



Land west of Silver Vein Cottage, Lostwithiel,
Cornwall. Archaeological Watching Brief

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2017R055

Report No 2017R055	Report Name Land west of Silver Vein Cottage, Lostwithiel, Cornwall. Archaeological watching Brief	Report Author C. M. Thorpe
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Event Type			
Watching Brief			

Client Organisation	Client Contact
	Mr Seth Pascoe

Monuments (MonUID)					

Fieldwork dates (From)	(To)	(Created By)	(Create Date)
15/08/17	15/08/17	CMT	Aug 2017

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)
Land west of Silver Vein Cottage, Lostwithiel, St Winnow Parish.

(Town – for urban sites)	(Postcode)
	PL22 0FA

(Easting) X co-ord	(Northing) Y co-ord		
SX 11858	59751		



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Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Character
NMP	National Mapping Programme

1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned by Mr Seth Pascoe to undertake an archaeological watching brief and recording during groundworks required for the construction of an agricultural building on land to the west of Silver Vein Cottage (centred at SX 11858 59751) near Lostwithiel (Figs 1 and 2).

The development was the subject of a planning condition, which required that archaeological recording took place ahead of construction of the agricultural building (PA17/02646).

The groundworks involved the removal of topsoil from a rectangular shaped area within the south east corner of the field adjacent to the road measuring 20m x 13m, with the long axis trending west-north-west to east-south-east (Fig 3).

The work was guided by an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1), produced by Andy Jones, Principal Archaeologist, CAU (06/06/2017).

This short report covers the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on the 15th August 2017.

2 Location and background

The site is located in a field situated between the A390 and a minor road to Lerryn, approximately 100m to the north west of Silver Vein Cottage within the parish of St Winnow, Cornwall (Figs 1 and 2).

The field covered by the watching brief is on almost level ground that falls slightly towards the north west from a height of 67m OD to 66m OD. It is currently under arable cultivation.

The underlying geology consists of Devonian mudstones siltstones and sandstones of the Meadfoot Group (BGS Sheet 347).

The development area is located within land that falls into a Historic Landscape Character zone which has been classified as 'Anciently Enclosed Land' (Cornwall County Council 1996) within the HLC Type 'Farmland Medieval'. Anciently Enclosed Land is land which has been settled since at least the medieval period and which often contains archaeological remains dating to prehistoric and medieval times. Consequently there was the potential for buried archaeological deposits to survive in the project area.

Prior to the fieldwork being undertaken, a number of sites in the vicinity of the study area were identified from the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (Fig 2). These included:

- Early Bronze Age barrow (MCO2551) recorded on the Lanhydrock Atlas of 1696 at approximately SX 11869 59721 (Holden *et al* 2010).
- Early medieval settlement of Lanwithan (MCO15329) located at SX 10992 59327. The settlement is first recorded as 'Lankewoythian' in 1302 (Gover 1948). The name is Cornish and contains the placename elements *lann* 'enclosed cemetery' and a saint's name (Padel 1985).
- Field system of early medieval date (MCO40421) located at SX 12059 59869 (Centred). This is visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and plotted during the Cornwall National Mapping Programme (NMP).
- Post-medieval mining remains associated with Silvervein Mine (MCO12509) located at SX 12177 59582 (centred). This lead and silver mine started production in 1855 as Wheal Fortescue and ceased in 1857 (Jenkin 1961). It reopened in 1860 as Silvervein and operated to 1878 (Collins 1912).

Potential sites

Because the site was located within Anciently Enclosed Land, it was considered that there was a high potential for prehistoric and medieval sites to survive within the project area. There was the scope for the survival of previously unrecorded archaeological sites, organic remains, and artefacts of all periods.

3 Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study was to gain a better understanding of the development area. The objectives were to:

- To ensure that the site works associated with the development were carried out in such a way as to allow adequate recording.
- To record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To recover and record artefacts uncovered by the works.
- To disseminate the results of discoveries appropriately.

The development area had the potential to contain important buried archaeological sites. The archaeological investigation of this area would therefore provide an opportunity to better understand the character and potential of this resource by recording sites and features affected by it.

Key objectives are:

- To locate and record prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval settlement activity within the area of the proposed development.

4 Working methods

The site soil strip was carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The soil was stripped cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers were expected to be revealed, in this case the top of the natural geology. The stripped area was then inspected by the archaeologist.

The area of topsoil stripping and recorded soil profiles were plotted onto a site plan (Fig 3) at a scale of 1:200 (based on an Ordnance Survey map at the same scale).

Photographs were taken during the course of the work. The ground and spoil heap were also examined for artefacts.

5 Results

The area stripped for the development measured 20m by 13m and reached a maximum depth of 0.43m (Figs 3 and 4).

No archaeological features were recorded in the course of the work, and no artefacts were recovered.

Six soil profiles were recorded across the stripped area. Full descriptions of these are contained within the site archive. The locations of these recorded soil profiles are plotted on Figure 3.

Natural soil profile

The stratigraphic profile over the excavated area consisted of the following layers (from top to bottom).

Context	Depth	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
(1)	0m – 0.05m	0.05m	Humic topsoil with grass and roots.	Topsoil.
(2)	0.05m – 0.2m	0.15m	Grey-brown clay loam.	Ploughsoil.
(3)	0.2m – 0.4m	0.2m	Grey-brown clay.	Subsoil.
(4)	0.4m – 0.43m	0.03m	Orange, yellow-brown clay.	Decayed natural.
(5)	At base of excavation.	-	Orange, yellow-brown clay with stone fragments.	Decayed natural bedrock.

Table 1: Soil profile 2

The sequence of layers recorded in the section in Table 1 was consistent throughout the area investigated. The overall depth of soil varied between 0.2m and 0.43m, the greatest depth occurring downslope, towards the north west, and adjacent to the field boundary.

Given that no archaeological features were identified or artefacts recovered it is evident that this development has made no discernible impact on any buried archaeological remains

6 References

6.1 Primary sources

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

Ordnance Survey, c1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)

Ordnance Survey, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1842. *Parish of St Winnow* (licensed digital copy at CAU).

British Geological Survey 1973. Map sheet 347 Bodmin.

6.2 Publications

Collins, JH, 1912, *Observations on the West of England Mining Region*, Plymouth 411, 579

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 (unpublished manuscript at RCM, Truro).

Holden, P, Herring, P, and Padel, OJ, 2010. *Lanhydrock Atlas*, Fowey

Jenkin, AKH. 1961. *Mines and Miners of Cornwall*, Truro 38

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

7 Project archive

The CAU project number is **HEXQPR146698**

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 (146698).
2. Field plans stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 882/1-2).
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory: R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.I-L\Sites L\Lostwithiel, Land West Of Silver Vein Cottage WB 145698
4. Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-293250
5. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites L\LOSTWITHIEL\Lostwithiel, Land West Of Silver Vein Cottage WB 145698\Report

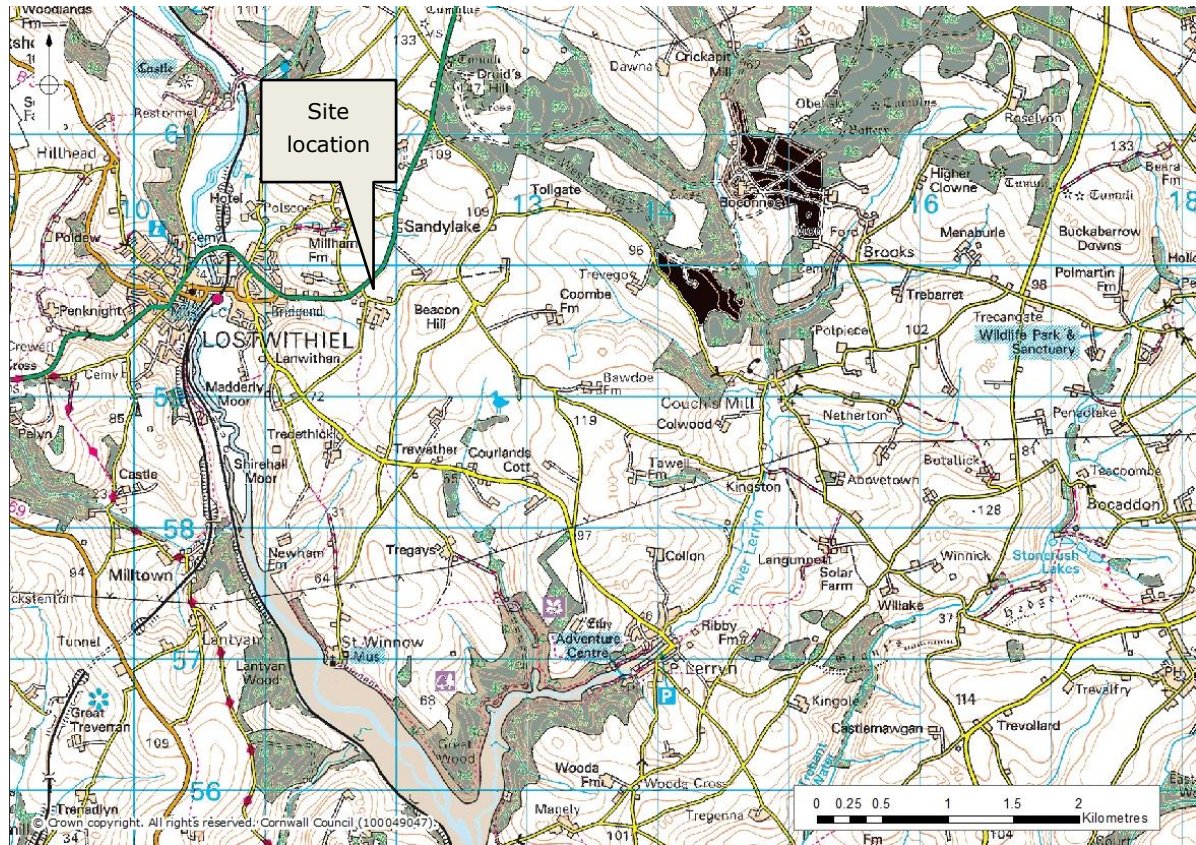


Figure 1. Site location map.

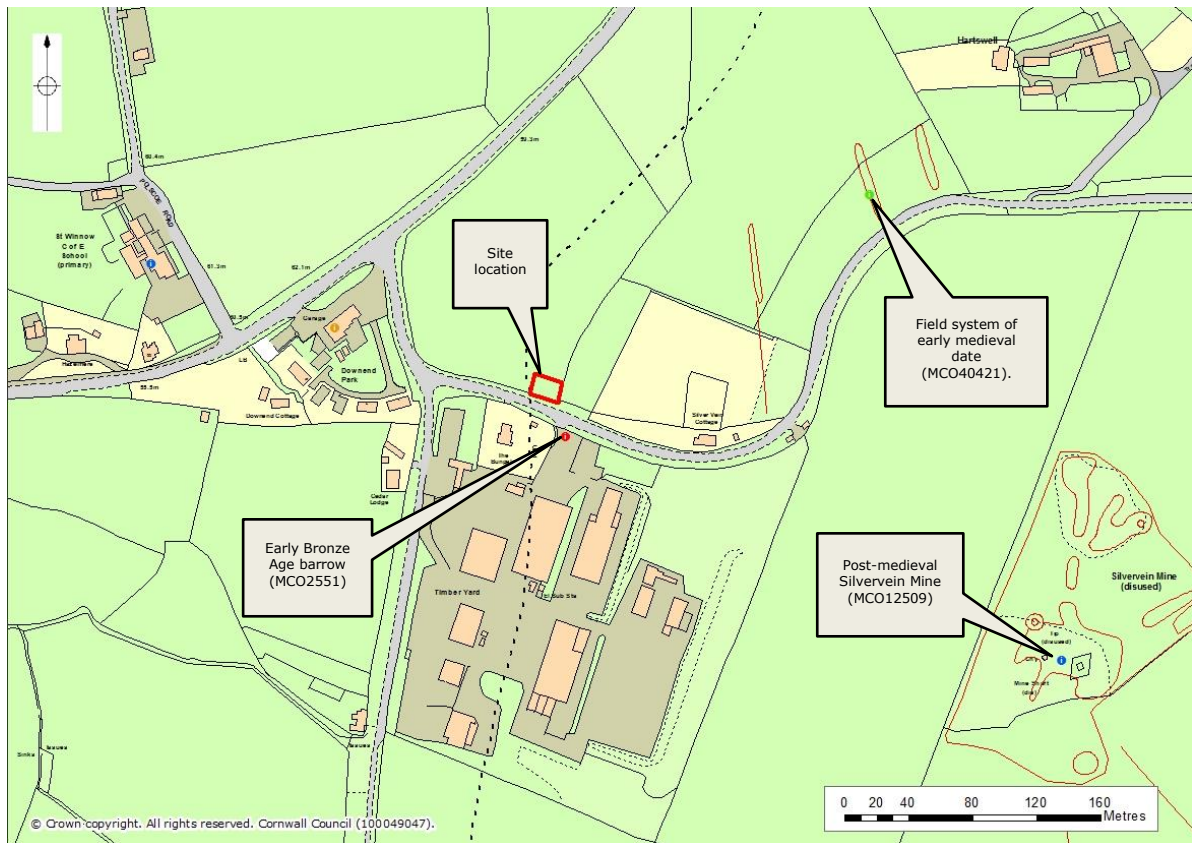


Figure 2. Site location showing relationship to known sites recorded in the HER.

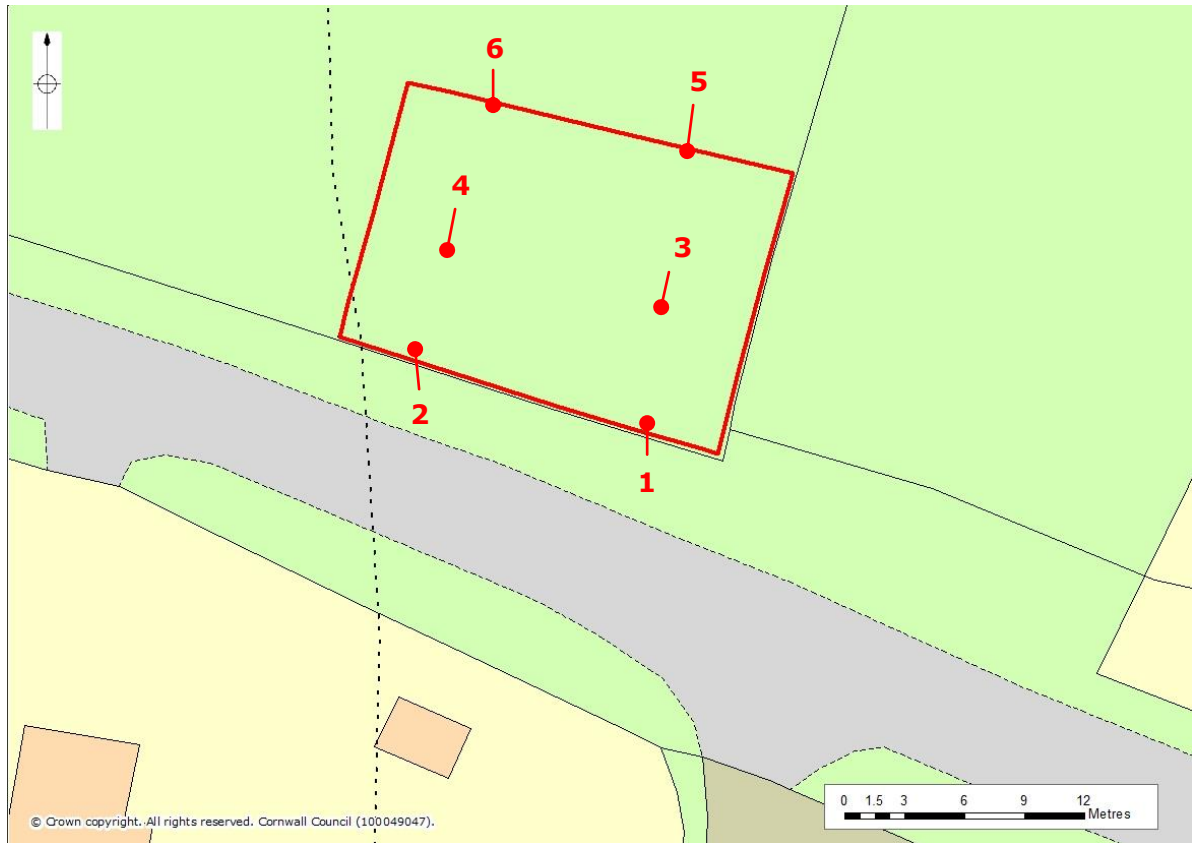


Figure 3. Trench location plan showing position of recorded soil profiles (red).



Figure 4. General view of site after soil stripping (looking south west). .

8 Appendix 1. Lostwithiel, Land West of Silver Vein Cottage, Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological recording

Client: Seth Pascoe
Client contact: Seth Pascoe
Client tel: 07725759803
Client email: pascoefarming@gmail.com

Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit have been requested by Mr Seth Pascoe to provide a project design and estimate for archaeological recording ahead of the construction of an agricultural building at land to the west Of Silver Vein Cottage (SX1189 5982) (Fig 1) (PA17/02646). The proposed development will cover an area of approximately 13.5m by 7.5m plus a curtilage around it. The site is located close to the site of a documented Bronze Age barrow shown on the Lanhydrock Atlas.

Charlie Johns (Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council) (SDOHE) has requested that that the development area is subject to an archaeological watching brief.

His comment on the application states:

'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/organisation 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. Historic Environment Planning (Archaeology). '

Site history

Landscape

The site is located within an area of Anciently Enclosed Land (land which was enclosed in the medieval period or earlier), which was partially transformed into an Ornamental Landscape consisting of parkland during the post-medieval period (Countryside commission 1996).

Known archaeological sites

The project area is situated within an area of high archaeological potential, which contains evidence for prehistoric, early medieval and later mining activity. Sites in the wider vicinity, identified in the Historic Environment Record, include:

- Early Bronze Age barrow (MCO2551).
- Early Medieval settlement of Lanwithan (MCO15329).
- Field systems of early medieval date (MCO40421).
- Post-medieval mining remains associated with Silvervein Mine (MCO12509).

Project extent

The following works are understood to involve ground disturbance.

- The construction of the erection of a steel framed, enclosed timber-clad general purpose agricultural building.

Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the development area. The objectives are to:

- To ensure that the site works associated with the development are carried out in such a way as to allow adequate recording.
- To record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To recover and record artefacts uncovered by the works.
- To disseminate the results of discoveries appropriately.

The development area has the potential to contain important buried archaeological sites. The archaeological investigation of this area therefore provides an opportunity to better understand the character and potential of this resource by recording sites and features affected by it.

Key objectives are:

To locate and record prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval settlement activity within the area of the proposed development.

Working methods

All recording work will be undertaken according to the Chartered 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.

Fieldwork: Archaeological Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during ground reduction works. These should be carried out under archaeological supervision. Where a machine is used, it should be fitted with a toothless bucket. The reduced area should be excavated cleanly down to a level at which archaeological features or layers can be expected to be revealed (ie, top of the "natural"). The area will then be inspected by an archaeologist and any archaeological features or layers exposed in the excavated area will be carefully excavated by hand and archaeologically recorded by written description, plan and section and photographic record as appropriate by a CAU archaeologist.

During the archaeological recording the archaeologist will:

Identify and record any archaeological features that are revealed; the level of recording will be appropriate to the character/importance of the archaeological remains.

If complex and/or significant archaeological deposits are encountered then the archaeological requirements should be reviewed by the client, the SDOHE and CAU.

In the event that remains cannot be preserved *in situ* then full-scale excavation may be required. A contingency should be allowed to record any significant archaeological remains which are uncovered during the groundworks. The significance of the remains should be agreed between the client, the SDOHE and CAU.

Where necessary the detailed archaeological recording may include:

- Excavation of archaeological features exposed in the excavated 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) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans will be linked to the Ordnance Survey Landline (electronic) map; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.
- All features and finds will be accurately located at an appropriate scale. Sections will normally be drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20.
- All archaeological contexts will be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence.
- Photography: scaled photography will be used as the main record medium. This will include both general and site specific photographs. Photographs should have a scale and detailed ones should include a north arrow. A photographic register will be kept, giving feature number, location and direction of shot.
- Sealed/undisturbed archaeological contexts in the form of buried soils, layers or deposits within significant archaeological features (ditches and pits, etc) will be sampled for environmental evidence and dating material. In the event that significant organic remains are encountered, advice may be needed from the Historic England Science Advisor (South West).
- If human remains are discovered on the site the SDOHE and the Public Health will be informed. All recording will conform to best practice and legal requirements.
- If human remains are uncovered, which require excavation, they will be excavated with due reverence. The site will be adequately screened from public view. Once excavated, human remains must not be exposed to public view.
- If human remains are not to be removed their physical security will be ensured, by back filling as soon as possible after recording.

Fieldwork: photographic recording

Photographic recording will include colour photography using a digital SLR camera (with a resolution of 10 million pixels or higher) and / or black and white film photography with a SLR camera.

CAU follows Historic England guidance on digital image capture and file storage (2015).

The photo record will comprise:

- General views of the site
- Detailed photographs of recorded features.
- Methodology for the archive standard photography is set out as follows:
- Photographs of details will be taken with lenses of appropriate focal length.
- A tripod will be used to take advantage of natural light and slower exposures.

A metric scale will be included in all views, except where health and safety considerations make this impractical.

Creation of site archive

To include:

- Any black and white negative film will be catalogued and deposited with the site archive.
- Colour digital images taken as part of the site archive will be either converted from colour to black and white negative film and added to the site archive, or deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).
- A detailed site description.
- 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
- Site history
- Archaeological results
- Chronology/dating evidence
- Significance
- Impacts
- Mitigation measures
- Conclusions
- References
- Project archive index
- Supporting illustrations: location map, historic maps, plans, elevations/sections, photographs

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

Analyses and Dissemination

Where no further archaeological recording takes place provision should be made in agreement with the SDOHE for the deposition of the project archive/finds in an accredited museum. Where significant remains are recovered publication of the results may be required within an academic journal. Costs for final publication are not included within the attached estimate.

Archive deposition

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

The archiving will comprise the following:

1. 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.
2. A2 drawn archive storage (plastic wallets for the annotated record drawings).

3. The project archive will be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, or if no finds are recovered initially at ReStore PLC, Liskeard and in due course (when space permits) at Cornwall Record Office.
4. Digital data will be stored on the Cornwall Council network which is regularly and frequently backed up.

CAU uses the following file formats for stored digital data:

- DOCX Word processed documents
- XLSX Spreadsheets
- PDF Exports of completed documents/reports/graphics
- JPEG Site graphics and scanned information
- DNG or TIFF Digital photographs
- DWG AutoCAD drawings, measured surveys
- MXD ArcView GIS (electronic mapping) data
- AI Adobe Illustrator graphics

Timetable

The study is anticipated to be commenced during the summer of 2017. CAU will require at least 1 weeks' notice before commencement of work, in order to allocate field staff and arrange other logistics.

The archive report will be completed within 3 months of the end of the fieldwork. The deposition of the archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the archive report.

Monitoring and Signing Off Condition

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by the SDOHE. Where the SDOHE is satisfied with the archive report and the deposition of the archive written discharge of the planning condition will be expected.

1. The SDOHE will monitor the work and should be kept regularly informed of progress.
2. Notification of the start of work shall be given preferably in writing to the SDOHE at least one week in advance of its commencement.
3. Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the SDOHE, in writing, prior to them being carried out.
4. If significant detail is discovered, all works must cease and a meeting 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

References

Historic England 2015. *Guidance note on Digital Image Capture and File Storage*. Historic England, Swindon

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Cornwall Archaeological Unit is part of Cornwall Council. CAU employs 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 120 projects each year.

CAU is committed to conserving and enhancing the distinctiveness of the historic environment and heritage of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by providing clients with a number of services including:

- Conservation works to sites and monuments
- Conservation surveys and management plans
- Historic landscape characterisation
- Town surveys for conservation and regeneration
- Historic building surveys and analysis
- Maritime and coastal zone assessments
- Air photo mapping
- Excavations and watching briefs
- Assessments and evaluations
- Post-excavation analysis and publication
- Outreach: exhibitions, publication, presentations

Standards



CAU is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and follows their Standards and Code of Conduct.

<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Terms and conditions

Contract

CAU is part of Cornwall Council. If accepted, the contract for this work will be between the client and Cornwall Council.

The views and recommendations expressed will be those of CAU and will be presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Project staff

The project will be managed by Andy Jones 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. The project team is expected to include:

Andrew Jones, BA, PhD, FSA, MCIfA

Archaeologist Team Leader responsible for the origin and management and publication of a wide range of projects, in particular development-related assessments, evaluations and excavations. Major projects in recent years include excavation and publication of sites at Tremough, Scarcewater, Whitehorse Hill and Camelford School.

Andy has lectured widely and has been involved with the SWARF Neolithic and Bronze Age Group is a member of the South West Implement Petrology Group, a council member of the Royal Archaeological Institute and the Prehistoric Society and a Cornwall Archaeological Society committee member. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Ryan Smith, BSc (Hons), PCIfA

Archaeologist Ryan Smith has worked on a variety of projects with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Projects undertaken have involved the excavations at Porthleven, the TEDC site in Truro and the Newquay Strategic Road Scheme, the evaluations of sites at St Tudy and Four Burrows, as well as a large number of watching briefs, including St Breock Downs, and Otterham Wind Farm.

Report distribution

Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client, 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 all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

Use of the material will be granted to the client.

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.

Andy Jones

Principal Archaeologist

6/6/17

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

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