

Service trenching at St Pol De Leon Church, Paul, Cornwall. Archaeological Watching Brief

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## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

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## **Acknowledgements**

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The Project Manager was Carl Thorpe, who also carried out the fieldwork.

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.

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#### Cover illustration:

St Pol de Leon Church, looking to the southwest showing the area of the churchyard covered by the archaeological watching brief © Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, 2008 F84-158.

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## **Abbreviations**

section.

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey
SWW	South West Water

## 1 Summary

Archaeological recording was carried out by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council in 2017 on behalf of the Rev Andrew Yates and the St Pol de Leon Parochial church council (PCC) during groundworks in the churchyard for the installation of a pumping Station, and drainage trench associated with new WC and kitchenette facilities at St Pol de Leon Church, Paul (SW 46442 27090).

St Pol De Leon church is a Grade I Listed Building (1327894). It is possibly the site of an early medieval monastery. Built into the wall of the north aisle and western churchyard wall are fragments of a churchyard cross of 10th or 11th century date.

The current church is of 15th century date with evidence for major rebuilding in the 16th century after it had been burnt down by the Spanish in 1595. The church also underwent some further renovations in the 19th century. The 18th/19th Churchyard wall and an early medieval cross set upon it are both Grade II Listed structures.

The project provided considerable evidence for the burial activity and the archaeological potential of the churchyard.

- Prehistoric activity in the area was evidenced by the presence of a Neolithic flint blade, although this was probably just a chance loss.
- Details of 23 graves were recorded. Bone preservation was shown to be variable. The burials were mixed, consisting of adults, and children. With the exception of the graves within brick vaults and one that could not be determined, the majority of the graves appear to be shroud burials.
- Apart from Grave KK, which was associated with the memorial to Charles Harvey who died in 1898 no direct dating evidence for the graves was obtained. The shroud burials are, however, likely to be of 15th to 17th century date.

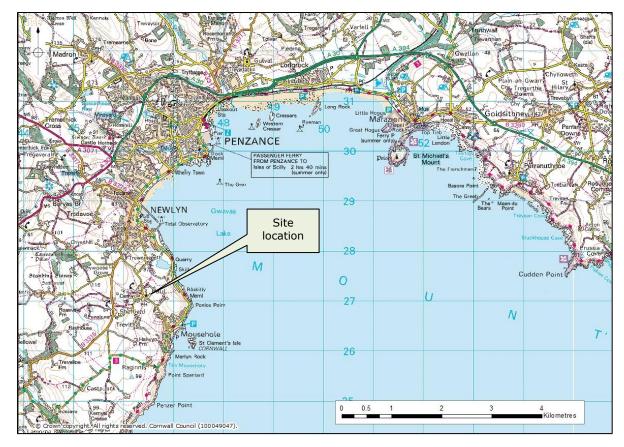


Figure 1. Site location.

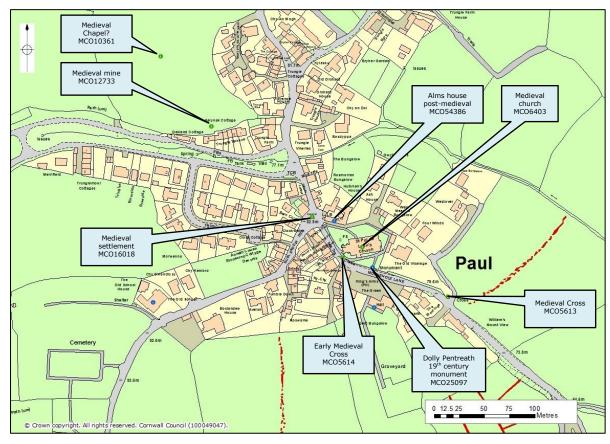


Figure 2. Site location map showing archaeological sites recorded in the HER.

## 2 Introduction

## 2.1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Matthew Terrell (PDP Green Consulting Ltd) on behalf of Rev Andrew Yates and the St Pol de Leon Parochial church council (PCC) to undertake a programme of archaeological recording during groundworks required for the installation of a pumping station, and drainage trench associated with new WC and kitchenette facilities at St Pol de Leon Church, Paul (Figs 1 and 2). The church is a Grade I Listed Building (1327894), the surrounding eighteenth/nineteenth century churchyard wall Grade II Listed (1143166), and the early-medieval cross which is mounted upon it is a Grade II Listed structure (1143165). Given the medieval origin of the church, the preservation of buried archaeological material was considered to be high.

Although Planning Consent was not required archaeological recording was proposed as part of gaining Faculty approval (Terrell 2016).

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced (01/06/2017) by Carl Thorpe (Archaeology Projects Officer, CAU) outlining the methodology for archaeological recording (Appendix 1).

The total area covered by the archaeological monitoring was approximately 0.005 Ha (46.5 square metres). The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a pit measuring 1.2m by 1m and 1.4m deep to house a pumping station located on the path immediately outside the north door of the church, and a pipe-trench measuring approximately 36m long and up to 1.2m deep, which ran along the grass path to the north of the church. This connected the pumping station to the existing SWW mains sewer within the road (Figs 6 and 7).

A third area running along the exterior of the north aisle to the west of the north door was also recorded when excavations for a pipeline along the line of an existing French drain caused the collapse of a retaining wall that revealed a section through the churchyard. This area measured roughly 6m long, 0.75m wide, and up to 2m deep (Figs 7, 10 and 11).

The fieldwork was carried out between 9th October and 8th November 2017 on an intermittent visit basis. This report details the results of the watching brief.

## **2.2** Aims

The principal aim of the study was to record evidence for the nature of the archaeological potential of the churchyard, to better understand the depth and character of deposits and features within the churchyard.

#### Aims and objectives

- To ensure that the site works were carried out in such a way as to allow recording as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- To record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To record any stratified medieval human remains that could not be preserved in situ.
- 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 recover and record artefacts uncovered by the works.

To deposit the archive (including any finds) with within an appropriate accredited archive repository and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

#### 2.3 Methods

#### 2.3.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out as an intermittent watching brief that involved close liaison between the site contractor and the project archaeologist. The trenching along the pathway was undertaken by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket or hand-dug. Sections of the trench were left open (suitably protected by fencing) until they could be inspected by the archaeologist. The north western part of the churchyard was also fenced off to prevent public access to the area. This fencing was set at a distance from where the trench could not be easily observed. This was done in lieu of screening in the event of the encountering and recovery of human remains.

Features encountered were plotted onto a site plan (noting the locations of features and recorded profiles) at a scale of 1:100 (Fig 7). They were measured in from fixed points on the ground, which are shown on the OS survey mapping, together with compass bearings. Sample sections (noting the nature of soil depths, layers present, etc.) were also recorded along the line of the trenches and within the pumping station pit.

Where possible any uncovered human remains were left *in situ* and undisturbed. This proved possible where they lay at or below the levels required for the services, or where the line of the trench could be altered to avoid the burial.

Where the trench unavoidably truncated burials, the location, depth, and orientation of each was recorded along with noting what part of the body was being affected (i.e., head, chest, arms, thorax, legs, etc). The bones were then removed by hand, and carefully bagged and stored while the trench was dug to its required depth, and the services were then laid. The bones were then reburied in the backfill of the trench as close as possible to their original position. Burials were not 'chased' into the sides of the trench, and at all times the remains were treated with respect and kept hidden from public view as much as possible.

The same procedure was followed for the pumping station pit. Due to the depth required for this pit and the unstable nature of the trench sides, it was excavated utilising a digging box to shore up the sides (Fig 14). This meant that no complete section was visible at any one time, but had to be recorded in spits roughly 0.3m deep at a time. Once the required depth was reached the box was left *in situ* as shoring for protecting the pump. A composite section was compiled at a scale of 1:20 of the sides of the pit (Fig 9).

Unfortunately the trenching for the pipeline connecting the WC and kitchenette facilities to the pumping station running along the line of the existing French Drain adjacent to the northern side of the church wall caused the collapse of a retaining wall supporting the churchyard. Two sketch section drawings were made at a scale of 1:20 of this area recording the initial collapse, and after the area had been cut back and stabilised (Figs 10 and 11).

A photographic record was made throughout the work.

#### 2.3.2 Post-fieldwork

Any artefacts collected were bagged and their position along the trench recorded. All were considered unstratified, being uncovered by the machine from disturbed contexts. Subsequently all the objects were carefully washed. The material was then identified and catalogued (Appendix 3). The artefacts are to be returned to the church to form part of a display within the building that will be describing its history, and that of the local area.

## 3 Location and setting

St Pol De Leon Church lies at the eastern end of the village (SW 46442 27090) within Paul parish (Figs 1 and 2). The Churchyard lies on the northern flanks of ground that slopes to the north east towards the sea. The tower of the church is clearly visible for miles around and acts as a sea mark. Within the churchyard the ground is relatively level at *circa* 84m OD. The site is underlain by granite of the Permian – Carboniferous, Lands End intrusion (BGS 1984 Sheet 351-358).

## 4 Site history

The settlement of Paul is first recorded in 1259 when it is spelt 'St Paulus' (Gover 1948). The name of the settlement, parish and church is derived from that of the Breton saint, Paul de Leon.

Paul church is tentatively identified by Olson (1989, 20-8) as the site of an early medieval monastery, it is not, however, recorded as such in Domesday Book or any other source. The curving south boundary to the churchyard (Figs 2 to 6) may suggest the site of an early Christian religious enclosure or lann as proposed by Ann Preston-Jones (1994). Currently the 10th or 11th century cross fragments are the only definite evidence for the early medieval origin of the church site (Preston-Jones 2010).

The Parish Church of Paul is first recorded in 1259 and 1315 but nothing remains of the structure of the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries other than a pre-Reformation piscina set low down in the south wall of the south aisle at the east end. The present building consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, porch, and west tower of three stages and dates from the fifteenth century, with evidence for major rebuilding in the sixteenth century. A Spanish force landing nearby burnt down the church in 1595 (Henderson 1925). The church was also restored in the nineteenth century.

## 5 Archaeological results

The archaeological work was undertaken within three areas, a French drain running parallel to the north aisle of the church, the Pumping station pit and the pipe trench running from the north door to the sewer main within the road (Fig 7).

Full contexts descriptions are given in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 is a list of finds.

## 5.1 The French Drain (Figs 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13)

This area was not initially included within the area to be covered by the archaeological watching brief, as the work involved digging into ground already disturbed by the construction of a French drain to keep water away from the north wall of the church. Unfortunately though, the increased depth required caused part of the retaining wall supporting the churchyard to fail and collapse. The work required to remove the collapsed material and to stabilise the slope uncovered a 6m long section through the churchyard, immediately outside of and to the west of the north door of the church running from SW 46441 27089 to SW 46436 27088.

The retaining wall (structure 5) of the churchyard was constructed of granite rubble stone blocks with slightly larger ones at the base with smaller ones above. It stood to a maximum height of roughly 0.8m, above which was a grass slope to the granite kerb marking the base of Grave KK, the memorial to Charles Harvey who died in 1898.

Once the collapsed material had been removed and the exposed face cut back to stabilise the bank a section roughly 1.2m high was exposed. In general the recorded section was as follows:

Context	Depth	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
(18)	0 - 0.08m	0.08m	Grass, roots and topsoil.	Topsoil.
(7)	0.08m - 0.12m	0.4m	Friable grey-brown clay.	Infill.
(6)	0.12m – 0.42m	0.3m	Compacted dark-grey brown clay.	Infill.
(17)	0.42m – 0.72m	0.3m	Red-brown clay.	Infill.
(3)	0.72m – 1.02m	0.3m	Grey-brown clay.	Infill.
(4)	Not bottomed	0.22m	Orange, red-brown clay with occasional quartz fragments.	Decayed natural rab layer above the granite bedrock.

Two graves were identified within this section.

#### Grave KK

This grave was marked at the surface by a rectangular granite kerbed memorial, (structure 11), which measured 2.2m long and 1.8m wide the long axis orientated west to east. At the west end was a large slate headstone dedicated to the memories of Charles Harvey- 30 Mar 1898, Grace - 6 Mar 1901, Grace K. - 6 Sep 1839, and Agnes - 20 Feb 1902.

At a depth of 0.7m below the memorial, the collapse revealed evidence for a vault (Figs 11 and 13) consisting of a brick built structure 14 (presumably rectangular in shape) covered by a large slate slab 13. As this structure was only partially revealed by the collapse its dimensions could not be determined. The vault lay in a cut which had been back filled with loose friable grey-brown clay mixed with building debris such a roofing slate fragments and mortar (12).

#### **Grave LL**

Lying to the west of Grave KK, and butting up against its western kerb stone was a large slate memorial slab lying flush with the ground some 1.5m long, 0.8m wide, and that proved to be 0.05m thick. Unfortunately the inscription upon its surface was illegible.

This memorial stone overlay a near vertical grave cut [8] that was some 1.4m wide. This cut was noted running the whole depth of the section (1.2m) and it was not bottomed. The cut was infilled with loose friable grey-brown clay with stone, roofing slate fragments, mortar fragments and re-deposited bone (Fig 11). No evidence for the nature of the burial (for example, within a vault, coffin or shroud) was recorded.

## 5.2 Pumping Station (Figs 7, 9 and 14)

This pit was excavated within the pathway immediate outside the north door of the church (centred at SW 46443 27089). It measured 1.2m by 1m with its long axis being roughly north-north-west by south-south-east and reached a depth of roughly 1.4m.

The following stratigraphic section was recorded:

Context	Depth	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
(1)	0m – 0.08m	0.08m	Grass, roots and topsoil	Surface of path.
(2)	0.08m - 0.18m	0.1m	Dark black-brown clay with occasional stone fragments.	Layer immediately below path surface.
(3)	0.18m -	1.2m	Grey-brown clay.	Infill.

	1.38m			
(4)	Not bottomed	0.05m	Orange, red-brown clay with occasional quartz fragments.	Decayed natural rab layer above the granite bedrock.

A total of ten graves were recorded during the excavation of the pit. The dimensions for the grave cuts were difficult to record as the majority had been dug into the same material that they had been backfilled with, which made identification difficult.

Grave	Area	Depth	Description	Notes
A	Pumping Station Pit	0.4m	A grave cut, circa 0.8m long, 0.28m wide, orientated west-south west to east – northeast. The cut was scarcely wider than the body, had rounded ends with an uneven bottom.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Burial seems to have been disturbed in antiquity, with skull broken, and many bones disarticulated. The skeleton of a child exposed, head at west end. The arms appeared to be alongside the body.	Childs burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
В	Pumping Station Pit	0.55m	A grave cut <i>circa</i> 0.35m wide orientated west-south west to east – north-east.  The cut was scarcely wider than the body. Full length not exposed (only 0.6m recorded). Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Lower parts of arms, Chest, abdomen, pelvis, and long bones of legs exposed (femurs, tibias, and fibulas).	Child burial.  There was no evidence for a coffin recorded. Shroud burial?  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
С	Pumping Station Pit	0.3m	A grave exposed in the northern section of the pit. Due to this dimensions could not be recorded. Orientated west-south west to east – north-east.  The cut appeared to be scarcely wider than the body.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Lower parts abdomen, pelvis, and long bones of legs exposed (femurs, tibias, and fibulas).	Adult burial.  There was no evidence for a coffin recorded. Shroud burial?  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
D	Pumping Station Pit	0.5m	A grave cut, circa 0.6m long, 0.28m wide, orientated west-south west to east – northeast. The cut was scarcely wider than the body, had rounded ends with an uneven bottom.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Full skeleton of a child exposed, head at west end. The arms appeared to be alongside the body.	Childs burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
Е	Pumping Station Pit	0.3m	A small section of grave exposed in the northern east corner section of the pit. Due to this the dimensions could not be recorded. Orientation is probably west-south-west to east – north-east.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Just the skull was recovered.	Probable juvenile burial.  There was no evidence for a coffin recorded. Shroud burial?  Bones lifted, then reburied in area

Grave	Area	Depth	Description	Notes
				after pump installed.
F	Pumping Station Pit	0.6m	A grave cut, circa 0.32m wide orientated west-south west to east – north-east. It ran across the width of the pit to disappear within both the west and east sections.  The cut was scarcely wider than the body with an uneven bottom.  The whole skeleton, apart from the top of the head and the lower legs were exposed. Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Hands lay alongside the body.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
G	Pumping Station Pit	1m	A grave cut, the dimensions of which could not be fully determined as it ran across the width of the pit within the northern section, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.  Orientated west-south west to east – northeast. As far as could be determined the cut was scarcely wider than the body and had an uneven bottom.  The whole skeleton, apart from the top of the head and the lower legs were exposed. The arms had been crossed over the chest with the hands at each opposing elbow.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
H	Pumping Station Pit	1m	Infilled with dark grey-brown clay.  A grave cut that was revealed in the southern section that disappeared into the western. Dimensions could not be fully determined (though a length of 0.6m was recorded). The east end of the grave butted up against a large white quartz block.  Orientated west-south west to east – northeast. The cut appeared to be scarcely wider than the body.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Apart from the top of the skull a full skeleton of a child was exposed, head at west end. The arms appeared to be alongside the body.	Childs burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
J	Pumping Station Pit	1.2m	A grave cut, circa 0.40m wide, orientated west-south-west to east – north-east. It ran across the width of the pit to disappear within both the west and east sections.  The cut was scarcely wider than the body with an uneven bottom.  The whole skeleton, apart from the top of the head and the lower legs were exposed. Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Hands lay alongside the body.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after pump installed.
К	Pumping Station Pit	1.3m	A grave cut, the full dimensions could not be fully determined as it ran across the entire width of the pit within the northern section, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.  Orientated west-south west to east – northeast. As far as could be determined the cut was scarcely wider than the body and had an	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Below the level

Grave	Area	Depth	Description	Notes
			uneven bottom.  The whole skeleton, apart from the top of the head and the lower legs were exposed. It was seen that the arms had been laid alongside the body.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay.	required for the pump so the bones were left <i>in situ</i> and not investigated further.

## 5.3 The Drainage Pipe Trench (Figs 7, 8 and 15)

An approximately 35m long pipe trench was excavated by mini-digger and by hand from the northern side of the pumping pit (centred at SW 46443 27089) in a roughly north westerly direction along the middle of the churchyard path to a point on the western side of the churchyard at roughly SW 46411 27101. At this point the pipeline passed below the wall to connect with an existing sewer out in the road. The trench was 0.4m wide reached a maximum depth of 1.2m (at its western end); although for most of the length it averaged a depth of 0.5m.

Ten sections were recorded along this trench (Fig 7). The three sections below are presented here as typical examples. Details of the remainder can be found in the site archive.

#### Section 1

Context	Depth	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
(1)	0m - 0.05m	0.05m	Grass, roots and topsoil.	Surface of path.
(2)	0.05m - 0.13m	0.08m	Dark black-brown clay with occasional stone fragments.	Layer immediately below path surface.
(3)	0.13m - 0.3m	0.17m	Grey-brown clay with occasional bone fragment.	Infill
(4)	Not bottomed	0.1m	Orange, red-brown clay with occasional quartz fragments.	Decayed natural rab layer above the granite bedrock.

## Section 5

Context	Depth	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
(1)	0m - 0.05m	0.05m	Grass, roots and topsoil.	Surface of path.
(2)	0.05m - 0.1m	0.05m	Dark black-brown clay with occasional stone fragment.	Layer immediately below path surface.
(3)	Not bottomed	0.45m	Grey-brown clay with occasional stone and bone fragments.	Infill

#### Section 10

Context	Depth	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
(1)	0m - 0.05m	0.05m	Grass, roots and topsoil.	Surface of path.
(2)	0.05m - 0.15m	0.1m	Dark black-brown clay with occasional stone fragment.	Layer immediately below path surface.
(3)	0.15m - 1m	0.85m	Grey-brown clay with occasional stone and bone fragments.	Infill
(4)	1m – 1.2m	0.2m	Orange, red-brown clay with occasional quartz fragment.	Decayed natural rab layer above the granite bedrock.

(19)	-	At base of trench	Solid granite bedrock.	Natural bedrock.

A total of eleven graves were recorded during the excavation of the drainage trench. Identification of the grave cuts and determination of their dimensions was difficult because of the narrowness of the trench, and the unstable nature of the sides, and the fact that the majority had been dug into the same material that they had been backfilled with.

Grave	Area	Depth	Description	Notes
AA	Pipe trench	0.3m	A grave cut 0.45m wide, the full dimensions of which could not be fully determined as its length ran across the width of the trench, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.  Orientated west to east, the cut was scarcely wider than the body and had an uneven bottom.  The lower abdomen pelvis and upper legs were exposed. Infilled with dark grey-brown clay.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was laid.
ВВ	Pipe trench	0.4m	A grave cut, the full dimensions of which could not be determined as it ran across the width of the trench, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.  Orientated west to east, the cut which was into the orange brown clay (4) was scarcely wider than the body.  The lower abdomen pelvis and upper legs were exposed. Infilled with dark grey-brown clay.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was
СС	Pipe trench	0.28m	A grave cut, <i>circa</i> 0.6m long, 0.28m wide, orientated west to east.  The cut was scarcely wider than the body, had rounded ends with an uneven bottom.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Full skeleton of a child exposed, head at west end. The arms appeared to be alongside the body.	laid.  Childs burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was laid.
DD	Pipe trench	0.3m	A grave cut 0.45m wide, the full dimensions could not be fully determined as it disappeared into the eastern section.  Orientated west to east, the cut was scarcely wider than the body and had an uneven bottom.  The skull, thorax and abdomen were recorded, with the arms placed alongside the body.  Infilled with dark grey-brown clay.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.  Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was laid.
EE	Pipe trench	0.5m	A grave 0.45m wide cut, the full dimensions of which could not be determined as it ran across the width of the trench, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was

Grave	Area	Depth	Description	Notes
			Orientated west to east, the cut which was into the orange brown clay (4) was scarcely wider than the body.	certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.
			The lower abdomen pelvis and legs were exposed. Infilled with dark grey-brown clay.	Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was laid.
FF	Pipe trench	0.5m	A grave cut 0.45m wide, the full dimensions could not be determined as it ran across the	Adult burial.
			width of the trench, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.  Orientated west to east, the cut which was	The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no
			into the orange brown clay (4) was scarcely wider than the body.	evidence for a coffin recorded.
			The lower thorax, abdomen pelvis and upper legs were exposed. Infilled with dark greybrown clay.	Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was laid.
GG	Pipe trench	0.5m	A grave cut 0.4m wide, the full dimensions	Adult burial.
			could not be determined as it ran across the width of the trench, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.	The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was
			Orientated west to east, the cut which was into the orange brown clay (4) was scarcely wider than the body.	certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.
			The lower thorax, abdomen pelvis and upper legs were exposed. Infilled with dark greybrown clay.	Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was laid.
НН	Pipe trench	0.5m	A grave 0.45m cut, the full dimensions of which could not be determined as it ran across the width of the trench, the ends disappearing in the west and east sections.	Adult burial.  The grave shape suggests a shroud burial; there was
			Orientated west to east, the cut which was into the orange brown clay (4) was scarcely wider than the body.	certainly no evidence for a coffin recorded.
			The upper torso, abdomen pelvis and upper legs were exposed. The arms were laid alongside the body.	Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was
			Infilled with dark grey-brown clay.	laid.
II	Pipe trench	0.2m	A slate covered brick built vault (See Fig 8).	Adult Burial within a Brick vault.
JJ	Pipe trench	0.5m	A grave cut that was <i>circa</i> 1.2m long, 0.3m wide, orientated west to east.	Childs burial. The grave shape
			The cut was scarcely wider than the body, had rounded ends with an uneven bottom.	suggests a shroud burial; there was certainly no
			Infilled with dark grey-brown clay. Full skeleton of a child exposed, head at west end. The arms appeared to be alongside the	evidence for a coffin recorded.
			body.	Bones lifted, then reburied in area after the pipe was laid.

## 6 Conclusions/discussion

This project has provided several valuable insights into the archaeological potential, history, and burial practices used at St Pol de Leon Church, Paul.

A total of 10 objects were recovered in the course of the work (Appendix 3) with categories of finds including flint, pottery, clay pipe, tile, and a coin. All the finds were unstratified and were recovered from the spoil tips.

The finds range in date from a Neolithic flint to the present day, with the earliest ceramics dating to the 13th century. This range reflects activity within the churchyard, perhaps some associated to the various phases of building and alteration of the church and its fabric, and others associated with the digging of graves. The coin is a Charles II farthing (1675).

The earliest activity recorded within the churchyard is evidenced by the presence of a Neolithic flint blade dating from *circa* 4000-2500 BC. This was an isolated find and probably just represents a chance loss.

No evidence was obtained in the current project for activity within the early medieval period so the cross fragments dating from possibly the 10th or 11th century (Preston-Jones 2010) remain the only hint of an early ecclesiastical establishment on the site.

A total of 23 graves were recorded in the course of the work (Figs 7, 8 and 9). Sixteen were adult burials; six were of children, while one was probably a juvenile. All were buried following the usual Christian practice of being orientated west to east, with their heads placed at the west end of the grave.

With the exception of the graves within brick vaults (II and KK) and one that could not be determined (LL) the majority of the graves appear to be shroud burials which are indicated by grave cuts that are scarcely wider than the body with a rounded end, and an uneven bottom to the base (Rodwell 1989). The other burials are most likely to be coffin burials.

The graves within the Pumping Station pit (Fig 9) appeared to be layered. Three levels of graves were encountered. The first layer was at a depth of between 0.3m-0.5m with the average occurring at 0.4m, the second layer was between 1m-1.2m with most being close to 1m, with a third layer at a depth of 1.3m below the current ground (path) surface. This probably reflects changing ground levels within the graveyard. Unfortunately due to the mode of excavation, the narrowness of the trench, and the nature of the ground, determination of the nature and sequence of grave cuts was difficult, especially in deciding the level from which the graves had been dug, and which graves had truncated the cuts of others.

There does seem to be a greater concentration of children's graves within the area of the pumping station which is close to the north door of the church often considered the 'Devils door', or 'dark side' of the church. This may reflect their low status, or perhaps the fact that they may have been unbaptised (Friar 1996).

No direct dating evidence was obtained for any of the graves, except for Grave KK, which was associated with the memorial to Charles Harvey who died in 1898.

Examination of cemeteries elsewhere in Cornwall (Thorpe 2001) has suggested a sequence of burial practices where shroud burials become prevalent from the 15th to 17th centuries, woollen shrouds or wool lined coffins being made compulsory in 1666 and 1678 to boost the English woollen industry (Tate 1946). Wooden coffins only entered into popular use during the 1700s (Friar 1996) and it is about this time that stone headstones begin to appear in churchyards in large numbers. Brick vaults are usually of 19th century date. This sequence suggests that at St Pol de Leon Church the shroud burials encountered are more likely to be of 15th to 17th century date and the other burials likely to be of predominantly late 18th or 19th centuries date.

The path across the churchyard along which the trench was excavated is first shown on the 1909 OS map (Fig 5) which indicates that the burials are older than this (indeed the construction of the path must be one of the major reasons why several of the burial were close to surface), it certainly resulted in the demolition and removal of the memorial associated with the brick vault belonging with Grave II.

The current investigations has shown that the archaeological potential for features surviving below ground is very high within the churchyard, it is thus highly desirable that any future work involving ground disturbance should be monitored archaeologically.

## 7 References

## 7.1 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, MasterMap Topography

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1843. Parish of Paul (licensed digital copy at CAU)

British Geological Survey, 1984. 1:50000 Map. Penzance. Sheet 351 - 358.

#### 7.2 Publications

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Friar, S, 1996. A Companion to the English Parish Church. Allan Sutton, Stroud.

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

Henderson, CG, 1925. The Cornish Church Guide Oscar Blackford, Truro.

Nowakowski, J, 1992. Grave News from Tintagel. CAU Report, Truro.

Olson, BL, 1989. Early Monasteries in Cornwall, Woodbridge.

Preston-Jones, A, 1994. Decoding Cornish Churchyards. *Cornish Archaeology* **33**, 71-95.

Preston-Jones, A, 2010. Paul, Cornwall, Churchyard crosses conservation and investigation. CAU Report 2010R137.

Rodwell, W, 1989. English Heritage Book of Church Archaeology. Batsford.

Tate, WE, 1946, rep 1983. The Parish Chest. Chichester.

Thorpe, C, 2001. St Mawgan in Pydar Church, Cornwall – Archaeological watching brief. CAU, Cornwall Council.

#### 7.3 Websites

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/ Online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Building

## 8 Project archive

The CAU project number is 146716

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

- 1. A project and information file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration (file no 146716).
- 2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 897/1 6).
- 3. Digital photographs stored in the directory: \CAU\Live Projects\Paul. St Pol de Leon Church WB. 146716\Data\Images\Paul. St Pol De Leon Church
- 4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-304624
- 5. This report text is held in digital form as: \CAU\Live Projects\Paul. St Pol de Leon Church WB. 146716\Report

Artefacts retrieved during the project are temporarily stored at the CAU Finds Archive Store, Cardrew Industrial Estate, Redruth.

The site code is STPL 17.

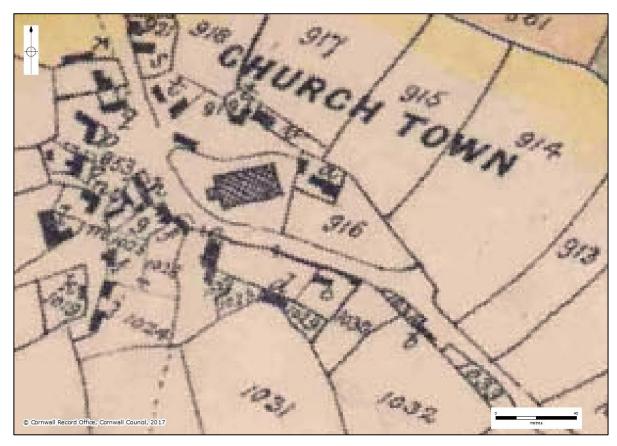


Figure 3. Part of the 1843 Tithe map for Paul Parish.

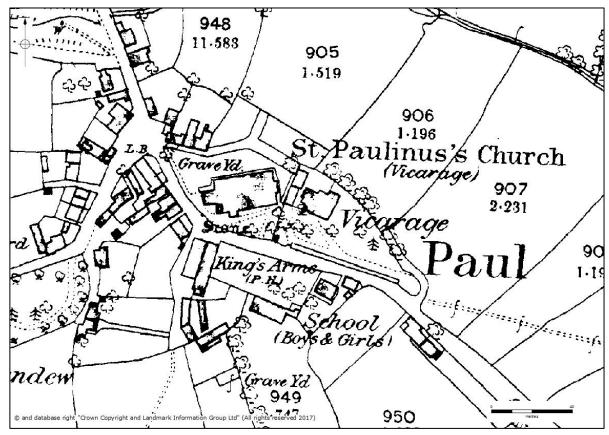


Figure 4. 1880 OS map.

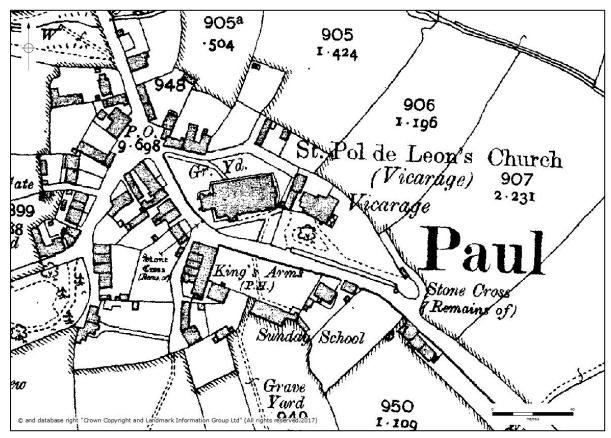


Figure 5. 1909 OS map.

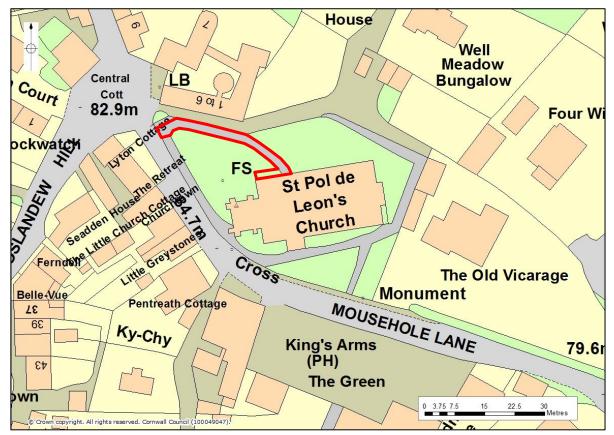


Figure 6. Site location (area examined archaeologically outlined in red).

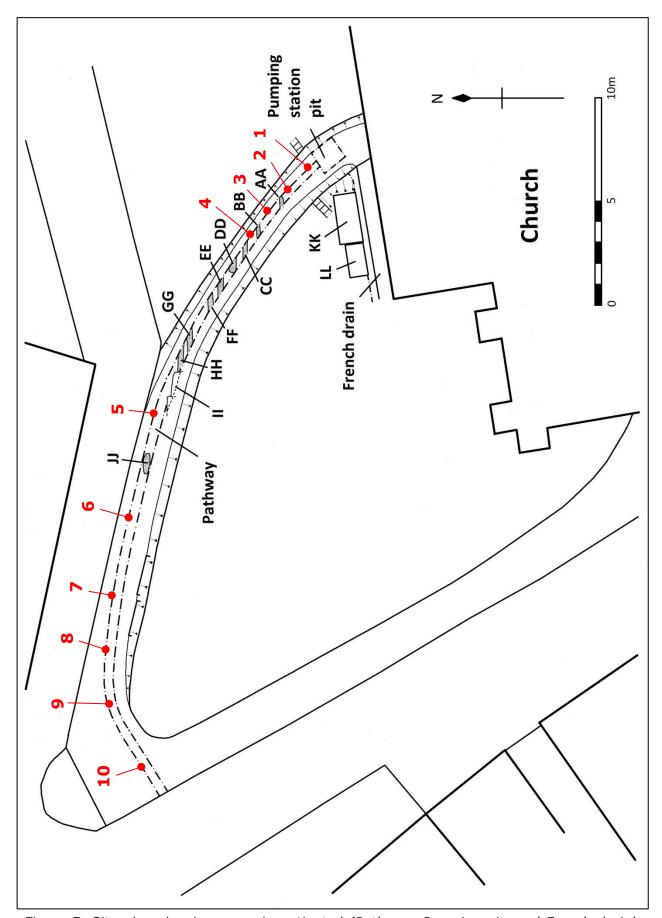


Figure 7. Site plan showing areas investigated (Pathway, Pumping pit, and French drain) and location of graves found within the path (lettered). Recorded sections shown in red.

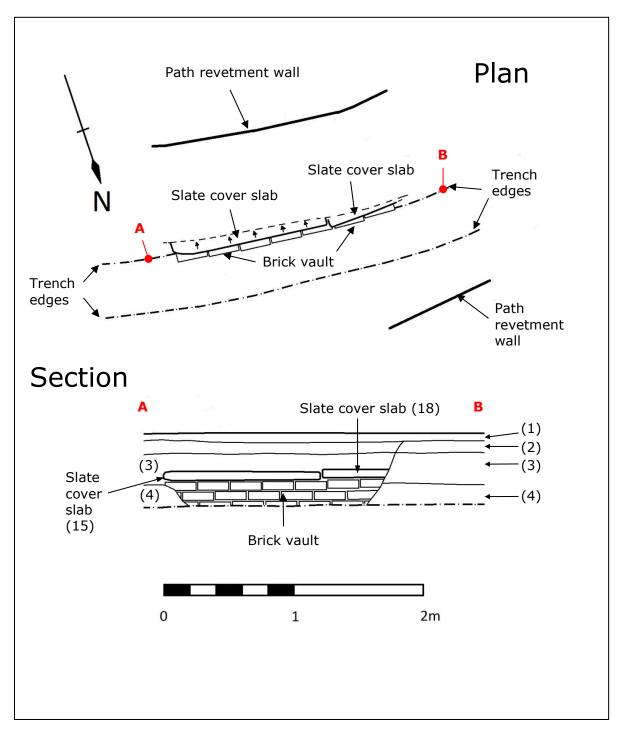


Figure 8. Plan and section of Grave II uncovered within the pathway trench showing  $19^{\rm th}$  century vault.

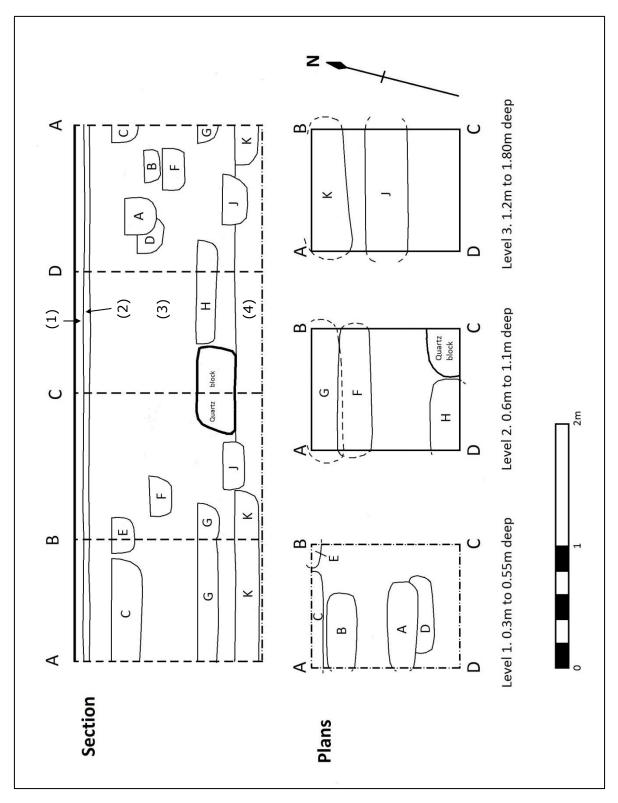


Figure 9. Pumping station pit. Plans and sections showing recorded graves.

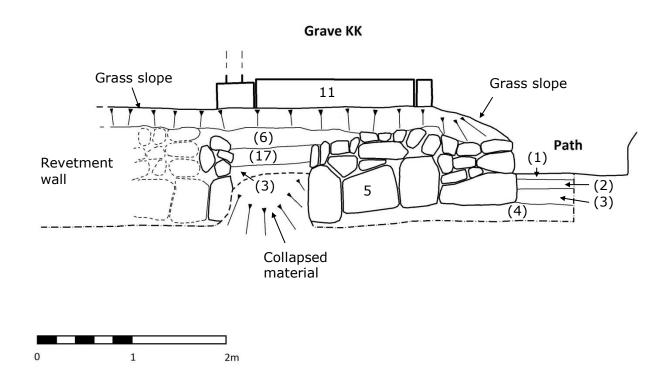


Figure 10. French drain section after revetment wall section (structure 5) collapse.

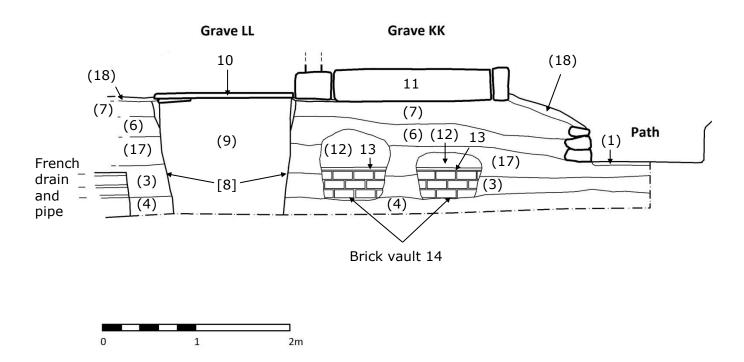


Figure 11. French drain section after cleaning back of collapsed material showing details of Graves KK and LL.



Figure 12. French drain section after revetment wall section collapse.



Figure 13. French drain section after removing collapsed wall and cleaning up of the section face. Note traces of brick vault, structure 14.



Figure 14. Pumping station pit outside north door of church showing digging box, and shoring around the French drain section.



Figure 15. Pathway trench showing brick built vault of Grave II exposed in the section.

# 9 Appendix 1: Summary of approved Written Scheme of Investigation

Client Name: St Pol de Leon Parochial church council (PCC)

Client Contact: Rev Andrew Yates
Client tel: 01736 367863

Client email: srotruro@btinternet.com

**Site name:** St Pol de Leon Church, Paul

**Site location:** SW 46442 27090

**Planning ref:** N/A

## Summary project background

Installation of a pumping Station, drainage trench and floodlighting at St Pol de Leon Church at Paul located at SW 46442 27090 (TR19 6UA). The area to be affected was a pit 1.2m x 1m and up to 1.4m deep to house a pumping station, and a trench approximately 36m and up to 1.2m deep leading across the churchyard to the road. The church is a Grade I Listed Building (1327894) and is set within a Conservation Area of Paul church town (DCO77). The Churchyard wall and a cross set upon it are both Grade II listed structures.

CAU was contacted by Matthew Terrell (PDP Green Consulting Ltd) on behalf of Rev Andrew Yates and the St Pol de Leon Parochial church council (PCC) in June 2017 with a request for the provision of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covering a scheme for archaeological recording during ground works required for the installation of a pumping Station, and drainage trench associated with new WC and kitchenette facilities at this site. Planning consent was not required for this application. Faculty approval is being applied for (Terrell 2016). The archaeological recording is being proposed as St Pol de Leon church is of medieval origin and the preservation of buried archaeological material is likely to be high.

## Site history

The Parish Church of Paul is first recorded in 1259 and 1315 but nothing remains of the structure of the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries other than a pre-Reformation piscina set low down in the south wall of the south aisle at the east end. The present building dates from the fifteenth century, with nineteenth century restoration. A Spanish force landing nearby burnt down the church in 1595 (Henderson 1925). The church consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, porch, and west tower of three stages.

The settlement Paul is also first recorded in 1259 when it is spelt 'St Paulus' (Gover 1948). The name of the settlement, parish and church is derived from that of the Breton saint, Paul de Leon.

The location of the pumping station and route of the trench for the drainage run is close to several important archaeological sites:

- St Pol de Leon medieval church (MCO6403).
- The medieval settlement of Paul (MCO16018).
- A medieval Cross located of the churchyard wall (MCO5614).
- The nineteenth century memorial to Dolly Pentreath (MCO 25097).

#### Potential sites

There is potential for buried archaeological features, such as human burials and/or structures associated with the medieval church, and previously unrecorded archaeological remains and artefacts of all periods.

## **Project extent**

The pumping station is to be located on the path immediately outside the north door of the church. It will be situated within a pit measuring  $0.6m \times 0.8m$  and reaching a maximum depth of 1m.

A drainage trench measuring and approximately 36m long, 0.5m wide, and 0.45m deep will be excavated across the churchyard along the grass path to the north of the church, connecting the pumping station to the existing SWW mains sewer within the road

External floodlighting is to be provided for the east window of the church. This will involve the excavation of an area for a concrete plinth to provide a base for the light, and the excavation of a small cable trench to connect the light to the interior of the church. The concrete base is to be  $0.3m \times 0.3m \times 0.3m$  laid in a shallow pit about 100-150mm deep.

## Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study is to record evidence for the nature of the archaeological potential of the churchyard, for example the depth and character of deposits and features within the churchyard.

#### Aims and objectives

- To ensure that the site works are carried out in such a way as to allow recording as set out in this Written Scheme of Investigation.
- To record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To record any stratified medieval human remains which cannot be preserved in situ.
- 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 recover and record artefacts uncovered by the works.
- To deposit the archive (including any finds) with within an appropriate accredited archive repository and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

### Methodology

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.

The archaeological programme will follow three stages: fieldwork; archiving, and archive report production. Where significant deposits are encountered further stages of assessment; analysis; final publication may be required.

## Fieldwork: Archaeological Recording

The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out as an archaeological watching brief involving close liaison between the site contractor and the project archaeologist.

The trenching should be carried out by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket or hand-dug. Open sections of the trench will be inspected by the archaeologist, who will record any archaeological features exposed within it.

Archaeological features exposed during the trenching will be carefully excavated by hand and archaeologically recorded by written description, plan, section and photographic record as appropriate by a CAU archaeologist.

Where appropriate this may require a stop on the works whilst archaeological deposits or structures are recorded. In the event of significant remains being discovered a contingency should be allowed to permit the archaeologist time to record the remains.

Human remains will not be 'chased' into the sides of the trench, and burials should be left *in situ* and treated with respect.

Non-recent burials (before c1600 AD) will be recorded using a skeleton recording form, planned and photographed and will not normally be subject to analysis.

#### Recording - general

During the archaeological recording the archaeologist will:

• Identify and record any archaeological features that are revealed in the stripped area; 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 Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) 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 stripping. The significance of the remains should be agreed between the client, the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) and CAU.

Where necessary the detailed archaeological recording may include:

- Excavation of archaeological features exposed in the stripped area 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: Photographic recording will include colour photography using a digital SLR camera (with a resolution of 10 million pixels or higher).
  - CAU follows English Heritage guidance on digital image capture and file storage (2015).

The photo record will comprise: general views and examples of structural and architectural detail.

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

- 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 from a scientific specialist.
- If human remains are discovered on the site the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) and the Ministry of Justice 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.

#### Treatment of finds

The archaeological fieldwork may produce artefactual material.

- All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (eg, settlement features) should be collected by context and described. Post-medieval or modern finds 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.

#### **Archive**

To include:

- Digital colour photographs (stored according to HER guidelines and copies of images made available to the client).
- A detailed site/building description.
- Preparation of finished drawings.
- Completion of the English Heritage/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

- 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).
- 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.

## **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 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

JPG Site graphics and scanned information

DNG or TIF Digital photographs

DWG AutoCAD drawings, measured surveys

MXD ArcView GIS (electronic mapping) data

AI Adobe Illustrator graphics

#### **Timetable**

The study is anticipated to be undertaken in September 2017. CAU will require at least three 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.

## Agreed monitoring points

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment). 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

This WSI was produced by Carl Thorpe, Archaeology Projects Officer.  $1^{\rm st}$  June 2017

## 10 Appendix 2: Context List

Context No	Туре	Dimensions	Description	Comments
(1)	Layer	Up to 0.08m thick.	Grass, roots and topsoil.	Surface of path.
(2)	Layer	Up to 0.1m thick.	Dark black-brown clay with occasional stone fragment.	Layer immediately below path surface.
(3)	Layer	Up to 0.3m thick.	Grey-brown clay with occasional slate fragments, brick, and redeposited bone – mostly human.	Infill
(4)	Layer	Up to 0.22m thick	Orange, red-brown clay with occasional quartz fragment.	Decayed natural rab layer above the granite bedrock.
5	Structure	Up to 0.8m high.	Walling consisting of irregular shaped granite blocks.	Revetment wall for Churchyard alongside the path and French drain.
(6)	Layer	Up to 0.3m thick.	Compacted dark-grey brown clay with some slate fragments (roofing), stone fragments, tile, and re-deposited bone – mostly human.	Infill
(7)	Layer	Up to 0.4m thick.	Friable grey-brown clay with mortar fragments, roofing slate fragments, and re-deposited bone – mostly human.	Infill
[8]	Cut	1.4m wide. Recorded depth 1.2m (not bottomed).	Near vertical grave cut.	Grave cut for Grave LL.
(9)	Fill	-	Loose friable grey-brown clay with stone, roofing slate fragments, mortar fragments and re-deposited bone.	Grave LL Fill
10	Structure	1.5m long, 0.8m wide, and 0.05m thick.	Large slate slab	Slate surface memorial marker for Grave LL
11	Structure	2.2m long 1.8m	Granite kerb structure and slate	Grave KK.
		wide.	headstone.	Memorial for Charles Harvey 1898.
(12)	Fill	Not determined	Loose friable grey-brown clay with stone, roofing slate fragments, mortar fragments and re-deposited bone.	Fill of Grave KK.
13	Structure	Length not determined. 0.05m thick.	Large slate slab.	Cover slab for Brick vault part of Grave KK.
14	Structure	Not determined.	Brick built structure.	Vault associated with Grave KK.
15	Structure	1.2m long, 0.05m thick. Width not determined.	Large slate slab.	Cover slab for Brick vault part of Grave II.
16	Structure	Not determined.	Brick built structure.	Vault associated with Grave II.
(17)	Layer	Up to 0.3m thick.	Red-brown clay with some slate fragments (roofing), stone fragments,	Infill

Context No	Туре	Dimensions	Description	Comments
			tile, and redeposited bone.	
(18)	Layer	Up to 0.08m thick.	Grass, roots and topsoil.	Topsoil covering the graveyard
(19)	Layer	-	Solid granite bedrock.	Natural

## 11 Appendix 3: Finds

- 1 Neolithic flint blade.
- 1 very worn Charles II farthing dated 1675.
- 1 basal angle sherd of Cornish Medieval Coarsewares (South-western micaceous ware). 13th to 14th centuries AD.
- 1 small ridge tile fragment in a Cornish Medieval Coarsewares fabric. Probably 14th to 15th centuries AD.
- 1 basal sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (South-western micaceous ware). 14th to 15th centuries AD.
- 2 sherds of undiagnostic Post-Medieval Yellow-Glazed Red Earthenware (Bristol/Staffordshire Ware). 17th to 18th centuries AD.
- 1 Clay pipe stem with bore of diameter  $\emptyset$ = 2.5mm which suggests a date *circa* 1725.
- 1 clay pipe stem with bore of diameter  $\emptyset$ = 2mm which suggests a date *circa* 1788.
- 1 iron coffin handle. Probably 18th or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

All the finds are unstratified and were retrieved from the spoil heaps.

Service trenching at St Pol De Leon Church, Paul, Cornwall. Archaeological Watching Brief

## **Cornwall Archaeological Unit**

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