apart from these services no other archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

#### **Trench 11. Shop.**

This trench commenced at the connection with trenches 9 and 10 at SX 42275 68585 and continued in a roughly-south easterly direction across the path and lawn to pass through the northern wall of an outbuilding situated about 5m to the north-east of the shop at the northern end of the Great Barn range (SX 4228 68579). This trench was about 20m long, averaged 0.6m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1m (Figs 3 and 12).

The average profile recorded here consisted of 0.05m grass, roots and topsoil, and 0.1m grey-brown clay-loam, overlying 0.2m red to grey-brown clay, 0.05m yellow to grey-brown clay, 0.5m yellow to grey-brown clay with numerous stone fragments, and 0.1m of decayed bedrock.

A ceramic pipe 0.2m in diameter was recorded at SX 42278 68585 running roughly north-east to south-west at a depth of 0.1m.

No other archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

### **Trenches 12, 14, and 16. The Great Barn.**

This trench ran from the outbuilding about 5m to the north-east of the shop situated at the north end of the Great Barn range (SX 42284 68574) in a south-easterly direction along the path immediately outside of the eastern wall of the Great Barn to enter the visitor reception building at SX 42301 68539. This trench was about 55m long, on average about 0.6m wide, and dug to a depth of 1m (Figs 3 and 13).

The average profile recorded along the length of this trench consisted of 0.05m of black to grey-brown clay and gravel (the path surface) and 0.05m black to grey-brown clay over a layer of geotextile sheeting. This in turn overlaid 0.02m pale cream-brown sandy clay, 0.08m grey-brown clay, 0.2m compacted grey to green-brown clay with some stone fragments, 0.5m yellow to grey-brown clay with stone fragments, 0.05m pale yellow to cream coloured clay and 0.05m of rotten bedrock.

Numerous modern services were recorded crossing the trench, the majority trending west to east. These services included two iron pipes 0.2m in diameter, two plastic pipes, three blue alkathene water pipes, two copper ducts wrapped in yellow plastic (electrical services), two ceramic sewage pipes of 0.3m diameter, two black cables (either BT phone lines or electrical cables), a black corrugated plastic duct and a yellow plastic gas main. These varied in depth between 0.2m and 0.75m below the current ground surface.

Two iron pipes 0.2m in diameter, a blue alkathene water pipe, and a ceramic sewage pipe 0.3m in diameter were also found running parallel with the Barn (running north-west to south-east) to the west of the main trench. These varied in depth between 0.25m and 0.4m below the current ground surface.

Apart from these services no other archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

## **6 Discussion**

Apart from encountering many modern services, the position, and routes of which were mostly unknown to the National Trust and thus were unsuspected, no archaeological features were identified; it is thus evident that this work had no discernible impact on any buried archaeological remains. It suggests that the areas traversed by these trenches had not been the sites of any unrecorded structures associated with the development of Cotehele and that there has been a fairly considerable amount of unrecorded service trenching within these areas.

## 7 References

British Geological Survey, 1994. 1:50,000 sheet 337 Tavistock.

Cornwall County Council, 1996. *Cornwall: A Landscape Assessment 1994*. Report produced by Landscape Design Associates in association with Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

Gover, JEB, 1948. *Place-Names of Cornwall*, (manuscript at RCM, Truro)

Padel, OJ, 1985. *Cornish Place-Name Elements*, English Placename Society, Nottingham

Sharpe, A, 2016. *Cotehele House, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a biomass heating main*. Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Cornwall Council.

## 8 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146629**

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. The contents of this archive are listed below:

1. Projects file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration (146629).
2. Field plans stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 872/1-3).
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory: R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.A-D\Cotehele\Cotehele House Biomass 2016-17. HEXQPR 146629
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-274772
5. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites C\Cotehele biomass WB 2016-17 HEXQPR146629\Report
6. No artefacts were recovered during the course of the project.

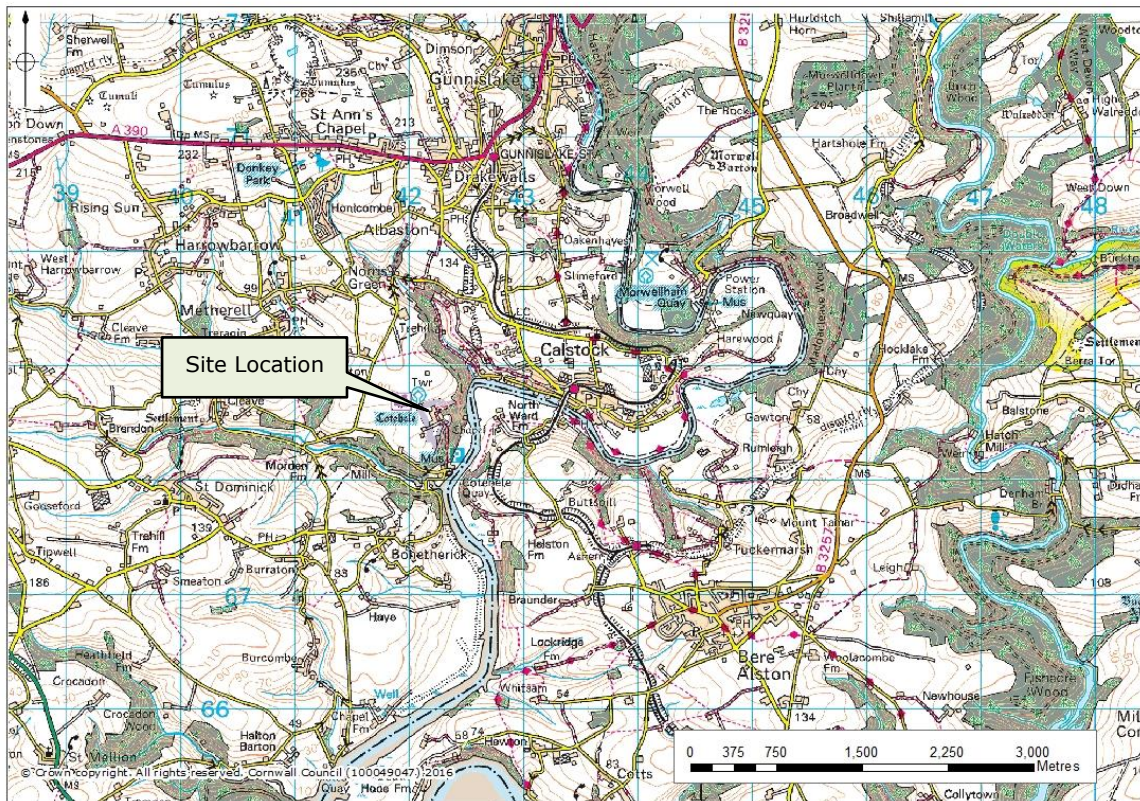


Figure 1. General site location.

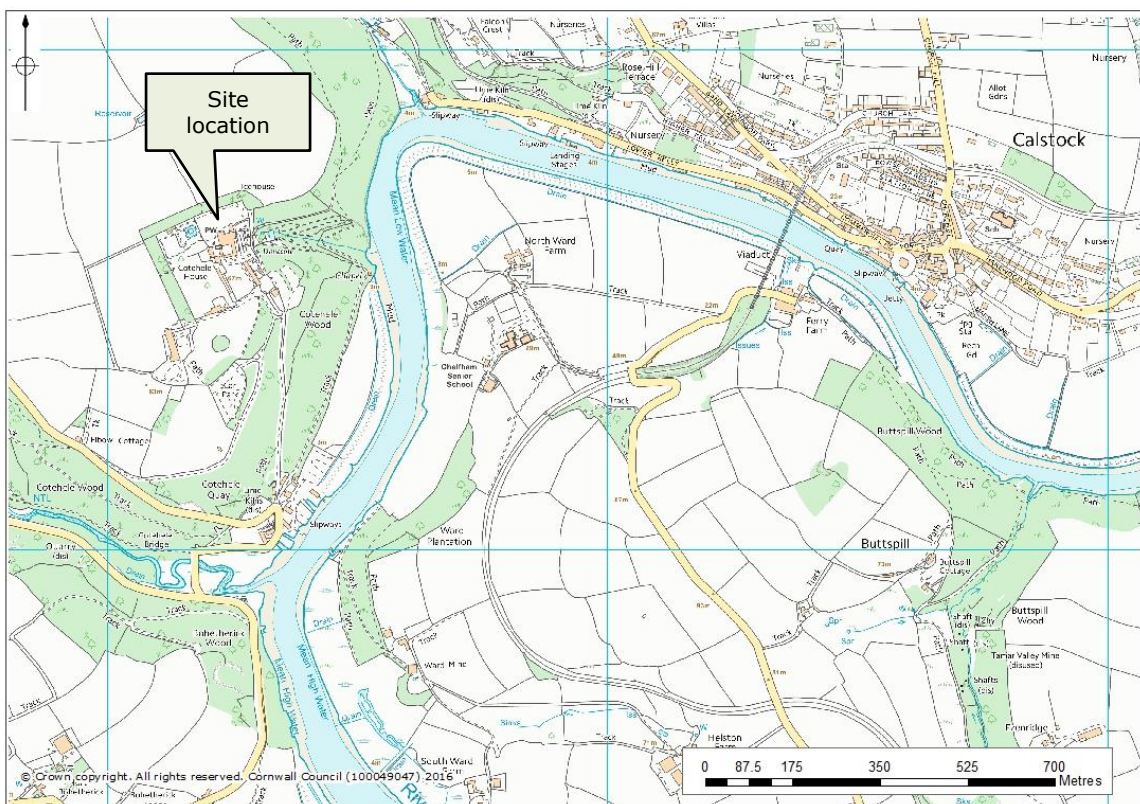


Figure 2. Site location showing relationship to Calstock and the River Tamar.

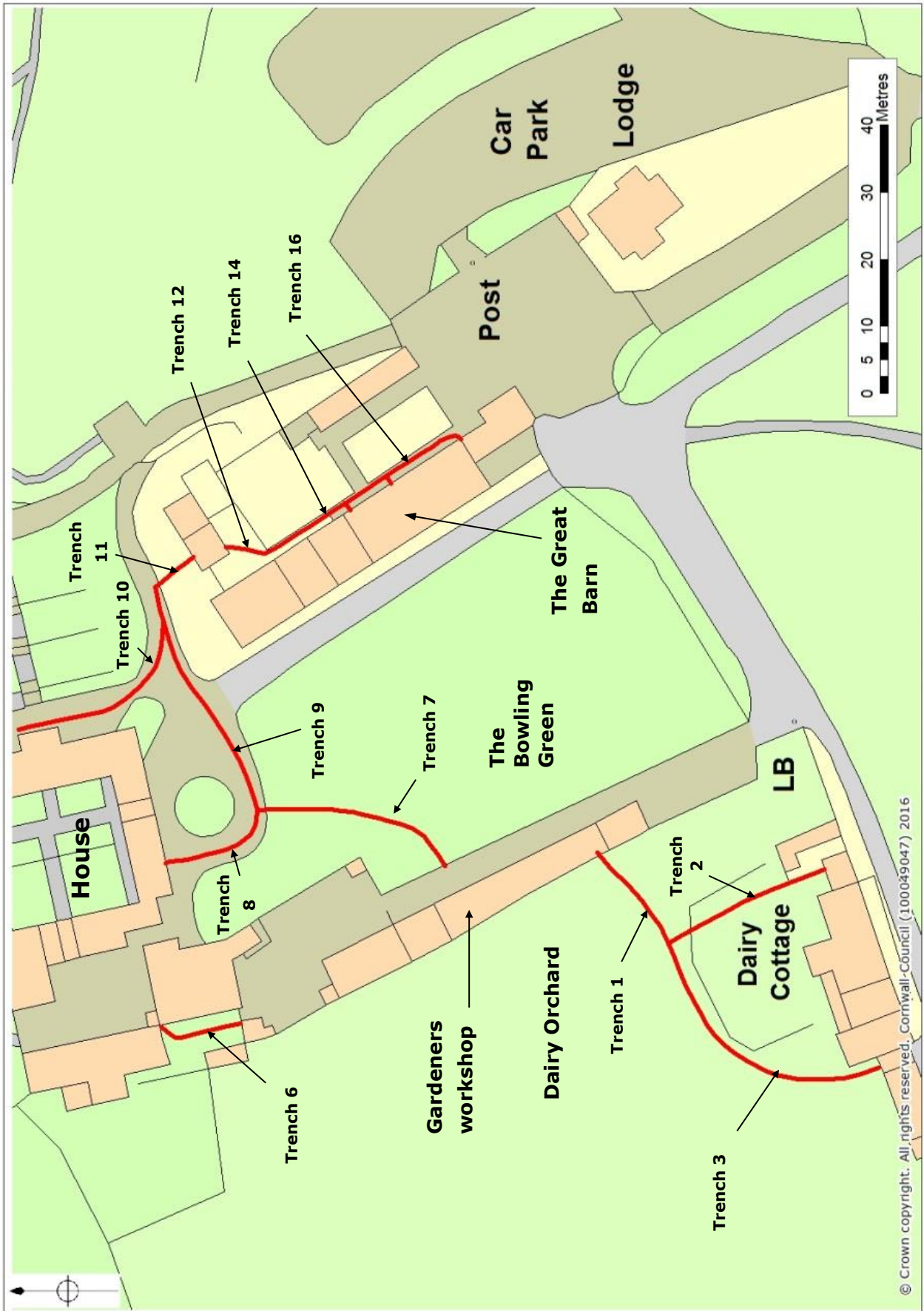


Figure 3. Site plan showing trench locations.



Figure 5. Trench 3 looking south west.



Figure 4. Trench 1 looking east.



*Figure 6. Trench 6 looking south west.*



*Figure 7. Trench 7 looking north east.*



Figure 9. North end of Trench 8 showing the density of services encountered.



Figure 8. Trench 8 looking north.





Figure 10. Trench 9. East end, looking westwards.

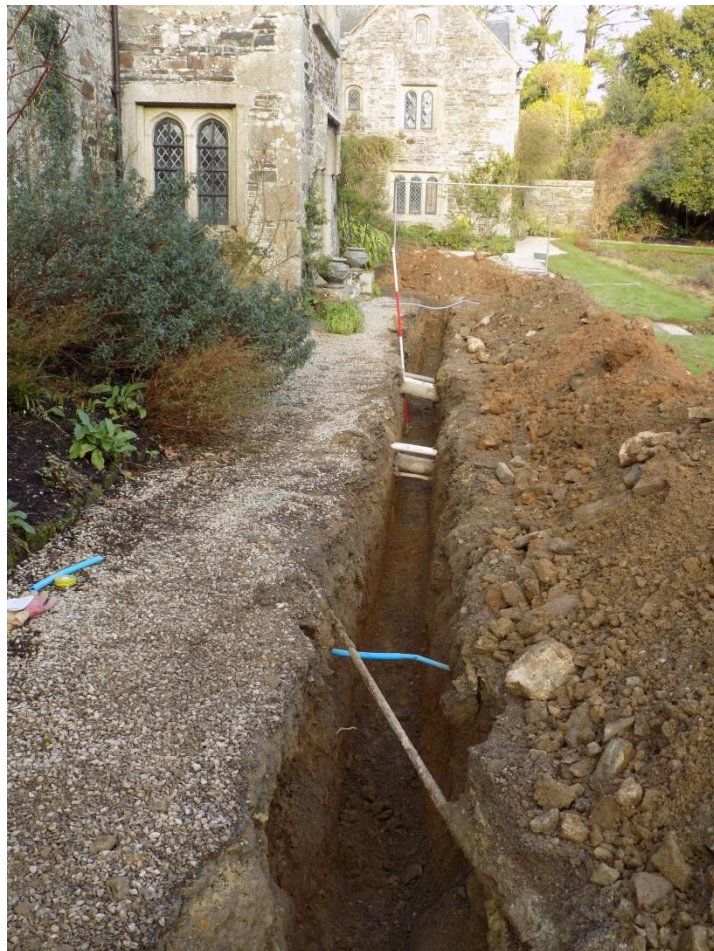


Figure 11. Trench 10 looking north.



Figure 13. Trenches 12, 14 and 16 looking east.



Figure 12, Trench 11 looking south east.

## **9 Appendix 1. Cotehele House, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a biomass heating main**

Client: The National Trust  
Client contact: Peter Bee  
Contact Tel: 07980 585132  
Client email: Peter.Bee@nationaltrust.org.uk

### **Project background**

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was contacted by Peter Bee, SW Project Manager, Renewable Energy Investment Programme, the National Trust on 05 August 2016 with a request for a cost schedule and associated method statement for undertaking an archaeological watching brief during trenching for the distribution pipework associated with the installation of a biomass heating system at Cotehele House. Details of the proposals including a maplet indicating the pipe trenching routes were also supplied. The wood pellet burner, boiler and associated equipment is to be sited in the existing gardeners' workshop building to the south-west of the house, from which a series of heating mains will fan out to connect to the house and the Great Barn. As well as a series of one metre deep, 500mm wide trenches which will be (largely) machine excavated across open spaces between buildings, six entry points will be cut through building foundations to allow the pipework to access the house and barn (see maplet at the end of this WSI for the locations of these).

Cotehele House is sited on the west bank of the River Tamar in Calstock parish, Cornwall and is centred at SX 42239 68609. The House (Ref 1140255), Great Barn (Ref 1140258) and Retainer's Court and Screen Wall (Ref 1138043) are Grade 1 Listed Buildings, the Culverhouse (Ref 1140259), the Chapel of St. George and St. Thomas (Ref 1140219) and the Prospect Tower (Ref 1311985) are Listed Grade II\*, whilst the Coach House and attached outhouses (Ref 1138080), the Lodge (Ref 1329313), Dairy Cottage and the attached house (Ref 1140257), the Icehouse (Ref 1311981) together with the garden walls (Ref 1140256) and enclosing walls to the west of the house (Ref 1312010) are Listed Grade II; the surrounding grounds are a Registered Park and Garden Listed at Grade II\* (Ref 1000648). Cotehele House is wholly within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the area immediately to the east of the house was designated as an Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV) in the former Cornwall Structure Plan, The Historic Landscape Character of Cotehele is ORN (ornamental land).

A brief for this work has been prepared by Jim Parry, National Trust Regional Archaeologist for the National Trust. Historic Environment Planning (Archaeology) responded to the consultation for this work at pre-application stage on 04 August 2016 as follows:

*We have studied the Planning Statement and the Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief accompanying this application. We consider that the Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief presents an acceptable approach to the required archaeological works.*

**RECOMMENDATION:** *We recommend that if consent is given that a single archaeological recording condition of sections A-D inclusive, which includes words*

recommended by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), as follows:

A) No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and: 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording, 2. The programme for post investigation assessment, 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording, 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation, 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation, and 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

D) The archaeological recording condition will normally only be discharged when all elements of the WSI including on site works, analysis, report, publication (where applicable) and archive work has been completed.

#### Condition rider

Please note that any archaeological condition relating to this planning permission will only be satisfied on implementation of this work and a satisfactory report received. We recommend that you do not discharge this condition until advised to do so by ourselves.

This Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI) outlines the aims and objectives, methods and timetable of the proposed watching brief to be undertaken during the groundworks associated with this development. The WSI should be approved by Cornwall Council before any works on site can be commenced.

## **Summary Site history**

Cotehele was originally part of the manor of Calstock and first occurs as a surname in the late 13th-century. The Cornish place-name is earlier in origin and means 'wood on an estuary'. From the late 14th-century until 1947, Cotehele was owned by the Edgcumbe family. In 1353 Cotehele had its own house chapel or oratory dedicated to Sts Cyricus and Julitta and the north wall of this may survive. By 1480, Cotehele was described as a 'mansion place' with a hall, chambers, kitchen, 'divers doors', and servants. Fragments of the medieval house, including recycled window openings, appear to survive and suggest a courtyard plan like the present house.

The major development of Cotehele is likely to have begun in the period 1485-9 when Richard Edgcumbe consolidated his knightly status by acquiring the manor and honour of Totnes, including a mansion at Meavy, as well as the forfeited lands of the Bodrugans. Cotehele remained the main seat of the Edgcumbes when not in London during the following centuries. From 1493, or perhaps 1497 when Piers Edgcumbe came into his full inheritance until about 1520, Cotehele was subjected to major rebuilding programme. Further rebuilding took place in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century with the replacement of some detailing and the extension of ranges and the construction of the north-west tower.

Further alterations were made to the house during the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and again in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century after a period of neglect when the family had rarely been in

residence. During the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the interiors were remodelled in the then current Romantic style, and from 1861 the house underwent a further series of internal re-arrangements.

Cotehele was acquired by the National Trust in 1947, who have overseen a considerable amount of conservation and refurbishment work within the house and its outbuildings, as well as in its gardens and park.

## **Project extent**

The project area includes all of those areas to the south and east of Cotehele House proposed for the trenching works (see maplet at the end of this WSI).

## **Aims and objectives**

A brief for this work has been produced by the National Trust Regional Archaeologist and this should be read in conjunction with the suggested condition (above) produced by the Historic Environment Planning Archaeologist.

The brief identifies the following as the aims of the watching brief:

- The watching brief work should identify and record the nature of underlying archaeological deposits impacted by the development. This would record the extent of impact and potentially inform future management.
- The resulting report will provide a record of the underlying resource in the area and also inform the nature of future management measures and the interpretation of the wider site.

The project objective is to produce a report setting out the results of the archaeological watching brief and placing them in their historical and landscape context. A further objective is to create an entry to the Historic England OASIS/ADS national online database of archaeological projects.

## **Working methods**

All recording work will be 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 watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the CIfA *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the CIfA *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefacts and Environmental Collection*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

### **Preliminary research**

Key documents relating to the historical development of Cotehele House will be considered prior to the fieldwork taking place, as well as historic maps and plans.

### **Fieldwork: watching brief**

The CAU Archaeologist will be on site during the initial stripping of the topsoil over all areas of the site which are to be affected by the trenching proposals.

The majority of the trenching will be undertaken by a mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket. It is intended that, once surface turf, tarmac or gravel has been removed, the trenchline will be excavated to a depth of one metre and a width of 500mm. Some sections will have to be hand trenched given the presence of buried services. All trenching will be undertaken under archaeological supervision.

The topsoil will initially be stripped cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers can be expected to be revealed (i.e. the top of the underlying 'natural'). Following topsoil removal and during subsequent deepening of the trenches the

excavations will be inspected by an archaeologist and any archaeological features or layers exposed will be carefully excavated by hand and recorded by written description, plan, section and photographic record as appropriate by the CAU Project archaeologist.

During the archaeological watching brief the archaeologist will identify and record any archaeological features that are revealed in the trenches; the level of recording undertaken will be appropriate to the character/importance of the archaeological remains. Any artefacts exposed during the work will be recovered by the archaeologist and the context within which they were sited will be noted.

If complex and/or significant archaeological deposits are encountered then the archaeological requirements should be reviewed by the client, the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment, Cornwall Council) and CAU. In the event that remains cannot be preserved *in situ* through modification of the trench scheme then full-scale excavation may be required. The significance of the remains will be agreed in discussion between the client, the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council and CAU.

Detailed archaeological recording, if required, is likely to include:

- Excavation (either whole or in part) of archaeological features exposed in the initial trenches and accurately plotting their locations and extents onto a base map.
- Production of plans and section drawings of the excavated features and recording of features using a continuous numbering system.
- Retrieval of artefacts.

#### Recording - general

Site drawings (plans, sections, locations of finds) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans will be linked to the Ordnance Survey Landline (electronic) map; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point and location.

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 selectively and for illustrative purposes. This will include both general and site specific photographs. All archive photographs will include a scale whilst photographs of detail will include a north arrow. Digital colour photography will be at a minimum resolution of 10mp, files being archived in either TIFF or RAW formats.

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 on an appropriate sampling strategy from Vanessa Straker (Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science).

If human remains are discovered on the site the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) and the Public Health Officer, Cornwall Council will be informed. All recording will conform to best practice and legal requirements.

If human remains are uncovered, which require excavation, they will be excavated with due reverence. The site will be adequately screened from public view. 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.

#### Treatment of finds

The archaeological fieldwork may produce artefactual material.

All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (e.g., settlement features) will be collected by context and described. Post medieval or modern finds will be collected but 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.

#### **Creation of site archive**

This will include:

- Archiving of black and white photographs to HER standards;
- Archiving of digital colour photographs (to be stored according to HER guidelines and copies of images made available to the client);
- Preparation of finished drawings;
- Completion of the Historic England/ADS OASIS online archive index.

#### **Archive report**

A written report will include:

- Summary
- Project background
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Location and setting
- Designations
- Summary site history
- Watching brief results
- Chronology/dating evidence
- Significance
- Discussion/Conclusions/Recommendations
- References
- Project archive index
- Supporting illustrations: location map, historic maps, plans, elevations/sections, photographs

A draft of the report will be supplied to the NT Regional Archaeologist for discussion prior to finalisation.

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

## **Assessment/analysis**

In the event that significant archaeological remains are uncovered or artefacts are recovered, the structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual material will be assessed to establish whether further analyses and reporting are appropriate. The form 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 (e.g. prehistoric or medieval sites or associated artefacts) it may be necessary to:

- Consult with the NT Regional Archaeologist and the SDO(HE) over the detailed 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 will be reviewed; for example in addition to an archive report the results should be published in an academic journal (e.g. *Cornish Archaeology*).

## **Archive deposition**

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

The archiving will comprise 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;
- A2 drawn archive storage (plastic wallets for the annotated record drawings);
- Archive standard negative holders and archive print holders, to be stored in the CAU system until transferred to the Royal Cornwall Museum.

The archive will be transferred to the National Trust on completion of the project together with a catalogue detailing its contents.

## **Timetable**

It is anticipated that the watching brief will commence during the late Summer of 2016. CAU will require adequate time before commencement of work in order to allocate field staff time 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.

## **Monitoring and Signing Off Condition**

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by the National Trust Regional Archaeologist who will be kept regularly informed of progress.

1. Notification of the start of the fieldwork will be given (preferably in writing) at least one week in advance of its commencement.
2. Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the NT Regional Archaeologist and SDO(HE), prior to them being carried out.



3. If significant detail is discovered, all works must cease and a meeting will be convened with the client and the SDOHE to discuss the most appropriate way forward.

Monitoring points during the study will include:

- Approval of the WSI
- Completion of fieldwork
- Completion of archive report
- Deposition of the archive

Project contacts within the National Trust will be Peter Bee (Project Co-ordinator), Jim Parry (Regional Archaeologist) and Rachel Hunt (Cotehele House and Collections Manager).

## **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 National Trust 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.

### **Project staff**

The project will be managed by a nominated Archaeology Projects Officer (Adam Sharpe BA MCI(A) who will:

- Discuss and agree the detailed objectives and programme of each stage of the project with the client and the field officers, including arrangements for health and safety.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.
- Liaise with the client regarding the budget and related issues.

Work will be carried out by CAU field staff, with assistance from qualified specialists and sub-contractors where appropriate.

### **Report distribution**

Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client (if required), to local archives and national archaeological record centres.

A digital copy of the report, illustrations and any other files will be held in the Cornwall HER and also supplied to the client on CD or other suitable media.

### **Copyright**

Copyright of material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council. The copyright of the final report will rest with the National Trust. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

### **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.

CAU will ensure that all information arising from the project shall be held in strict confidence to the extent permitted under the Act. However, the Act permits information to be released under a public right of access (a "Request"). If such a Request is received CAU may need to disclose any information it holds, unless it is excluded from disclosure under the Act.

### **Health and safety statement**

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

Prior to carrying out on-site work CAU will carry out a Risk Assessment.

### **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.

*Adam Sharpe BA MCIfA  
Archaeology Projects Officer  
05 August 2016*

***Cornwall Archaeological Unit***

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