



Webber Hill, Falmouth, Cornwall
Archaeological Watching Brief

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2017R024

Webber Hill, Falmouth, Cornwall – Archaeological watching Brief

Report No	Report Name	Report Author
2017R024	Webber Hill, Falmouth, Cornwall – Archaeological watching Brief	Peter Dudley

Event Type			
Watching Brief			

Client Organisation	Client Contact
Cormac Solutions Ltd	Will Buse

Monuments (MonUID)					

Fieldwork dates (From)	(To)	(Created By)	(Create Date)
15/03/17	25/03/17	PD	30/03/2017

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)
Webber Hill, Falmouth

(Town – for urban sites)	
(Postcode)	
TR11 3PN	

(Easting) X co-ord	(Northing) Y co-ord		
SW 80752	32924		



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1 Project background

CAU was commissioned by Cormac Contracting Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with a ground stabilisation scheme at the top of Webber Hill, Falmouth, within the Falmouth Conservation Area (SW 80572 32924; Fig 1 below).

The works are covered by planning permission (PA16/11647). No archaeological planning condition was placed upon the scheme so the archaeological recording was undertaken as 'best practice'.

Fieldwork involved five site visits between Wednesday 15th March and Saturday 25th March.

The site covers approximately 0.0001ha of landscaped area at the upper end of Webber Hill. The upper edge of the landscaped area, against Erisey Terrace, is bounded by a 1.4m high stone rubble wall (capped with concrete triangular-profile coping blocks). The lower edge of the landscape area, against Webber Hill, is bounded by a 1.3m high stone rubble revetment wall. The work was undertaken to batter-back the slope between the walls, and to rebuild and strengthen the two walls.

2 Results

The archaeological watching brief covered a small test pit and an area of ground disturbance, the approximate extent of which is shown on Figure 1.

No finds or features associated with the early development of the town were revealed during ground disturbance.

A 1.4m long, 0.4m wide and 0.4m deep test pit was dug at the top of the site to expose the footings of the revetment wall against Erisey Terrace (see Figs 1 and 2). This revealed a layer of topsoil 0.3m deep with shillet-rich subsoil beneath and the insubstantial footings of the wall. The footings were formed by a single layer of medium-sized slate fragments projecting 0.3m from the foot of the wall.

A small swing shovel with a grading bucket removed all topsoil from the lower, southern part of the site (Fig 1). This was dug down 0.2m at its upper level to provide a batter to the steep slope of the landscaped area. Lower down the excavation was between 0.6m to 0.8m deep. Here, a modern 0.6m deep layer of topsoil was revealed across the site. Beneath the topsoil was a mid orange brown layer with numerous small to large fragments of poor-grade slate or shillet (Fig 3). This was natural subsoil, most probably *in situ*.

The revetment wall against Webber Hill was reduced in height from 1.3m to approximately 0.65m high.

Both walls on the site were constructed using either locally-sourced large fragments of blue-grey slate and occasionally, square granite blocks. The original wall was bedded in earth mortar but overall there are multiple and extensive areas of repair and modern repointing with cement mortar.

As fieldwork had revealed little in terms of archaeological finds and features it was agreed on 27th March that no further recording work was required.

3 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146667**

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.

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-280765

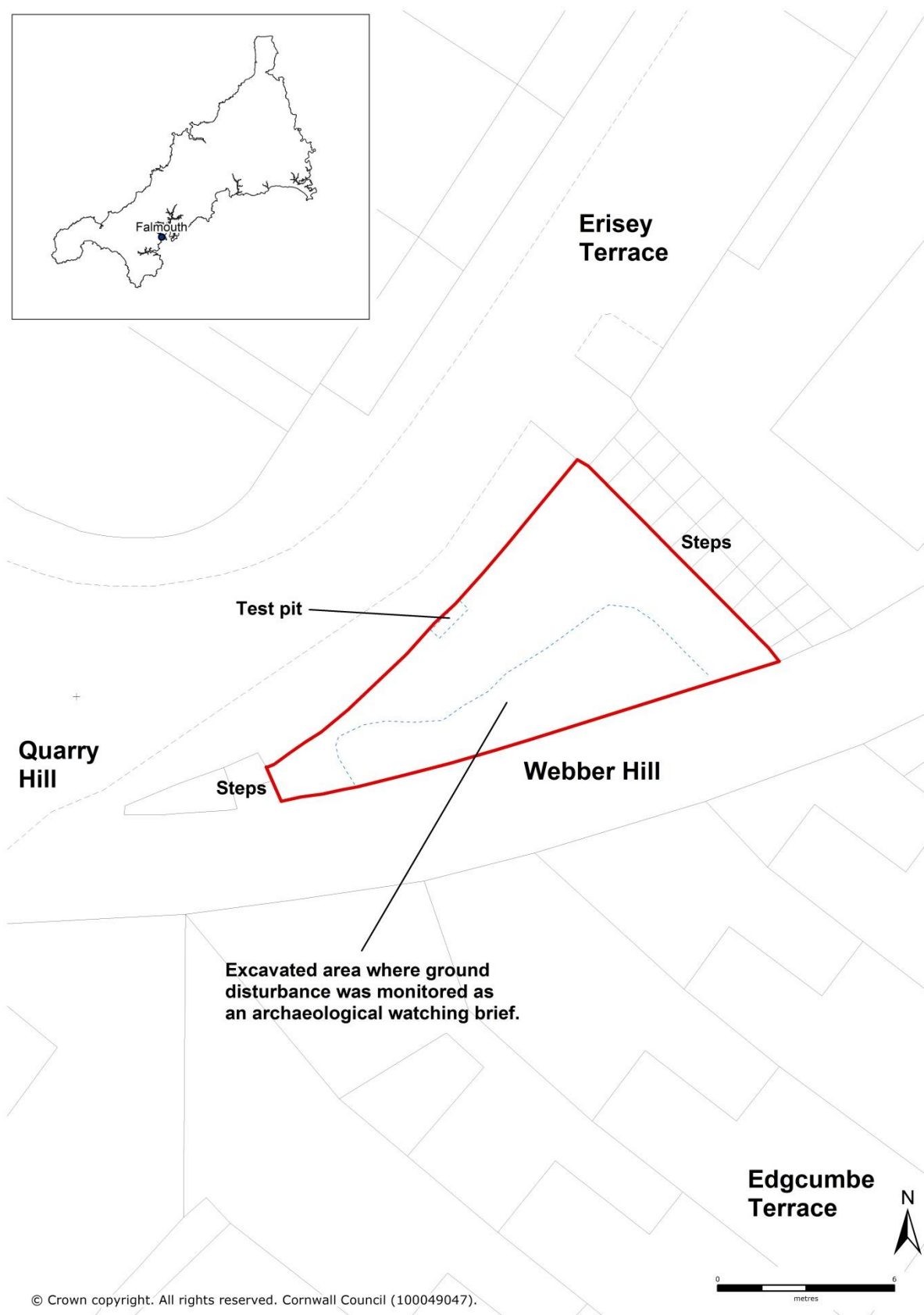


Fig 1 Location map. The site (area of landscaped ground) is shown with a red outline. The extent of the areas covered by the archaeological watching brief are shown with a blue dashed line.



Fig 2 Looking to the test pit at the foot of the Erisey Terrace wall. Note the insubstantial footings to the wall projecting out into the test pit.



Fig 3 Mid-excitation. The lower revetment wall has been lowered and the depth of the topsoil has been revealed.

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