

St Agnes Affordable Housing Higher Town, St Agnes Isles of Scilly

Archaeological Mitigation Phase 1 Archive Report



Historic Environment Projects

**St Agnes Affordable Housing Site,
Higher Town, St Agnes,
Isles of Scilly**

**Archaeological Mitigation
Archive Report**

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the Historic Environment projects team and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Freedom of Information Act

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Cover illustrations

From top left: possible graffiti of a sailing vessel on a prehistoric potsherd; Structure 1 under excavation; small find 2, a granite bowl quern; small find , almost whole pot *in situ*

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Abbreviations

EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall and Scilly HER
SM	Scheduled Monument
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

1 Summary

In September 2009 Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council (HE Projects) were commissioned by Cornwall Rural Housing Association Ltd to carry out archaeological recording to satisfy a planning condition for the development of two new affordable houses at Higher Town, St Agnes, Isles of Scilly (NGR SV88229 08241). The development site is adjacent to the south-western boundary of a Scheduled Monument described as 'Prehistoric to Romano-British Field System and Settlement at Higher Town, St Agnes' (SM 15456).

The fieldwork was undertaken in October 2009 and it was quickly established that the site contained a circular, stone-built structure (overlain by a cairn) and two other cairns. These structures are dated by associated pottery to the prehistoric period but further study of the ceramic assemblage is required before more definite dates can be assigned. The most likely scenario is that activity on the site dates to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period.

The stone-built structure was oval and contained a number of features indicating a functional use for the building, including a stone-lined drain or flue beneath it, a large burnt pit, a stone-lined chamber containing an almost whole pot, and a number of postholes. Overlying the structure was a cairn, a large mound of granite rubble possibly erected as an act of closure of the site, or perhaps indicating re-use for a different function.

One of the potsherds recovered during the archaeological work has incised marks that appear to represent the front part of a sailing vessel: if substantiated this would be the earliest depiction of such a vessel in Scilly and Cornwall, and one of the earliest in the British Isles.

The archaeological remains revealed on the site are evidently part of the south-western extent of Scheduled Monument 15456. Although the remains lie outside of the scheduled area they should be considered as of National Importance and it is recommended that there should be a further stage to assess the potential for further analysis and to produce an updated project design for full publication of the results of the archaeological investigation as an article in an academic journal. It would be sensible to combine these stages with the assessment/analysis/publication of the results of 2010 archaeological excavation of the St Agnes affordable housing bungalow site (which is the subject of a separate archive report).

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

On 20 September 2007 planning permission was granted for planning application P/07/100, the development of two new houses at Higher Town, St Agnes, Isles of Scilly subject to a number of conditions including Condition 4 which states that:

No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason

The site comprises an area of known archaeological interest where it is the Local Planning Authority's policy to provide for the examination of archaeological remains.

In September 2009 Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council (HE Projects) were commissioned by Cornwall Rural Housing Association Ltd to undertake archaeological recording to satisfy the planning condition.

The archaeological work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by HE Projects (Johns 2009) based on a Brief outlining the minimum requirements for archaeological recording produced by the Historic Environment Advisor of the Council of the Isles of Scilly (Breen 2009).

2.2 Aims

The site specific aims of archaeological recording were to:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;
- determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date, and significance of any archaeological remains encountered;
- record any archaeological remains;
- establish the nature of the activity on the site;
- identify any artefacts relating to the occupation of the site;
- provide further information on the archaeology of the area from any archaeological remains encountered;
- provide further information on the archaeology of the Isles of Scilly; and
- disseminate the results of the excavation appropriately.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out in the following stages according to the methodology set out in the WSI (Johns 2009).

2.3.1 Desk-based assessment

During the desk-based assessment historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and the structures and features that were likely to survive. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall and Scilly HER
- Early maps and photographs (see Section 8.1)
- Published histories (see Section 8.2)

2.3.2 Fieldwork

The fieldwork was undertaken in October 2009. The topsoil was removed from the entire site, comprising the building footprints and areas of garden to the rear and front of the houses, an area in total of 422 square metres. A toothless ditching bucket was used for the removal of topsoil. Stratified deposits below this were hand cleaned in the vicinity of identified archaeological features, deposits, and finds and the resulting evidence was recorded as appropriate. Only features that were to be disturbed by the works were excavated and recorded, and sampled for palaeoenvironmental material and dating evidence as appropriate. Areas of disturbance to the site were limited to the foundation trenches of the buildings and part of the eastern corner of the development which needed to be lowered for levelling purposes. A number of middens and the tops of stone structures were identified in the area to the south-west of the building footprints, in the areas set aside for gardens: these were not recorded.

An open day (Fig 14) was held at the site whilst archaeological work was in progress to allow islanders and tourists to view the site and its artefacts and to hear an initial interpretation of the site by the project officer.

2.3.3 Post-excavation work

Finds

The artefacts were cleaned, dried, sorted as appropriate. Initial finds identification and cataloguing was carried out by Carl Thorpe, the HE Projects Finds Officer.

Samples

The soil samples were processed by flotation. The residues were collected on a 1000-micron mesh and sorted by hand into the following categories: plant macrofossils, charcoal, animal bone, marine molluscs and crustacea.

Archiving

During this stage the field records were collated and checked, the field drawings were digitised in AutoCAD, and the photographs catalogued.

3 Background

3.1 Location and setting

The site is located in two fields that were formerly used for flower growing, and are now down to grass. It is situated towards the bottom of the south-west facing hill slope below Higher Town (NGR SV 8828 0823) and has an entrance opening on to Old Lane, the island's main road (Fig 1).

The boundary subdividing the fields was removed before the archaeological watching brief began; this boundary is not recorded on either the 1880 or 1907 OS maps so may date from the 20th century (Figs 2 and 3).

3.1.1 Geology and soils

The geology of St Agnes is granite, with weathered periglacial head, known locally as *ram*, covering the lower hill slopes and valley floors and supporting soils suitable for cultivation and pasture (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1975, Isles of Scilly, Sheets 357 and 358).

3.1.2 Historic Landscape Character

The site lies within an area categorised as late post-medieval enclosure formed from Anciently Enclosed Land, this being land that was enclosed prior to the 19th century, potentially in the medieval period or earlier (Land Use Consultants 1996). This category of land has the potential for archaeological remains.

3.1.3 Archaeological background

The site is south of, and adjacent to, Scheduled Monument 15456, a prehistoric to Romano-British field system and settlement at Higher Town, St Agnes and approximately 200m south-east of Scheduled Monument 15450, a prehistoric settlement and field system at Porth Killier, St Agnes (Fig 1). In a field between these monuments two Bronze Age pottery vessels were discovered during the archaeological recording for the St Agnes Quay development in 2007 (Johns and Sawyer 2008; Johns and Quinnell forthcoming).

There are also a number of other archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development site. These include the following sites identified by Primary Record Number (PRN):

- 7036 Plump Well
- 7309 Find spot, prehistoric and historic periods
- 71366 Post medieval pit
- 71367 Post medieval pit

Other sites in the vicinity are located within and form part of the Scheduled Monument.

4 Results

The results are arranged into three sections based on the three structures identified and excavated during the fieldwork (Fig 4).

4.1 Structure 1 (Figs 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14)

This feature comprised a sub-ovoid, stone-kerbed or walled structure measuring approximately 6m long by 5m wide. It was situated against the north-western edge of the development area, part of the structure lying beneath the baulk (edge of excavation). Since approximately half of the structure lay outside of the building footprint it was decided to clean the entire feature to understand its layout, but to concentrate on excavation of the half that fell within the footprint. The unexcavated half was recorded in plan, covered in a geotextile material, and then covered over with soil. An exception to this was the keyhole excavation of a chamber containing a whole pottery vessel that had been identified during the cleaning process. The excavation within the structure was divided into quadrants with central 1m-wide baulks between them, allowing for the recording of sections post-excavation. The quadrants were numbered clockwise from the north Q1-Q4.

A number of phases of activity were identified during the excavation and these can be simplified as follows: *construction*, *occupation/use*, and *abandonment/re-use*.

4.1.1 Phase 1: Construction

Stratigraphically the earliest features were a large pit, [160], and two postholes or pits, [167] and [174], situated on the south-eastern interior of the feature, and a stone-lined drain or flue, 156, that ran north-south beneath the centre of the structure.

Pit [160]

Pit [160] was revealed in a north-east to south-west section cut against the edge of the building footprint. It was not completely revealed and the observed extent measured 1.86m long by 0.6m wide by 0.35m deep. The north-east edge of the pit was steep, almost vertical, but rose up gently to the south-west, following the slope of a large granite slab that lay at the base of the cut. The pit contained a number of fills. Primary fill (163) was a pinkish brown gritty material containing a large amount of *ram*, possibly representing a slumping of material following the initial excavation of the pit, later oxidised slightly by heat within the pit. The vast bulk of the material within the pit was a dark brownish grey sandy clay, (159), containing frequent patches of a yellow clay and mottled charcoal. This contained two lenses of burnt material: (161) lay at the base of the deposit, on top of (163); (164) lay at the top of the deposit. Fills (158) and (159) contained sherds from a large storage vessel, a variety of rimsherds, a sherd with a horizontal lug and deep-grooved decoration, all of granitic fabric of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, some sherds of gabbroic fabric of the same age, three flint flakes, a granite hammer stone, a water-rounded pebble, and a quantity of animal bone. Sealing all fills within the pit was deposit (155) (see below).

Postholes/pits [167] and [174]

The larger of the two features was [167], 0.25m long by 0.2m wide by 0.5m deep, with a slightly concave base and near vertical sides. It was situated just inside the southern edge of wall 103 and contained a single fill, (165), which was sealed beneath pit fill (159). Feature [174] was a shallow truncated posthole or pit base 0.3m in diameter and 0.04m deep containing a single fill, (175), also sealed by deposit (159).

Postholes/pits [168] and [170]

These postholes are likely to date to the same phase as [167] and [170] but were sealed by deposit (155). Posthole [167], 0.16m long by 0.08m wide by 0.05m deep, was recorded in section and is likely to be circular. It was situated just inside the southern edge of wall 103 and contained a single fill (166).

Posthole/pit [170], 0.36m long by 0.14m wide by 0.11m deep, contained a single fill, (171), a dark greyish brown sandy clay containing bone fragments, beach pebbles, and angular granite.

Drain/flue 156

In the base of the keyhole excavation in Q4 a stone-covered channel, 156, was identified. The feature consisted of flat-laid granite capping (0.28m wide by 0.32m deep) on unshaped granite blocks with a *ram* base. The channel ran north to south and extended at least 3.1m to the south of the excavated section and 0.4m to the north. Investigation with an iron rod suggested that it may continue to the south beyond 3.1m to a distance of at least 8m, which is well beyond the extent of Structure 1. The channel appeared to be cut into the *ram*, although the stones forming the sides of the feature were not removed to verify this. Although originally interpreted as a possible flue, the fact that the feature runs downslope beyond the building indicates that it was probably a drain.

A small chamber, 169, led off the main feature to the south-east beneath the point where the intact pottery vessel SF1 was discovered (Fig 13 and see below). A number of sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery of granitic fabric were recovered from the structure of the feature including a square-topped rim with thumb impressions along its edge. At the point where this secondary aperture diverted from the main channel there was a step down in the floor of the feature. From this point southwards it contained a shallow fill, (173), a light brownish yellow clay.

Chamber 169 and buried pot (SF1)

Lying partly over feature 156 was a stone-lined chamber, 169, edged with a large granite block on its southern side that sat on the natural *ram*. The feature was not fully excavated and hence its total dimensions are not known. A section measuring approximately 1.5m by 0.85m was excavated, originally with the intention of recovering an intact pottery vessel, SF1, which had been identified during the cleaning of the structure. The excavation of the pot revealed that it sat in a small alcove within the chamber directly above a small side-passage of channel 156 (Fig 13 and see above).

Levelling cut [177], wall 103, and pit [143]

The perimeter of Structure 1 was marked by a cut, [177], deeper (up to 0.2m) upslope than downslope (0.08m). It measured 5.3m north-east to south-west and 5.15m north-west to south-east. A wall, 103, of unshaped granite blocks one stone wide and surviving up to three courses up to 0.3m high sat in the edge of the cut. There were apparent gaps in the perimeter to the north-east (1.7m wide) and south-east (0.63m). The latter was coincident with an apparent entrance screen, 151, of later construction (see below) and the gap here may be a later modification to complement this. The walling to the south and west was less certain since the overlying deposits were not excavated to the same degree and the circuit to the west may lie partially beneath the baulk. Another potential entrance into the structure, or into an adjacent structure to the south not identified during the fieldwork, may be marked by a granite slab and adjoining pivot stone, SF3, revealed at the southern extent of the excavation to the south-east of Structure 1.

In the possible entrance to the north-east a small oval pit or posthole, [143], was identified. Its fill, (144), contained a large number of limpet shells and animal bone fragments.

4.1.2 Phase 2: occupation/use

Drain/flue 156

The fill of channel 156, (173), is likely to have been deposited during the occupation and/or use of the structure. This deposit is similar in nature to the sandy deposit (162) within chamber 169 and may derive from it.

Chamber 169 and buried pot (SF1)

Filling the base of chamber 169 was deposit (172), a dark brownish grey sandy clay. This deposit contained a number of sherds of coarse granitic fabric including one with an applied cordon with fingernail-impressed decoration. This has been provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. Above this was a layer of light yellow sandy clay (162).

Above this layer pot SF1 was placed on, and surrounded by, deposit (157). The vessel, a jar of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, is incomplete with much of the upper part of it missing although one section of rim remains. The fill of the pot, (178), contained a small amount of mammalian, bird, and fish bones above a spread of potsherds, one from the rim, and the others from a single basal sherd of another vessel. Below this there were two discrete scatters of sherds that appeared to be from the vessel itself. The exterior of the pot appears blackened but no traces of residue were observed in the interior (see below Section 5.2 and Appendix 10.6).

Deposit (157) was composed mostly of limpet shells in a matrix of sandy clay, predominantly crushed, pressed against the outside of SF1 but elsewhere formed a layer 0.05m to 0.11m thick. It is possible that the pot lay within a pit lined with sandy clay and limpet shells, but the stratigraphy suggests that the sandy clay was packed around the pot whilst it was exposed, some of this sandy clay falling away to form the layer in the rest of the chamber. A large

number of sherds, all of granitic fabric and including a number of rim sherds from a variety of vessels (including SF4, three rimsherds from three different vessels), two granite cobble fragments, and a water-rounded pebble were recovered from this deposit. Two of the sherds contained internal residue.

Above this layer and the pot was a dark brownish grey silty clay, (176), similar to the backfill deposits over the rest of the structure and the same as deposit (147). This deposit contained a number of sherds of granitic fabric, including a base fragment with possible traces of basket weave on the exterior, a sherd of fine granitic fabric, possibly Neolithic, and a fragment of burnt clay with a vitrified surface, possibly part of a furnace lining.

Layer (155)

This layer, a mid-brownish grey sandy clay with a grittier feel than most of the other deposits on the site, sealed the fills of the pits and postholes recorded in the eastern part of Structure 1 and was confined to the interior of the structure. It may define a period of occupation of the structure following a phase characterised by the use of the large pit [160]. The deposit contained a number of sherds of fine granitic fabric that have been provisionally identified as Neolithic, as well as sherds of a coarser granitic fabric identified as Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The deposit also contained the granite door jamb with pivot hole, SF3.

4.1.3 Abandonment/re-use

Wall 151

This structure, a stone-faced earth wall 1.2m wide by 0.5m high, abutted wall 103 to the south-east of it, forming a dog-leg at least 2.8m long. The outer face of the wall may have continued to the north for another 5m, following the same arc, although the relationship between this continuation and the main wall remained unclear. The wall appeared to lie on *ram*, but a stone linking it with wall 103 sat on deposit (155) and therefore post-dated wall 103, which was built on *ram*. It is possible that the wall is contemporary with 103 but an opening was made in it at a later date and an entrance formed using 151. A number of animal bones were collected from the structure. The earth core of the wall, (152), contained a number of sherds of granitic fabric provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and an assemblage of animal bones.

'Cairn' 107

The interior of Structure 1, concentrated in the northern part of the building, was filled with a large deposit of granite rubble, 107, up to 4.22m long by 3.86m wide and up to 0.28m high. It was unclear whether the material was from a cairn or was collapsed wall material from 103. If the latter is correct Structure 1 may have taken the form of a beehive hut since the amount and distribution of material suggested a considerable height to the wall. However, there were a number of large stones that would have been unlikely to have formed part of the roof of a beehive hut, in particular one towards the centre of the deposit, and therefore a cairn seems more likely. This postdates the majority of the activity within the structure and appears to have been the final chapter in its use. The material included a broken cobble and some water-rounded pebbles.

One small area within the cairn material was stone-free and this was filled with a deposit, (148), very similar to the other backfill deposits. It may be a later insertion into the cairn but is perhaps more likely to be contemporary with it. It contained a small number of sherds of a granitic fabric, including a rimsherd with possible thumb or fingernail decoration, a possible quartz pestle, and three water-rounded pebbles.

The matrix of the cairn material was a dark greyish brown sandy clay up to 0.3m thick and was given different context numbers for each quadrant, (102) in Q1 and Q4, (141) in Q4, (142) in Q1, (149) in Q3, and (150) in Q2. This material contained a large amount of potsherds of coarse granitic fabric provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, including fragments from a large storage jar, sherds of a finer fabric, including four from a carinated bowl dated to the Neolithic, pieces of fired clay, possibly from a loom weight, a chert scraper, a variety of flint blades, flakes, cores, and pebbles, stone objects including granite mullers, cobbles, hammer stones, and a large granite bowl quern, SF2, and some intrusive post medieval glass and china. One of the coarse fabric sherds had internal residue.

External deposits

Layer (146) lay over the *ram* outside Structure 1 to the north and east. It contained a rimsherd of coarse granitic fabric dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. Above this deposit, layer (145) covered the same area and lay over a possible continuation of wall 151 to the north and west. It contained a large number of sherds of a coarse granitic fabric, including one with an incised line pattern closely resembling a boat with a sail. This sherd has been provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and if this is correct and the decoration is of a boat it would represent one of the earliest pictorial representations of sailing craft known from the British Isles (Thomas 2010). The deposit also contained a number of flint objects, a broken hammer stone, a number of granite cobbles, and some post medieval pottery and clay pipe stems.

Midden material in the form of limpet-rich deposits were observed across the site but not excavated or recorded. Two animal bones and a limpet shell were recovered from one of these, (104), which lay on the western side of the site but was not planned.

Topsoil (101), 0.23m thick, sealed all other layers. It contained post-medieval sherds of china and glazed red earthenware and a single sherd of prehistoric pottery.

4.2 Structure 2 (Figs 7 and 10)

At the north-eastern end of the site a low rubble-topped mound was identified as a small cairn, Structure 2. The feature needed to be removed due to the requirements of the construction programme and it was cleaned, recorded, and then half-sectioned.

The earliest feature beneath the mound was a pit [126] cut into a buried soil deposit (131). Only approximately half of the pit was uncovered during the recording; it was 1.73m long by at least 1.3 m wide by 0.16m deep with near vertical sides. The pit contained a single fill (125) a mid-greyish brown silty clay containing three sherds of coarse granitic pottery provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, a fragment of burnt granite, and three granite cobbles. Buried soil (131) was a dark brown silty clay containing much less sand than other deposits in the area.

The mound comprised a deposit of a light brownish grey sandy clay (118), which covered an area approximately 3m in diameter and sealed buried soil (131) and pit fill (125). The slope of the mound was steeper to the south and west, reflecting the direction of slope of the land surface. The mound contained possible Neolithic pottery of fine granitic fabric, one sherd with incised line decoration, another with faint cord-impressed decoration, sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age coarse granitic fabric, including one with an applied horizontal cordon with impressed fingernail decoration, a fragment of burnt clay with vitrified surface, possibly part of a furnace lining, a flint scraper, two flint flakes, a number of cobbles and water-rounded pebbles, and some animal bone.

Cut into the western side of the mound was a large sub-rectangular pit, [136], measuring 1.1m by 1m with near vertical sides up to 0.16m deep. The eastern edge of the pit was disturbed by an animal burrow. The pit contained a single fill, (135), a mid greyish black sandy silt from which sherds of granitic fabric dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, a flint core, a granite cobble, animal bone (including fish), and limpet shell fragments.

Smaller pits or postholes were cut into the northern side of the mound, including [133], [137], and [140]. These features were very shallow and all held dark fills that did not appear to contain significant amounts of charcoal. Fill (119) from scoop [140] contained a stone fragment that had been worked into a borer or burin.

Mound (118) was covered in a deposit of granite rubble, 128. This rubble sealed all of the pits and postholes within the structure as well as deposit (118).

The base of a stone wall, 127, consisted of three long pieces of granite aligned north-west to south-east. It passed across the north-eastern side of Structure 2, cutting deposit (118) and lying on top of pit fill (119). There was a small deposit of granite rubble to the north-east of it that may have been the remnants of a rubble core of a stone-faced earth bank but is perhaps more likely to be derived from cairn rubble 128.

All features in this area were sealed by subsoil deposit (115), which contained two rim sherds from Neolithic carinated bowls, a number of sherds of Late Bronze age/Early Iron Age granitic wares, a flint knife and flake, a couple of animal bones, and a sherd of post medieval pottery.

4.3 Structure 3 (Figs 8 and 10)

This structure, a cairn, was located at the south-eastern edge of the site, which was marked by a modern concrete plinth supporting a water distribution plant. Much of the feature had been removed before it could be recorded in plan and most of the structure was recorded in the baulk section. A sondage was cut perpendicular to the baulk to investigate the base of the cairn.

The cairn consisted of a deposit of mid-greyish brown sandy clay (120) forming a mound up to 0.35m high which lay directly on *ram* (124). The mound was faced by granite rubble 114 forming a cairn up to 2.3m long and protruding from the baulk up to 0.65m.

The cairn was overlain to the north by a deposit of light brownish grey sandy clay, (111). A similar material, (122), lay over it to the west. Overlying both these deposits and the cairn was a mounded deposit of mid-greyish brown sandy clay up to 0.22m deep, containing 90% limpet shells and granite rubble (110). This may be the same as deposit (121), recorded in the sondage section. Deposit (110) contained two sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery of granitic fabric.

Cutting the northern side of layer (110) was a pit [129] measuring 0.74m long by 0.46m wide by 0.18m deep. It contained a single fill of pinkish-brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular granite and shell and bone fragments (130).

To the north-west of the cairn was a shallow, sub-rectangular pit [139] filled by context (116) comprising almost 100% limpet shell. This deposit contained eight sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery of a granitic fabric and a large number of bones, mostly fish.

North of the cairn and following a north-east to south-west alignment was a linear band of granite rubble in a light grey sand clay matrix, (108). It had an observed length of 8m and was 0.75m wide by 0.45m deep. This featured has been interpreted as a post-medieval or modern French drain or soakaway, possibly running downhill from Grinlinton Farmhouse to the

north-east. It contained four sherds of possibly Neolithic pottery of a fine granitic fabric, a chert scraper, and a broken cobble.

All features and deposits in this area (to the south-east of a removed field boundary) were sealed by subsoil deposit (109), which contained a broken cobble, animal bones, and occasional limpet shells.

5 Finds summary report

5.1 The finds

By CM Thorpe BSc

A total of 1218 artefacts were recovered during this project. Pottery comprises the largest quantity of finds (631 sherds or 51.8% of the collection). There is also stone, flint, charcoal, glass, bone and burnt clay within the assemblage. Some 63 artefacts (5.1% of the total) came from the topsoil and are best considered unstratified, being collected during the stripping of the field or the cleaning of the archaeological features.

The remaining artefacts were collected from sealed features or layers and were recorded by context with only special artefacts or groups being three dimensionally recorded (denoted in this report by the prefix SF). Small finds SF2 and SF3, a granite bowl quern and a granite pivot stone respectively, were not retained but left in a safe location on the island of St Agnes as they were too heavy to transport.

The earliest identifiable artefacts are flints. Twenty-four were recovered during the course of the work coming from contexts (106), (108), (115), (118), (141), (142), (145), (149), (150), (158), and unstratified from the topsoil. The flints do not appear to be very diagnostic, but are most likely of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. There were examples of both flint and chert, all apparently coming from beach pebbles.

The identification of the ceramics present is very tentative as there are many forms that are not immediately recognisable to the author. There are two types of granitic fabric present that form the bulk of the ceramics within the collection. A fine, thin to medium walled, well fired, well finished variety (surface in places appears to be burnished) and a heavier coarser fabric that has sherds varying from medium to large thickness. There are also a few sherds of gabbroic pottery.

The earliest identifiable pottery recovered during this project appears to date from the Neolithic period. This material consists mostly of the thinner walled fine granitic fabric, the identifiable forms coming from carinated bowls. This material was recovered from contexts (102), (108), (115), (118), (142), (147), (149), (155), and U/s from Structure 2.

An almost whole pot, **SF1**, was recovered from context (157). This virtually complete vessel has a profile suggesting a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Jar. Three rimsherds from three different vessels, **SF4**, were also recovered from this context.

Prehistoric pottery in a granitic fabric was also recovered from contexts (101), (102), (106), (110), (115), (116), (118), (125), (135), (141), (142), (145), (146), (147), (148), (149), (150), (155), (156), (158), (159), (172), (176) and unstratified from Structure 2. This material is a mixture of both thin walled, fine, and also coarse granitic fabric and consists of forms including large storage jars that I cannot readily identify. They are not the typical shapes of ceramics that occur in the Scillonian Neolithic, or Middle Bronze Age periods. It is possible that the bulk of this material could thus also be Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age in date, but this is very tentative. It is just as likely that this material may be Neolithic, or indeed Middle

Bronze Age, but for this report I have tentatively assigned all of it a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.

One unusual sherd found in this material comes from context (145). This is from a large, thick walled storage vessel with a simple upright rounded rim. The exterior has on its surface incised line patterns that appear to be pictorial in nature, looking like a graffiti resembling a boat with a large square sail. The picture was done pre-firing of the vessel, so no matter what the date accepted for this sherd (be it Neolithic, through to early Iron Age), if the representation is substantiated as that of a boat, it will be one of the earliest depictions of a sailing vessel from Britain (Thomas 2010).

There is quite a collection of stonework from the site, with several diagnostic tools such as hammer stones and quern fragments; however none could be assigned to a particular period. A bowl quern, **SF2**, and a door jamb with a pivot hole, **SF3**, were recovered from the site and are temporarily stored at the school on St Agnes..

There is a scattering of sherds from the medieval and post medieval periods across the site, some coming from sealed contexts though most are unstratified. This is typical of assemblages obtained from fields close to farming communities the finds being derived from domestic midden material being utilised for the manuring and improvement of the fields.

The total number of finds from each context are summarised in Appendix 10.5.

5.2 Treatment work on pottery vessel SF1

By Laura Ratcliffe

The vessel had been lifted from the ground in a soil block with some crepe bandages and tape wrapping around the outer surface of the pot which has been cleaned off *in situ*. No soil remained to support urn exterior.

The vessel is not complete with most of the upper portion not present. One area of rim about 60mm long remains and then slopes down and outwards on both sides to a the height of about 150mm the rest of the way round. The break surface either side of the remaining rim appears freshly exposed but not freshly broken suggesting that there was more material in the burial environment, just not present with the bulk of the soil block. The break surface at the lowest point of the side is much more worn, suggesting an area of loss or damage contemporary with deposition. The base is loose and has been placed elsewhere; the small parts remaining at the base of the vessel walls are loose.

The interior of the vessel was filled with a fine black soil with little visible inclusion.

The exterior of the vessel is blackened and seems to be burned or covered in a burnt deposit; a cross section of a broken area shows that about 2mm in from the outside of the pot is black whilst the interior is more oxidised and a brown orange colour. The ceramic matrix is homogenous with small white inclusions and for the most part a pale orange buff colour. More detailed information on this will be obtained once the pot is washed or cleaned.

The exterior of the urn was bound with cotton tape and plastic to offer more support when the interior fill was removed. The excavated fill was retained for sieving. This was a very uniform deposit with a few large rotten granite inclusions; the top 60mm contained some small amount of bone, deteriorated but not burnt. At 12mm depth there was a larger portion of probable mammalian bone, also some small fragments of bird bone and possibly some fish.

The bone and granite fragments lasted until a depth of 120mm where there was a spread of pot fragments. One fragment is from the rim of the vessel, also a three pieces of a base sherd from another vessel in the pieces, and another sherd.

At 220mm down, below these potsherds was another spread of six sherds, all looking like the same material as the vessel.

Then, at a depth of 240mm below the rim there was a last layer of potsherds, all of which looks like the vessel fabric. None of these sherds seemed deliberately placed, more probably breakage from the larger, more worn area of loss whilst the more recent break areas will probably be accounted for by the material taken during excavation from the surrounding soil.

A small portion of clay was found near a hole in the vessel and which apparently matches the clay found in the burial environment.

Beneath the ceramic spreads was more soil and the area where the base should be. A few base fragments remain but are loose.

The whole vessel has been left to dry out before cleaning and drawing can be done.

The interior sherds were planned, bagged and numbered. The bone was bagged for possible dating but it is unsure how sealed the fill was above the sherd layer.

No residue layer could be seen at this stage, the interior of the vessel looks clean. The exterior looks blackened. There may be lipids present within the fabric of the pot but no visually obvious layer.

It is recommended that the vessel should be allowed to dry slowly before cleaning, and should be handled with care, the sherds will probably crack during drying, or rather, existing but hidden cracks will open up during drying making the vessel unstable as it stands. Taking the fragments apart may be the safest way to store it until further work is carried out.

For full report see Appendix 10.6.

6 Discussion

6.1 The overall picture

The archaeological remains revealed on the site undoubtedly represent part of the south-western extent of Scheduled Monument Scheduled Monument 15456 'prehistoric to Romano-British field system and settlement at Higher Town, St Agnes'. Although they lie outside of the scheduled area they form part of a monument designated as of National Importance and should be regarded as of National Importance.

The site presents a number of topics worthy of discussion pertaining to the site as a whole and to its individual components. Perhaps the most important of these is the considerable pottery assemblage, much of which displays a number of unique or localised attributes. As described above (Section 5) the bulk of the material falls into two types of fabric, a heavier coarse fabric and a finer variety. The latter has been dated provisionally to the Neolithic period, based on the use of the fabric in making carinated bowls. The former has been used to produce much larger vessels including large storage jars and has been dated provisionally to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period. However, much of this material has been found within the same contexts and either there is a large amount of background Neolithic material that has found its way into later contexts or the pottery all dates to a single period, requiring a full programme of analysis and dating to provide a chronological framework for the artefacts.

The presence of the rimsherd with the possible representation of a boat with sails is in itself of potential National Importance (Thomas 2010). If further analysis substantiates the interpretation of the graffiti as a sailing craft it will be one of the earliest representations of

such a vessel from the British Isles, regardless of whether the sherd dates to the Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

6.2 Structure 1

The true nature of Structure 1 remains to be determined. It appears to have been made into a cairn in its final phase but the original structure beneath it shows elements of a more functional nature, in particular the large burnt pit [160] and drain/flue 156.

The position of the whole pot SF1 within a stone chamber above an offshoot of drain/flue 156 is puzzling. A number of complete, or incomplete, prehistoric pots some containing sherds of other pots have been found in the Isles of Scilly but these pots have usually been placed in isolated pits which appear to have ritual connotations (e.g. Neal forthcoming; Butcher and Johns forthcoming; Johns and Quinnell forthcoming), or clay-lined pits associated with domestic occupation (e.g. Samuels 1975, 117; Gray 1972, 34-5).

SF1 is unusual in that it appears to have been coated in sandy clay and limpets but may not have been placed in a pit. There may be parallels for this from an Iron Age site in Guernsey (Helen Sebire pers comm) but the precise reference remains to be identified. It is possible that SF1 represents a halfway stage in which the pot was coated in clay before being placed into a pit, or possibly even an industrial process akin to firing, although no parallels have been found for the latter interpretation.

6.3 Structure 2

This feature appears to be a relatively straightforward cairn overlying a central pit and containing a secondary deposition on its flank. It may well be of a funerary nature but no human remains were recovered to back up this interpretation.

6.4 Structure 3

This feature appears to be a clearance cairn, or possibly a small section of rubble wall caught in section, with an adjacent midden, perhaps the result of using the feature as a working platform to process limpets. This has the potential to provide information about limpet exploitation on Scilly.

7 Recommendations

The results of the archaeological recording on the St Agnes Affordable Housing site in October 2009 are of National Importance and merit assessment of potential for further analysis, particularly in view of the structures revealed and the character and large quantity of finds recovered. This archive report has covered the initial results from the investigations and is the first stage in the analysis of the excavation results, designed to provide a record to be used to target further assessment and analysis.

At the conclusion of this stage of this project the following tasks have been achieved:

- An archive report outlining the results of the excavation has been produced.
- All context, finds, and sample record sheets have been completed and archived.
- All photographs have been indexed and catalogued.
- All correspondence has been filed and stored within an archive box.
- All finds have been cleaned, catalogued and stored in acid free boxes.

- All environmental samples have been wet-sieved and sorted into floats and residues.

Following the completion of the fieldwork and archiving the requirements for further work will need to be reviewed and outlined in a costed proposal for Assessment and production of an Updated Project Design for Analysis and Publication.

It is recommended that, following the production of an archive report for the 2010 excavations on the St Agnes affordable housing bungalow site, the Assessment, Analysis and Publication stages of the 2009 work and the 2010 excavation should be combined

The post-excavation stages of the project should include the following.

7.1 Assessment

The next stage should be assessment of the potential of the structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual and environmental material for further analysis.

The following classes of data should be assessed:

- Stratigraphic and structural (verification of data and for potential for comparative study)
- Pottery
- Stone artefacts
- Flint
- Animal bone to identify potential for species identification and resource exploitation
- Mollusc shells to identify potential for information about resource exploitation
- The flots from the soil samples to identify their potential to contain charred macrofossils, seeds, and potential for radiocarbon dating
- Vitriified clay (deposit (157) surrounding pot SF1)

7.2 Updated Project Design

On completion of the Assessment stage an Updated Project Design will be produced. The Updated Project Design will:

- Include the results from the assessments for the 2009 watching brief and the 2010 bungalow site excavation.
- Outline the research questions for the analysis stage.
- Outline the tasks for the analysis stage.
- Put forward an outline for the academic publication.

The content of the Updated Project Design will be agreed with the HEA for the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

7.3 Analysis

The analysis stage will entail the study of structural and stratigraphic data, artefacts, and environmental samples and will be governed by the Updated Project Design. This will involve the following tasks:

- Liaison with specialists (e.g. environmental samples, radiocarbon dating, and artefacts, etc) to for further analysis.
- Despatching artefacts (ceramics etc) to the appropriate specialist for analysis.
- Despatching residues from environmental samples to appropriate specialists.
- Despatching suitable material for radiocarbon dating, if appropriate.
- Reviewing results from analyses and agreeing final form of academic publication.

7.4 Academic / Final publication

The results are National Importance and require wider dissemination than an archive level report. The final scope of the publication will need to be reviewed in the light of the results from the analyses and should combine the results of the 209 work and the 2010 excavation on the bungalow site. The contents of the report would include:

Section	Text	Illustrations
Summary	Brief text summarising the contents of the article, focusing on the key results of the project.	
1. Location & setting	Brief description of the site location and the natural setting (i.e. geology, soils relief, rivers, vegetation).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map showing the location of the site in Scilly (inset: map showing the location of Scilly in relation to SW England). 2. Relief map of the immediate area showing the location and extent of the site
2. Archaeology, history, previous work and historic landscape setting.	The location and nature of archaeological sites in the vicinity will be summarised (e.g. Porth Killier), previous work in the area and the historic landscape character will be described.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Map showing the historic landscape character and location of archaeological sites in the surrounding area
3. The project	A description of the circumstances of the archaeological project - background, desk-based assessment, watching brief and excavation methodology, artefact retrieval, sampling strategy.	.
4. Structural and stratigraphic report	2009 watching brief and 2010 excavation results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Selected plans and section drawings 5. Selected photos
6. Specialist's reports	Containing specialist reports various types of artefactual and environmental material: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metalwork 2. Pottery 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Various supporting tables and illustrations

Section	Text	Illustrations
	3. Stonework 4. Flint 5. Animal bone 6. Molluscs 7. Plant macrofossils 8. Charcoal 9. Radiocarbon dating	
7. Discussion	Discussion of the significance and context of the results	7. Distribution map of comparative Scillonian sites
9. References		
		NB Selected photographs will also be included – of the site, work in progress, key features and artefacts.
Acknowledgements		

8 References

8.1 Primary sources

Ordnance Survey, c1880. *25 Inch Map* First Edition (microfiche copy at HE)

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8.2 Publications

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Butcher, S A, and Johns, C, forthcoming. Excavation of a prehistoric site at Bar Point, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 1972, *Cornish Archaeol*

Gray, A, 1972. Prehistoric habitation sites on the Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol* **11**, 19-49

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Land Use Consultants and Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 1996. *Isles of Scilly Historic Landscape Assessment and Management Strategy*, Cornwall County Council

Johns, C and Sawyer, K, 2008. *Isles of Scilly Off-island Quays Refurbishment, : Archaeological Recording*, HES, Truro

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Neal, D S, forthcoming. Excavations at East Porth, Samson, Isles of Scilly, 1970-1, *Cornish Archaeol*

Samuels, J, 1975. A Coarse Storage Vessel in a Clay-lined Pit, Pendrathen, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol* **14**, 117

Thomas, C, 2010. *A preliminary note on a boat-decorated Bronze Age sberd from St Agnes, Isles of Scilly*, privately circulated document

9 Project archive

The HE project number is **2009089**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is currently housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE711).
3. Electronic drawings stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (CAD)\CAD Archive\Scilly\St Agnes Affordable housing 2009089
4. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP2109 and 2110
5. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\Scilly\St Agnes\St Agnes Affordable Housing 2009089
6. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-79672

This report text is held in digital form as: [St Agnes Affordable Housing Archive Report.doc](#)

Artefacts and environmental material retrieved during the project will be stored at the Isles of Scilly Museum, St Marys. The site code is SA09.

10 Appendices

10.1 Context index

Context No	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
(101)		D	Dark greyish brown, friable, sandy clay. Topsoil across the site.		
(102)	S1 Q1	D	Deposit within area enclosed by 103, the same as (141) and (142).		15
103	S1	B	Single thickness wall of granite. Forms exterior wall of Structure 1. Sits on ram.	14	16, 17
(104)		D	Midden towards the western end of the site.		
(105)	S1	D	Stony rubble overlaying 102 and 103, the same as 107.		
(106)	S1 Q2	D	Deposit over stone to the east of Structure 1. Probably the same as (145).		
(107)	S1	B	Granite rubble over Structure 1. Concentrated in centre of structure. May be a cairn deposited over an abandoned roundhouse or a collapsed wall. The bulk of the material was concentrated in the northern part of the structure in an area measuring 4.22m by 3.86m. The rubble lay to a depth of 0.28m.	11, 14	16
(108)	S3	B	Light grey, compact, sandy clay, matrix containing abundant granite rubble. A possible soakaway (8m length x 0.75m width x 0.45m deep).		
109)	S3	D	Mid greyish black, loose, sandy clay, (0.1m-0.4m depth), containing occasional limpet shells. Subsoil in site to south-east of removed field boundary.		
(110)	S3	D	Mid greyish brown, loose, sandy clay, (0.22m depth), containing 90% limpet and granite rubble. Midden material over 114.		
(111)	S3	D	Light brownish grey, friable, sandy clay (0.6m width x 0.2m depth). Bank material over 114.		
(112)	S3	C	Cut of a possible ditch, (0.55m width x 0.5m depth), to the north-east of 114.		
(113)	S3	D	Dark greyish brown, friable, sandy clay. Fill of possible ditch [112].		
(114)	S3	B	Possible cairn, Structure 3, (2.3m length x 0.65m width x 0.5m depth) in section at the south-east of the site.	3	2
(115)	S2	D	Mid -grey, loose, sandy clay (0.2m depth). Subsoil over Structure 2.	1	
(116)	S3	D	Light grey, loose, shell,(1.5m length x 0.7m width x 0.12m depth). Midden that contains 99% limpet shells 1% bone.		2
(117)	S3	D	Dark grey, loose, sandy clay (0.15m depth).Topsoil to the south-east of removed field boundary.		
(118)	S2	D	Light brownish grey, friable, sandy clay. Matrix of cairn material. Contained pottery, bone, and number of polished beach cobbles. Associated with (125), (131), [133], [136], [137], and [140].	8, 9, 1	5
(119)	S2	D	Dark brownish black, friable, silty clay. Black layer on the eastern side of Structure 2, fill of shallow scoop [140].	8	5

Context No	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
(120)	S3	D	Mid greyish brown, friable, sandy clay forming a mound up to 0.35m high. Deposit at the core of Structure 3.		2
(121)	S3	D	Dark brownish grey, loose, sandy clay with frequent limpets. Dark deposit in Structure 3.		2
(122)	S3	D	Mid greyish brown friable sandy clay. Fill / deposit beneath 116.		2
(123)	S3	D	Mid greyish brown, soft, silty clay. Similar to (122) but higher clay/silt content. Deposit beneath 116.		2
(124)		D	Dark yellowish brown, friable, sandy clay, contains very jumbled blocks of granite in a matrix of yellowish/reddish brown ram. Natural across the site.	8	2, 5
(125)	S2	D	Mid greyish brown, friable, silty clay. Fill of a pit [126] under Structure 2.		5
[126]	S2	C	Cut of a sub-oval pit, (1.73m length x 1.3+ m width x 0.16m depth) with near vertical sides, under Structure 2. Filled by (125).	8	5
127	S2	B	Line of three long pieces of granite abutting cairn material (118), on the north-eastern side of Structure 2. Originally thought to be kerb for cairn but subsequent investigation suggested this was unlikely. Final interpretation as later period wall (1.9m length x 0.2 - 0.6m width x 0.23m depth) with possible rubble core.	1	5
128	S2	B	Sub-angular granite rubble 0.1m- 0.2m and 0.5m across with occasional beach pebbles. Forms cairn material of Structure 2.	1	5
[129]	S3	C	Cut of pit, (0.74m length x 0.46m width x 0.18m depth), possible stone socket. Filled by (130).	3	4
(130)	S3	D	Mid pinkish brown, loose, sandy clay with occasional sub-angular granite and shell and bone fragments. Fill of [129].	3	4
(131)	S2	D	Dark brown friable silty clay. Buried soil beneath Structure 2, much less sandy than overlying deposits.	8	5
(132)	S2	D	Dark greyish black, friable, sandy clay. Dark fill of scoop [133]. Burnt material on the north-eastern side of Structure 2.	1	10
[133]	S2	C	Shallow scoop (0.32m length x 0.18m width x 0.06m depth) on the north-western side of Structure 2. Filled by (132).	1, 8	10
(134)	S2	D	Dark greyish black, friable, sandy clay. Fill of shallow scoop [137]. A dark deposit on the north-eastern side of Structure 2. No obvious charcoal.	8	7
(135)	S2	D	A mid greyish black loose sandy silt containing bone/shell and possible Bronze Age pot deposited in a pit on the south-western side of Structure 2. Fill of [136].	8	6
[136]	S2	C	Cut of a pit (1.1m length x 1m width x 0.10m depth). Cut into (118), filled by (135).	8, 9	6
[137]	S2	C	Cut of a shallow amorphous pit (0.92m length x 0.32m width x 0.05m depth). Cut into (118), filled by (134).	8, 9	7

Context No	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
[138]		C	Cut of a soakaway, (8m length x 0.75m width x 0.45m depth). See (108).		
[139]	S3	C	Cut of a small pit (1.5m length x 0.7m width x 0.12m depth) containing (116). Lies north-west of Structure 3 or possibly against it, relationship was unclear as machining had removed the relationship.	3	2
[140]	S2	C	Cut of a small scoop, (0.2m length x 0.21m width x 0.1m depth). Cut (118) and contained (119), sealed by 127.	8, 9	5
(141)	S1 Q4	D	Dark greyish brown, friable, sandy clay (0.3m depth). Deposit across Structure 1, Quad 1: same as (102), (142), (149), and (150).	11	16
(142)	S1 Q1	D	Dark greyish brown, friable, sandy clay, (0.3m depth). Deposit across Structure 1, Quad 4: same as (102), (141), (149), and (150).	11	16, 13, 15
[143]	S1	C	Cut of a small oval pit, (0.53m length x 0.34m width x 0.09m depth), filled by (144).	14	12, 16
(144)	S1	D	Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy clay, Limpet-rich fill of (143).	11	12
(145)	S1	D	Dark brownish grey, friable, sandy clay. The bulk of material outside of Structure 1 to the north.	11	12, 16
(146)	S1	D	Material under (145) outside of Structure 1.	14	
(147)	S1 Q4	D	Dark yellowish grey, friable sandy clay with softer pockets that are thought to represent rabbit burrows. Layer contained many sherds of pottery and frequent bone fragments. Texture was variable containing more sand than overlying layer (150).	14, 19	13, 25
(148)	S1 Q1	D	Dark greyish brown, soft, sandy clay fill of a stone free pocket found in Structure 1, possibly a cist as it contained frequent bone fragments.	14	24
(149)	S1 Q3	D	Dark greyish brown, friable, sandy clay, deposit (0.3m depth). Deposit across Structure 1, Quad 3: the same as (102) (141) (142) (150).	11	17, 15, 13
(150)	S1 Q2	D	Dark greyish brown, friable, sandy clay (0.3m depth). Deposit across Structure 1, Quad 2: the same as (102) (141) (142) (149).	11	17, 15
151	S1 Q3	B	Stone-faced earth wall found on western edge of Structure 1. It is 1.2m wide, up to 0.5m high, and at least 2.8m long, and may form a dog-leg extension to wall 103, butting this feature. It is built on deposit (155) and is therefore more recent than wall 103, which sits on <i>ram</i> . The wall echoes the curve of the rest of the structure and is composed of large (<0.7m x 0.5m x 0.2m) pieces of granite laid on edge, facing deposit (152). This construction method appears to differ from the rest of the structure.	14	20, 13, 15
(152)	S1 Q3	D	Dark greyish brown, loose, sandy clay with infrequent angular granite inclusions of granite and small rounded beach pebbles no larger than 0.05m and some fine bone fragments. Bank material faced by 151.	14	20
(153)	S1 Q1	D	Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy clay. More sandy than overlying deposits giving it a gritty texture similar to (154) and (155).	14	

Context No	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
(154)	S1 Q2	D	Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy clay. More sandy than overlying deposits giving it a gritty texture similar to (153) and (155).	14	
(155)	S1 Q3	D	Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy clay. More sandy than overlying deposits giving it a gritty texture similar to (153) and (154).	14	17
156	S1 Q4	B	Stone-built flue or drain with flat-laid granite capping (0.28m wide x 0.32m deep) on unshaped granite blocks with a <i>ram</i> base. Ran north to south and extended at least 3.1m to the south of the section and 0.4m to the north. Investigation with a road iron suggested that it may continue south beyond 3.1 metres to a distance of at least 8m. It appeared to cut the ram, although the stones forming the sides of the feature were not removed to verify this. A small chamber, possibly a secondary flue led off the main feature to the south-east beneath the point where SF1 was discovered. At the point where this secondary aperture diverted from the main channel there was a step down in the floor of the feature. It contained a shallow fill, (173), at the base of the channel to the south of the step.	19	24, 25
(157)	S1 Q4	D	Dark reddish brown, friable, sandy clay. Matrix of SF1.	19	23
(158)	S1 Q3	D	Dark brownish grey soft sandy clay with small patches of yellow clay. Material found under (155). The same as (159).		
(159)	S1 Q3	D	Dark brownish grey, soft, sandy clay, containing numerous patches of yellow clay. Similar to (162), with black lenses and streaks and polished pebbles. Fill of central pit [160], same as (158).		13, 17
[160]	S1 Q3	C	Cut of pit (1.86m length x 0.6m width x 0.35m depth), filled by (159), (161), (163), and (164). Possible hearth pit and possibly associated with flue structure 156. Possibly the seat of the fire for the kiln. Suggested that draught from long section of flue 156, (aligned north-east - south-west), creates a draw through short flue section, (aligned north-west - south-east), linking this firepit [160] with kiln area 169.	19	17
(161)	S1 Q3	D	Dark brownish black, soft, sandy clay. Fill of pit [160]. Dark lens below (159).		17
(162)	S1 Q4	D	Light yellow, friable, sandy clay packed around SF1. Encased a layer of limpets that appeared to have been intentionally packed around SF1, possibly having a use as some sort of tempering agent as part of a firing process.	19	25
(163)	S1 Q3	D	Mid pinkish brown, sandy clay. Gritty fill at the base of [160]. This may represent a slump of material following the initial excavation of the pit.		17
(164)	S1 Q3	D	Dark brownish black, soft, sandy clay, Black lens in (159).		17
(165)	S1 Q3	D	Light greyish brown, friable, sandy clay with frequent patches of light grey clay, the material that it is cut into to the south-west. Fill of posthole/pit [167].		17

Context No	Site sub-division	Type (Cut/Deposit/Build)	Description	Plan No	Section No
(166)	S1 Q3	D	Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy clay. Fill of posthole [168], south-west of pit [167].		17
[167]	S1 Q3	C	Cut of posthole/pit (0.25m length x 0.2m width x 0.5m depth) next to [160] and filled by (165).	19	17
[168]	S1 Q3	C	Cut of posthole (0.16m length x 0.08m width x 0.05m depth) filled by (166).	19	17
169	S1 Q4	B	Granite-lined chamber next to flue 156, not fully excavated but at least 1.2m x 0.8m. Stone lining appears to be set on ram. It is suggested that this feature forms a kiln structure. The presence of several broken pots in the vicinity of what appears to be a pot still in the firing process would seem to support this theory. Filled by (176).	19	23, 25
[170]	S1 Q2	C	Posthole/pit (0.36m length x 0.14m width x 0.11m depth) in Structure 1 Quad 2. Filled by (171).	19	21
(171)	S1 Q2	D	Dark greyish brown, loose, sandy clay, contains bone fragments, beach pebbles, and angular granite greater than 0.1m in diameter. Fill of posthole/pit [170].		21
(172)	S1 Q4	D	Dark brownish grey, friable, sandy clay, the primary fill of chamber 169.		23
(173)	S1 Q4	D	Light brownish yellow layer at the base of feature 156. Only found south of a small step in the base of the feature.		24
[174]	S1 Q3	C	Posthole (0.3m diameter x 0.04m depth) in Structure 1 Quad 3 near [160] filled by (175).	19	22
(175)	S1 Q3	D	Dark greyish brown, loose, sandy clay. Fill of posthole [174].		22
(176)	S1 Q4	D	Dark brownish grey, friable, silty clay. Upper fill of chamber 169.		23
[177]	S1	C	Levelling cut for Structure 1, deeper (up to 0.2m) upslope than downslope (0.08m). Measures 5.3m NE-SW and 5.15m NW-SE.		
(178)	S1	D	Fill of Small Find 1. A dark brownish black friable sandy clay with granite fragments and basal sherds of another vessel. Also contained some bone.		

10.2 Graphic index

Drawing no	Plan / Section	Site sub-division	Description	Context Nos
1	P	S2	Pre-ex plan structure 2	(115) 127 128 [133] (132) (118)
2	S	S3	Section through (116)	(116) (114) (120) (121) (123) (122) (124) [139]
3	P	S3	Plan of sondage through structure 2	(116) [139] [129] (130) (124)
4	S	S3	Section through pit [129]	[129] (130)
5	S	S2	Section through cairn	(118) (119) 127 128 (124) (125) [126] [140] (131)

Drawing no	Plan / Section	Site sub-division	Description	Context Nos
6	S	S2	Section through pit [136]	(135) [136]
7	S	S2	Section through pit [137]	(134) [137]
8	P	S2	Mid-ex / post-ex structure 2	[126] (119) (118) [133] (134) (135) (124) (131) [136] [137] [140]
9	P	S2	Post-ex pits [136] [137]	[136] [137] [140] (118)
10	S	S2	Section through scoop [133]	[133] (132)
11	P	S4	Cairn 107 overlay	107 (141) (142) (144) (149) (150) (145)
12	S	S1	Section through 143	[143] (144) (145)
13	S	S1	Section North East facing baulk structure 1	(147) (142) [151]
14	P	S1	Mid-ex plan structure 1	103 107 [143] (146) (148) (147) 151 (152) (153) (154) (155)
15	S	S1	Section South West facing baulk structure 1	(142) (149) 151 (150) (102)
16	S	S1	Section North West facing baulk structure 1	103 107 (141) (142) [143] (145)
17	S	S1	Section South East facing baulk structure 1	103 (149) (150)
18	P	S1	Overlay cairn in baulks	
19	P	S1	Overlay SF1 and 156	[170] [174] (147) 160 [167] [168] (162) (157)
20	S	S1	Section through [151] - stone faced wall	[151] (152)
21	S	S1 Q3	Section through posthole [170]	[170] (171)
22	S	S1 Q3	Section through posthole [174]	[174] (175)
23	S	S1 Q4	Section through kiln 156	(157) (176) (172) 169 (162)
24	S	S1 Q4	Profile through kiln 156	(147) 156 (173)
25	P	S1 Q4	Overlay kiln and flue	(147) 156 169
26	S	S3	North West facing section through structure 3	

10.3 Sample index

Sample No	Context No	Quantity (Bags/Litres)	Description	Plan No	Section No
1	(116)	4	Shell rich midden material.		2
2	(125)	4	Fill of possible pit under structure 2		5
3	(132)	1	Burnt material North of structure 2.	1	10

Sample No	Context No	Quantity (Bags/Litres)	Description	Plan No	Section No
4	(1300)	1	Fill of possible stone socket.	3	4
5	(1190)	1	Fill of a scoop in structure 2.	8	5
6	(134)	1	Fill of a scoop in structure 2.	8	7
7	(135)	4	Fill of a pit (possibly Bronze Age) in structure 2.	8	6
8	(131)	4	Buried soil beneath structure 2.		5
9	(118)	4	Bulk of the cairn material.	8, 8, 1	5
10	(144)	1	Limpet rich fill of small pit [143.]		12
11	(162)	1	Yellow clay in structure 2, quadrant 3.	19	25
12	(161)	1	Drain fill quadrant 3 black soil		17
13	(157)	1	Clay around Small Find 1		23
14	(166)	1	Fill of posthole SW of pit		17
15	(159)	4	Layer		13, 17
16	(171)	1	Posthole fill of [170]		21
17	(172)	1	Base of Kiln 169		23
18	(173)	1	Yellow layer at base of flue 156		24
19	(175)	1	Posthole fill [174]	19	22

10.4 Small finds index

Small Find No	Context No	Type	Description	Level No	Plan/Section No
1	(157)	Pot	Virtually whole pot lifted as 1 piece	28	13
2	(149)	Stone	Granite bowl quern in Q3		
3	(155)	Stone	Granite door jamb with pivot hole in Q3		
4	(157)	Pot	Collection of sherds associated with SF1		

10.5 Catalogue of finds

Context No: U/s

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Flint	35g	1		

1 flint core/scrapper. Prehistoric.

Context No: Str 1. U/s

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Bone				
Animal	88g	31		

31 animal bone fragments.

Context No: Str 2. U/s

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	49g	7		

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Neolithic? Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

6 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Neolithic? Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

Context No: U/s (SW of Str 2)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	93g	8		
Post-Medieval	3g	1		

8 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

1 sherd post medieval glazed red earthenware. 18th to 19th centuries.

Context No: (101)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	35g	1		
Post-Medieval	30g	2		
Modern	77g	12		

1 sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

2 sherds post-medieval glazed red earthenware. 18th to 19th centuries.

12 sherds modern white glazed stoneware (china). 19th to 20th centuries.

Context No: (102)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	37g	4		
Bronze Age	945g	33		
Stonework				
Pebble	310g	6		

1 rimsherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Flat topped slightly incurving rim. Neolithic?

2 carinated body sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Carinated bowl. Neolithic

1 sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). With incised line? decoration. Neolithic?

1 rimsherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

32 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

6 water-rounded pebbles.

Context No: (102)/(106)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Pebble	2321g	5		
Quartz	408g	1		

1 vein quartz cobble hammer stone. Prehistoric.

5 granite cobbles. Utilised?

Context No: (104)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Bone				
Animal	21g	2		
Mollusca				
Land				
Marine	5g	1		

1 limpet shell.

2 animal bones.

Context No: (105)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Pebble	608g	3		

1 broken cobble.

2 water-rounded pebbles.

Context No: (106)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	819g	34		
Post-Medieval	25g	2		
Stonework				
Flint	18g	1		
Granite	1130g	1		
Pebble	7063g	12		
Bone				
Animal	68g	15		
Clay				
Other: Clay Pipe	5g	2		

2 sherds prehistoric pottery (thick granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

32 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 sherd North Devon post-medieval glazed red earthenware (Barnstaple Ware). 18th to 19th centuries.

1 sherd post-medieval yellow glazed slip decorated earthenware (Bristol / Staffordshire Ware) 18th to 19th centuries.

2 clay pipe stem fragments. Ø = 3mm Pre 1650.

1 flint flake. Prehistoric.

1 broken granite cobble hammer stone with dimpled handgrip and distinctive percussion marks. Prehistoric.

12 cobbles, utilised?

Context No: (108)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	106g	4		
Stonework				
Flint	18g	1		
Pebble	814g	1		

4 sherds prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Neolithic?

1 chert scraper. Prehistoric.

1 broken cobble. Utilised?

Context No: (109)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Pebble	53g	1		
Bone				
Animal	498g	47		

1 broken white quartz cobble (natural).

47 animal bone fragments.

Context No: (110)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	52g	2		

2 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

Context No: (115)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	21g	2		
Bronze Age	152g	13		
Post-Medieval	9g	1		
Stonework				
Flint	19g	3		
Bone				
Animal	12g	2		

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Well burnished exterior. Carinated bowl. Neolithic.

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Rounded top, slightly incurving. Carinated bowl. Neolithic.

13 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 sherd North Devon post medieval gravel-tempered glazed red earthenware (Barnstaple Ware). 18th to 19th centuries.

1 flint knife. Prehistoric.

1 flint flake. Prehistoric.

2 animal bones.

Context No: (116)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	30g	8		
Bone				
Animal	106g	69		

8 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

69 animal bones (mostly fish bone).

Context No: (118)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	8g	2		
Bronze Age	444g	40		
Stonework				
Flint	10g	3		
Pebble	1271g	6		
Bone				
Animal	59g	40		
Clay				
Daub	5g	1		

- 1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Incised line decoration. Neolithic?
- 1 sherd prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Faint cord-impressed? decoration. Neolithic?
- 1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Rounded slightly everted rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- 1 small rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). From a small cup or beaker? Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- 37 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- 1 sherd prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). With an applied horizontal cordon with impressed fingernail decoration. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- 1 fragment of burnt clay with vitrified surface. Furnace lining? Prehistoric.
- 40 animal bones (1 burnt).
- 1 flint scraper. Prehistoric.
- 2 flint flakes. Prehistoric.
- 3 cobbles, 1 utilised?
- 3 water rounded pebbles.

Context No: (119)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Stonework				
Unknown	19g	1		

- 1 stone fragment worked into a borer or burin. Prehistoric.

Context No: (125)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	53g	3		
Stonework				
Pebble	2040g	4		
Bone				
Animal	9g	9		

3 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
1 burnt granite/quartz cobble fragment. Utilised?
3 granite cobbles (1 broken).

Context No: (135)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	132g	8		
Stonework				
Flint	8g	1		
Pebble	1568g	1		
Bone				
Animal	199g	85		
Charcoal	13g	1 sample		
Mollusca				
Marine	18g	7		

8 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
1 flint core. Prehistoric.
1 granite cobble, broken. Utilised? Prehistoric.
85 animal bone fragments (including fish bone).
7 limpet shell fragments.
1 charcoal sample.

Context No: (141)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	631g	17		
Stonework				
Flint	66g	3		
Pebble	13541g	14		

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). Upright rounded rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
16 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
1 chert scraper. Prehistoric.
1 flint flake. Prehistoric.
1 flint pebble.
1 broken granite cobble muller with 1 convex working surface. Prehistoric.
1 fragment of a granite cobble muller.
12 cobbles or cobble fragments.

Context No: (142)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	59g	6		
Bronze Age	2226g	119		
Stonework				
Flint	132g	5		
Pebble	5405g	18		
Bone				
Animal	141g	55		

2 conjoining rimsherds prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Upright rounded, slightly incurving rim. Neolithic?

1 shoulder carination sherd prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Carinated bowl. Neolithic?

3 rimsherds (separate vessels) prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Neolithic?

2 conjoining rim sherds prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). Square-topped upright rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

117 sherds prehistoric pottery (mostly coarse granitic fabric) including 4 basal angle sherds. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 retouched flint flake. Prehistoric.

1 flint core/fabricator. Prehistoric

2 flint flakes. Prehistoric.

1 flint pebble.

1 fragment of granite cobble, utilised? Prehistoric.

7 granite cobbles.

10 water rounded pebbles.

55 animal bones

Context No: (144)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Bone				
Animal	10g	23		

23 animal bone fragments.

Context No: (145)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	831g	19		
Stonework				
Flint	107g	3		
Pebble	1338g	1		

1 large rim sherd prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). Upright. rounded rim from a large diameter storage vessel. Thick walled (2.5cm). Exterior has incised line pattern or graffiti resembling a boat with sail. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

17 sherds prehistoric pottery (mostly coarse granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
(1 with internal residue)

1 flint flake. Prehistoric.

1 large flint/chert flake. Prehistoric.

1 flint pebble.

1 granite cobble. Utilised? Prehistoric.

Context No: (146)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	57g	1		

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). Upright, rounded rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

Context No: (147)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	63g	1		
Bronze Age	20g	3		
Bone				
Animal	49g	38		

1 abraded sherd prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Neolithic? (internal residue)

2 conjoining rim sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Upright rounded rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

38 animal bones.

Context No: (148)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	128g	3		
Stonework				
Pebble	824g	4		
Bone				
Animal	3g	1		

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Possible thumb/fingernail decoration. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

2 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 elongated quartz cobble utilised as a pestle? Prehistoric.

3 water rounded pebbles.

1 animal bone.

Context No: (149)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	164g	20		
Bronze Age	584g	13		
Post-Medieval	41g	3		
Stonework				
Flint	9g	2		
Granite	843g	1	SF2 (not weighed)	
Pebble	2100g	6		
Bone				
Animal	136g	39		
Clay				
Daub	121g	7		
Glass				
Post-Medieval	40g	1		
Modern	16g	2		

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Thin walled. Neolithic?

1 carinated sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Carinated bowl. Neolithic?

18 sherds prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Neolithic?

1 rim sherd with pronounced collar. Prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (gabbroic admixture?). Square-topped, everted. Large storage vessel/jar. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

11 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

2 sherds North Devon post medieval glazed red earthenware (Barnstaple Ware). 18th to 19th centuries.

1 sherd post medieval saltglazed stoneware (Westerwald Ware). 18th century.

7 fragments of burnt clay (granitic). Loom weight? Prehistoric.

1 shard post medieval green bottle glass. 18th to 19th centuries.

2 shards modern glass. 19th to 20th centuries.

1 flint blade/burin. Prehistoric.

1 flint end scraper. Prehistoric.

1 granite cobble hammerstone. Prehistoric.

5 cobbles.

SF2. Large granite bowl quern based on large beach boulder. Not weighed, left on island. Prehistoric.

1 granite block (natural).

39 animal bones.

Context No: (150)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	622g	13		
Stonework				
Flint	8g	1		
Pebble	8768g	13		
Bone				
Animal	111g	11		
Clay				
Daub	263g	7		

13 sherds prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age? (1 with internal residue)

7 fragments of burnt clay/daub. Loom weight? Prehistoric.

1 chert flake. Prehistoric.

1 granite cobble hammer stone, broken. Prehistoric.

1 quartz cobble strike a light? Prehistoric.

2 granite cobbles utilised? Hammer stones? Prehistoric.

5 granite cobbles.

4 water rounded pebbles.

11 animal bones.

Context No: (151)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Bone				
Animal	95g	13		

13 animal bones.

Context No: (152)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	333g	11		
Bone				
Animal	19g	16		

11 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

16 animal bones.

Context No: (155)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Neolithic	91g	6		
Bronze Age	228g	11		
Stonework				
Granite	-	1	SF3 (not weighed)	
Quartz	58g	3		
Bone				
Animal	1g	1		

- 1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Simple, slightly everted rim. Neolithic?
- 3 shoulder sherds Prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Same vessel as above. Neolithic?
- 2 sherds prehistoric pottery (fine granitic fabric). Light incised line decoration on exterior. Neolithic?
- 1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Upright rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- 1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Squared rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- 9 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- SF3.** Large granite door jamb with pivot hole. Not weighed, left on island. Prehistoric.
- 3 natural quartz fragments. Discarded,
- 1 animal bone.

Context No: (156)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	201g	5		

- 1 large rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Square-topped, rim expanded. Thumb impressions along the edge. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- 4 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

Context No: (157)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	5494g	167	SF1, SF4	
Stonework				
Pebble	2562g	3		

- SF1.** 1 whole pot virtually complete consisting of circa 45 sherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Jar profile suggests a date of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?
- SF4.** 3 rimsherds (3 different vessels) prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

4 rim sherds (different vessels) prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 rim sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Simple rounded, upright rim. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

114 sherds prehistoric pottery (both coarse and fine granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age? (2 x internal residue)

2 granite cobble fragments.

1 water rounded pebble.

Context No: (158)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	1844g	50		
Stonework				
Flint	10g	1		
Pebble	23g	1		

2 conjoining rimsherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Simple rounded top, everted. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

2 rimsherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Simple upright rims. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

2 rimsherds prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). With horizontal lug, decorated with deep grooves. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

35 sherds prehistoric pottery (mixed fine and coarse granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

8 sherds prehistoric pottery (gabbroic fabric?). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 flint flake. Prehistoric.

1 water rounded pebble.

Context No: (159)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	204g	6		
Stonework				
Flint	1g	2		
Pebble	1278g	1		
Bone				
Animal	300g	32		

6 sherds (1 basal angle) prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). From large storage vessel. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

2 flint flakes. Prehistoric.

1 elongated granite cobble hammer stone with distinctive percussion marks at either end. Prehistoric.

32 animal bones and fragments.

Context No: (171)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Bone				
Animal	49g	25		

25 animal bone fragments.

Context No: (172)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	350g	48		

1 body sherd prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). With applied cordon decorated with fingernail impressions. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

47 sherds (1 basal angle) prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

Context No: (176)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	302g	13		
Metalwork				
Industrial debris	18g	1		

1 flat basal sherd prehistoric pottery (granitic fabric). Traces of basket weave? on exterior. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

12 sherds prehistoric pottery (coarse granitic fabric). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age?

1 fragment of burnt clay with possible vitrified surface. Furnace lining? Prehistoric.

10.6 Treatment report on SF1

By Laura Ratcliffe, LR Conservation

Job No: 2010.1 Object Name: URN Material: CERAMIC Age: LATE
BRONZE AGE

client:

Charlie Johns,
Senior Archaeologist, Historic Environment Projects
Cornwall Council, Allen Building, Old County Hall, Station Road
Truro, TR1 3AY

Photos:	X-rays:	Samples:	Previous Treatment:
Yes - digital	No	No	NA

Date Started: 22.01.20010 **Date Completed:** 22.01.2010 **Conserved**
By: Laura Ratcliffe

Description:	Size:	Height	D @to: 240mm	Thickness	No. Pieces
		296mm	D@ bottom: 150mm	9mm @ rim 16mm on body	One, although parts not present from same pot

Block lifted urn with some crepe bandages and tape wrapping the outer surface of the pot which has been cleaned off in situ. No soil remains to support urn exterior.

The urn is not complete with most of the upper portion not present, one area of rim about 60mm long remains and then slopes down and outwards on both sides to a the height of about 150mm the rest of the way round. The break surface either side of the remaining rim appears freshly exposed but not freshly broken suggesting that there was more material in the burial environment, just not present with the bulk of the block. The break surface at the lowest point of the side is much more worn, suggesting an area of loss or damage contemporary with deposition.

The interior of the urn is filled with a fine black soil with little visible inclusion.

The whole is still damp.

The exterior of the urn is blackened and looks to be burned or covered in a burnt deposit, a cross section of a broken area shows that about 2mm in form the outside of the pot is black whilst the interior is more oxidised and a brown orange colour. The ceramic matrix is homogenous with small white inclusions and for the most part a pale orange buff colour. More detailed information on this will be obtained once the pot is washed or cleaned.

The base is loose and has been placed elsewhere, the small parts remaining at the base of the vessel walls are loose.

Condition:

Major Structural:

There is a large area of loss and what remains is fragmented, particularly on the side where there is the greatest area of loss.

The ceramic fabric is crumbly whilst wet.

Minor structural:

Small cracks running over the interior of the urn, drying will open these.

Surface damage:

Not visible due to soil accretion on surface

Accretions:

soil

Chemical:

Biological:

Mould on the surface of the fill and on the tape holding the bandage together.

Disfigurement:

Missing area.

Treatment:

Bind the exterior of the urn with cotton tape and plastic to offer more support once the interior is removed

Mechanical removal of the interior fill, this is kept for sieving.

Very uniform fill with a few large rotten granite inclusions, the top 60mm holds some small amount of bone, deteriorated but not burnt.

At 12mm depth a larger portion of bone – look to be mammalian. Some small fragments of bird bone and possibly some fish, similar to above fill.

The bone and granite fragments last until a depth of 120mm where there is a spread of pot fragments. One fragment of the rim of the urn, one base sherd in 3 pieces, not from the urn and another sherd (numbered 1-3). Drawing 1 done at this point.

At 220mm down, below the pot sherds 1-3 is another spread of sherds, (numbered 4-10), all looking like the same material as the urn, drawing 2 was done at this level.

Then, at a depth of 240mm below the rim there is a last layer of pot (numbered 11-13), all of which looks like the urn fabric. None of these sherds look deliberately placed, more like breakage from the larger, more worn area of loss whilst the more recent break areas will probably be accounted for by the material take during excavation from the surrounding soil. Drawing 3 was done at this level.

A small portion of clay was found near a hole in the vessel and apparently matched the clay found in the burial environment.

Beneath the ceramic spreads was more soil and the area where the base should be. A few base fragments remain but are loose.

The whole vessel has been left to dry out before cleaning and drawing can be done.

The interior sherds were planned, bagged and numbered. The bone was bagged for possible dating

but it is unsure how sealed the fill was above the sherd layer.

No residue layer can be seen at this stage, the interior of the vessel looks clean. The exterior looks blackened. There may be lipids present within the fabric of the pot but no visually obvious layer.

Recommendations:

Allow to dry slowly before cleaning, handle with care, the sherds will probably crack during drying, or rather, existing but hidden cracks will open up during drying making the vessel unstable as it stands. Taking the fragments apart may be the safest way to store it until further work is carried out.

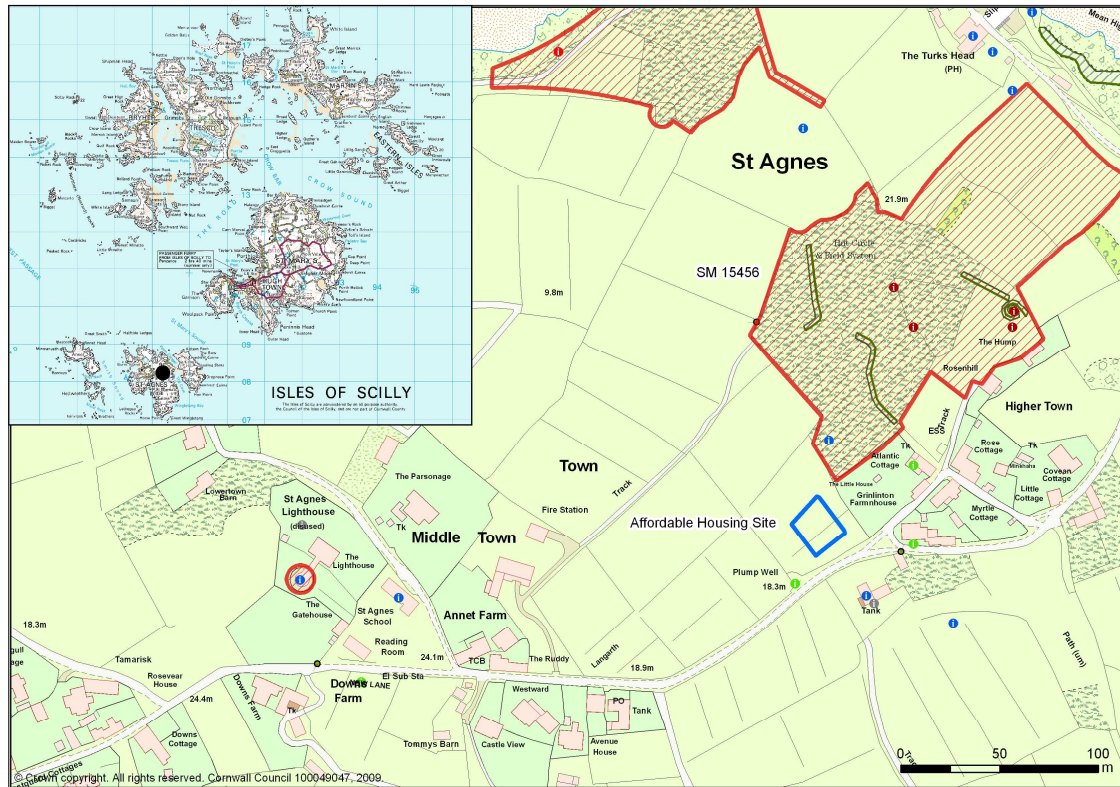


Fig 1 St Agnes Affordable Housing site location map. The development site is outlined in blue, red shaded areas are Scheduled Monuments, the blue red and green dots are sites recorded in the Scilly HER

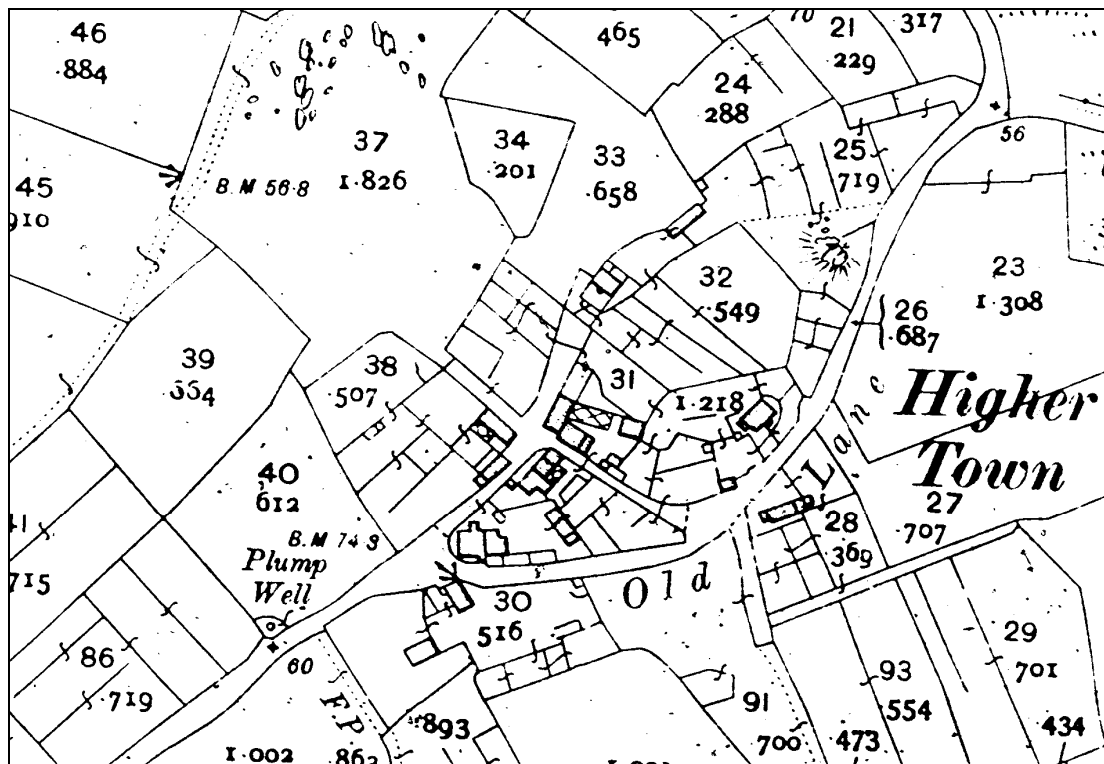


Fig 2 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, 1880 (not to scale)

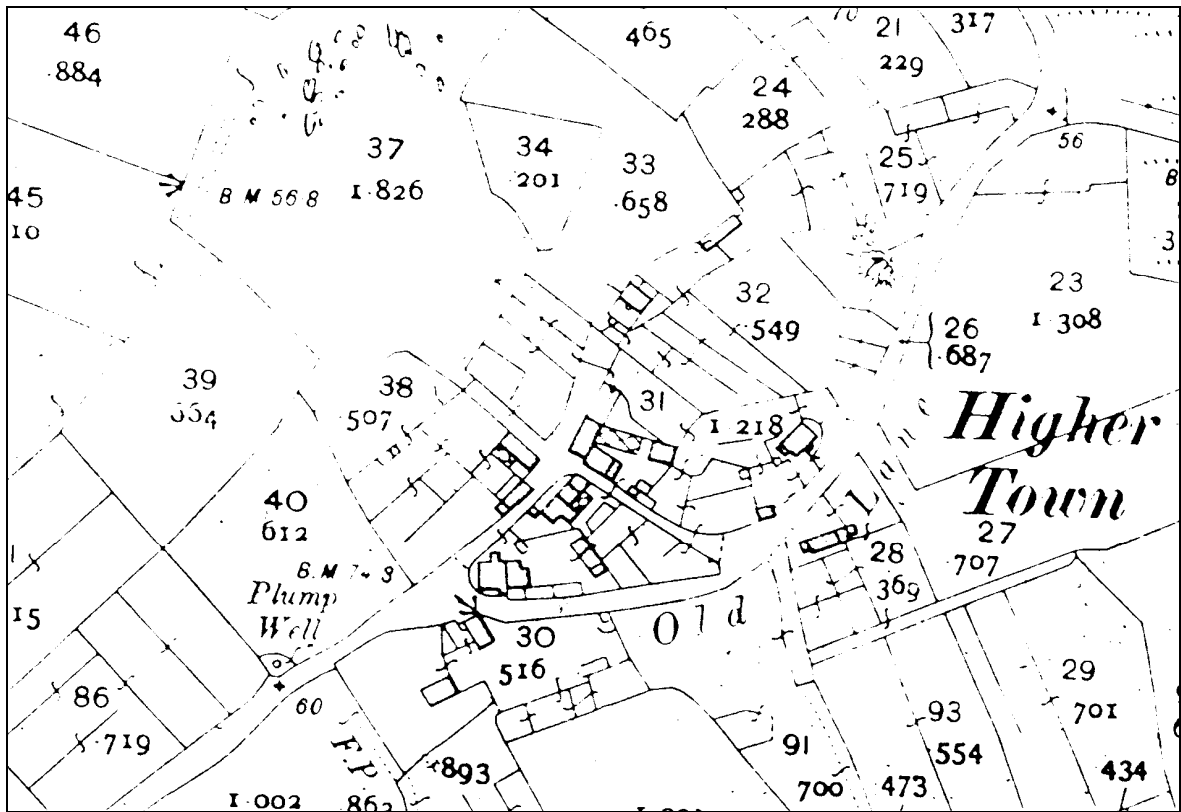


Fig 3 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, 1907 (not to scale)

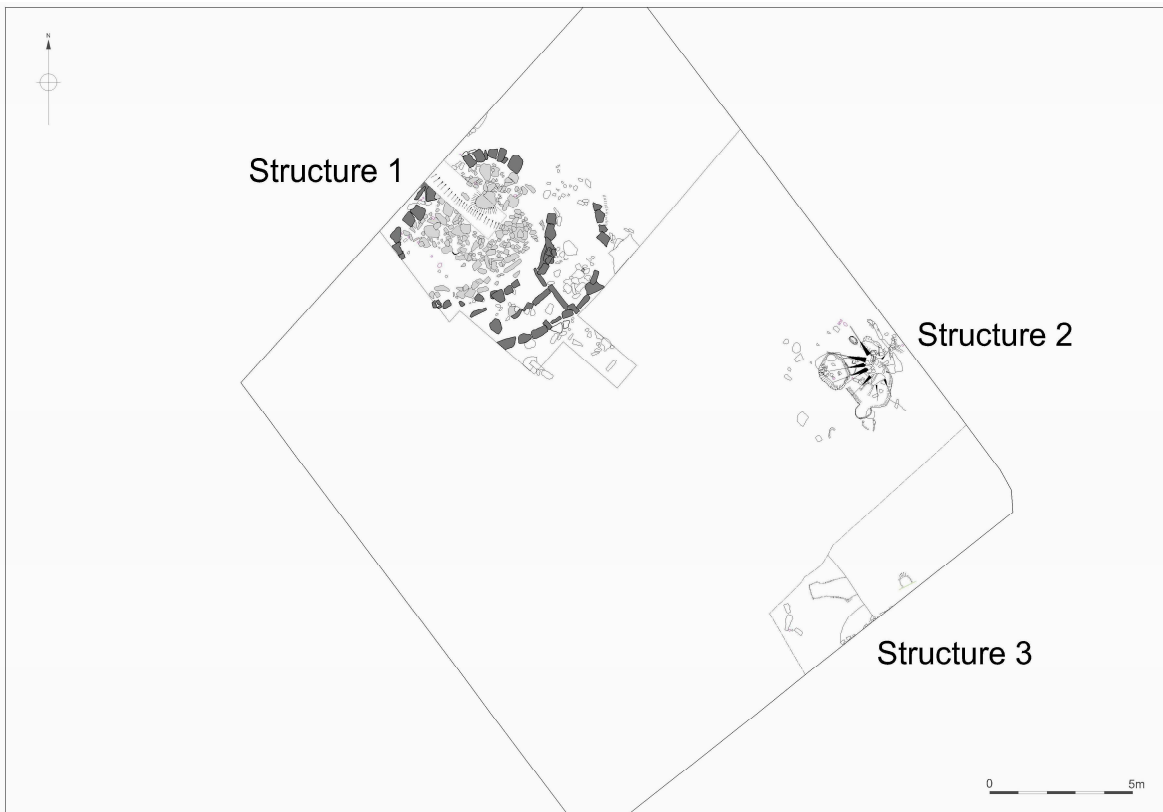
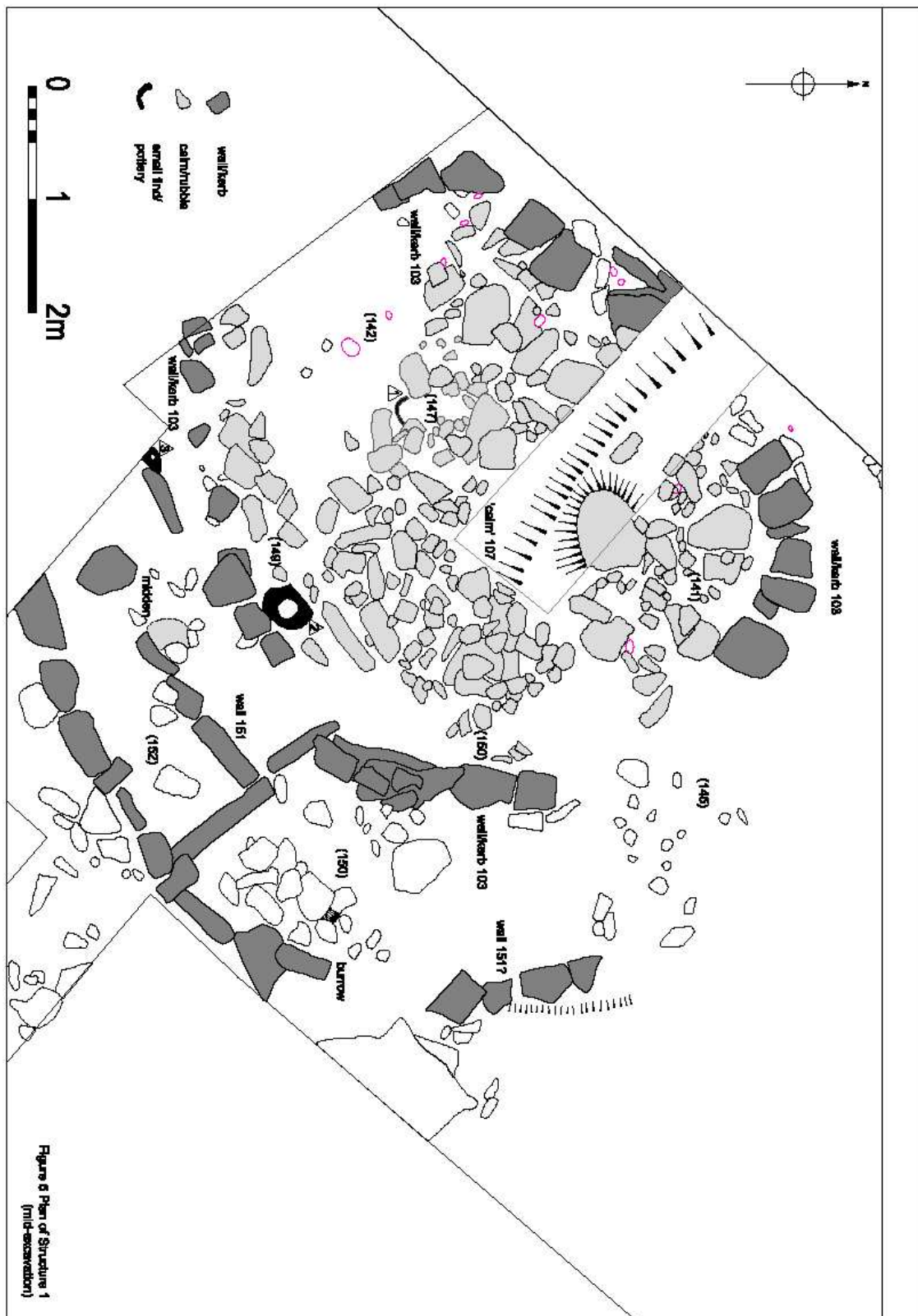
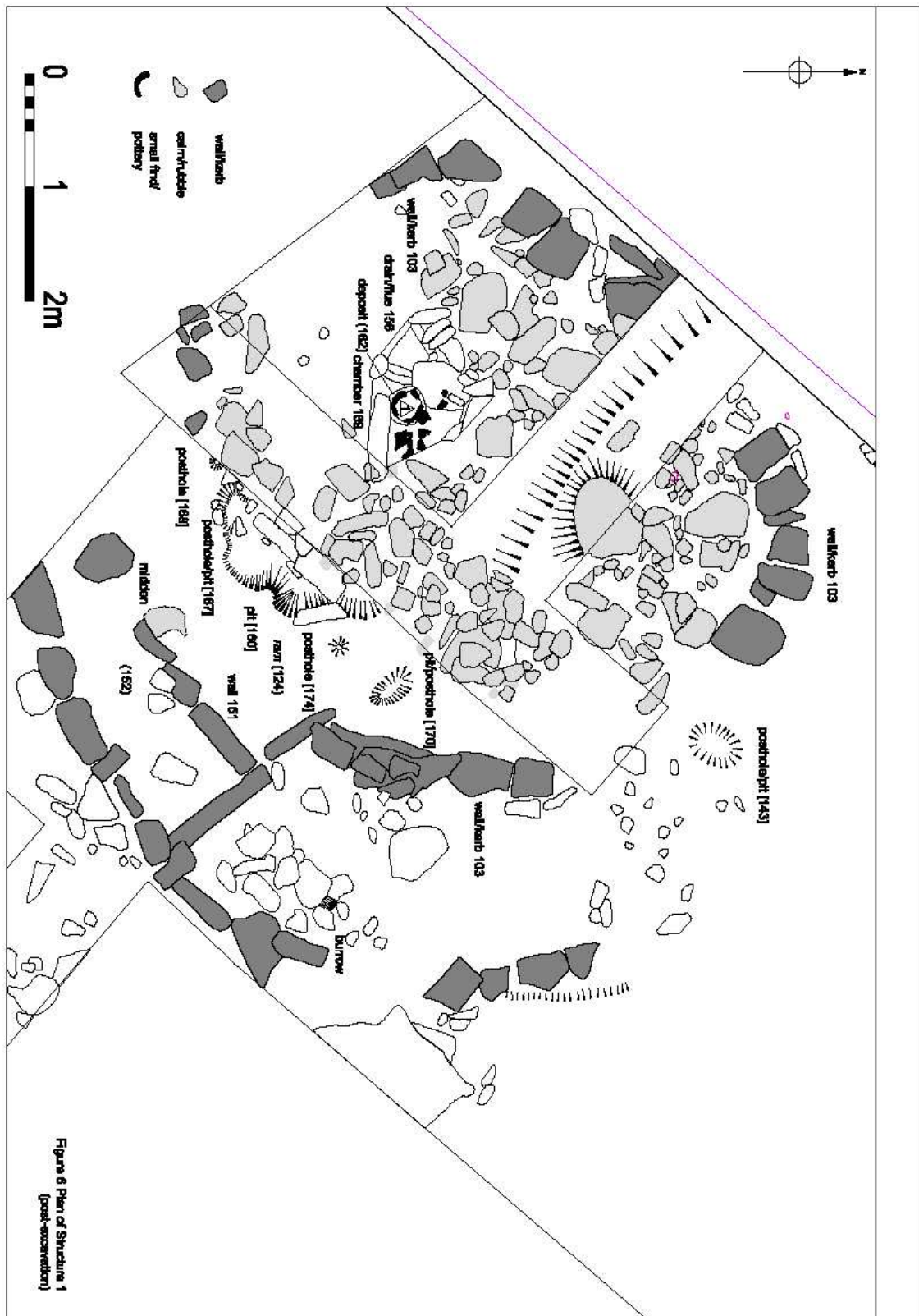


Fig 4 Overall site plan





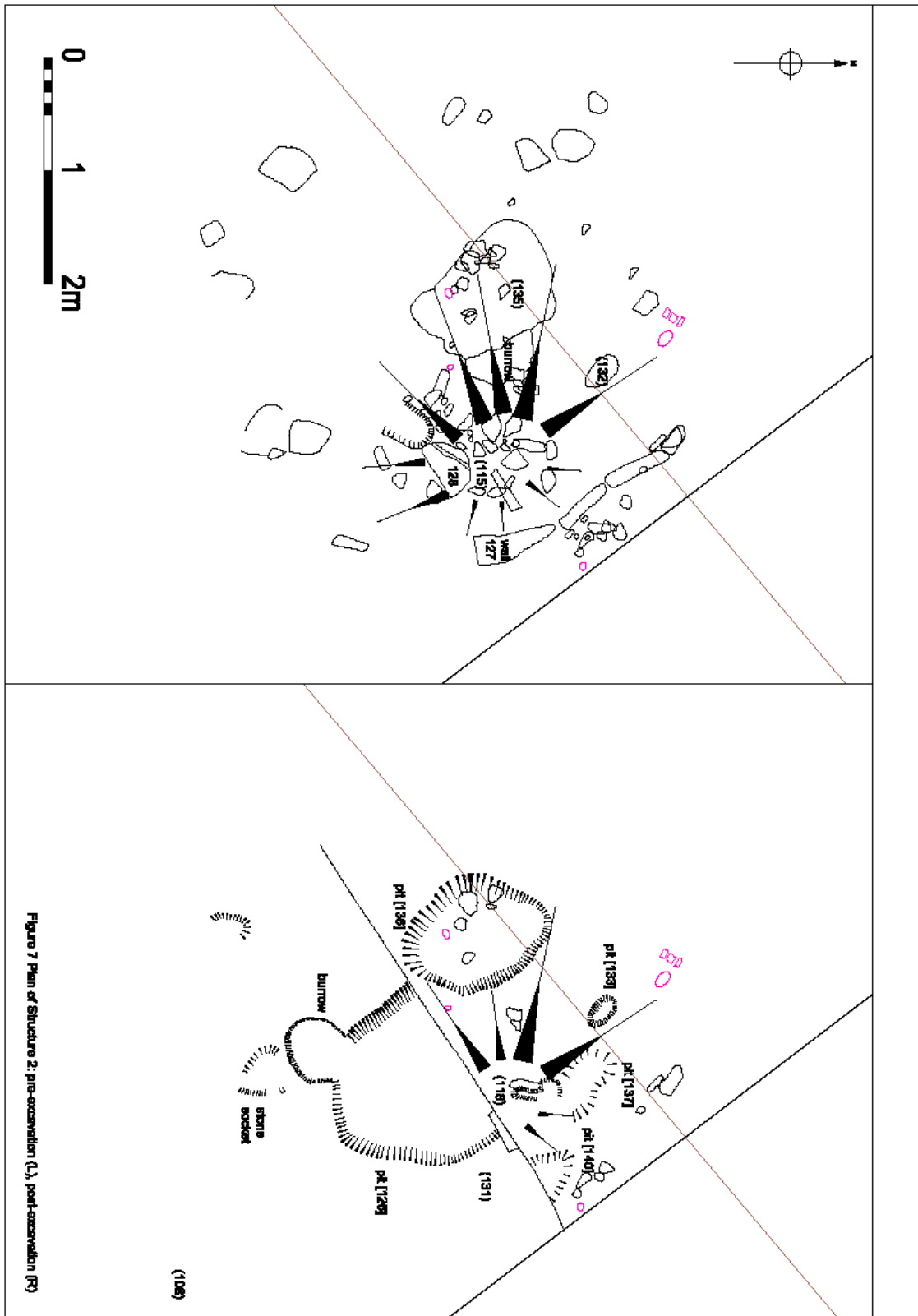


Figure 7 Plan of Structure 2: pre-excavation (L), post-excavation (R)

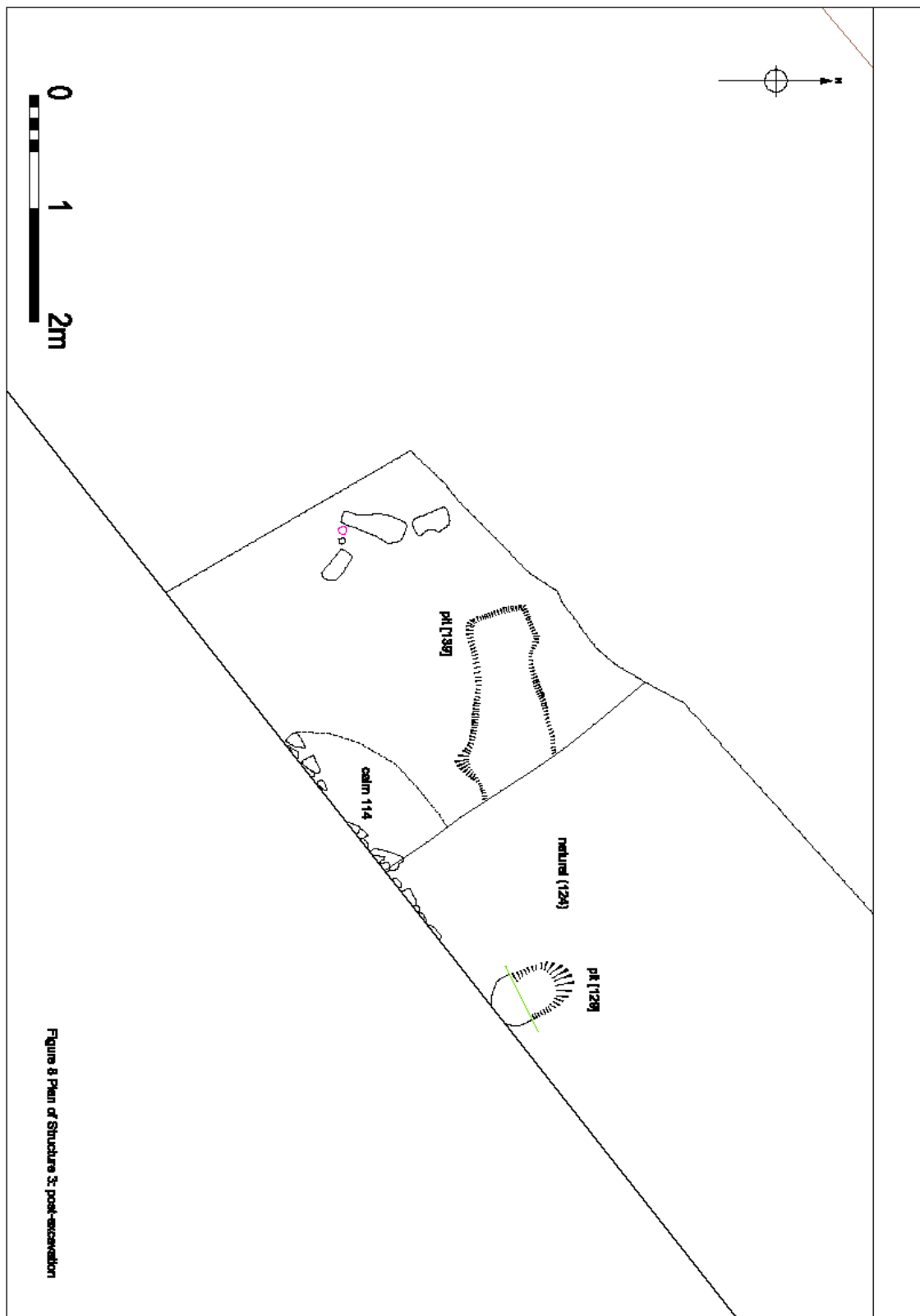


Figure 8 Plan of Structure 3c: post-excavation



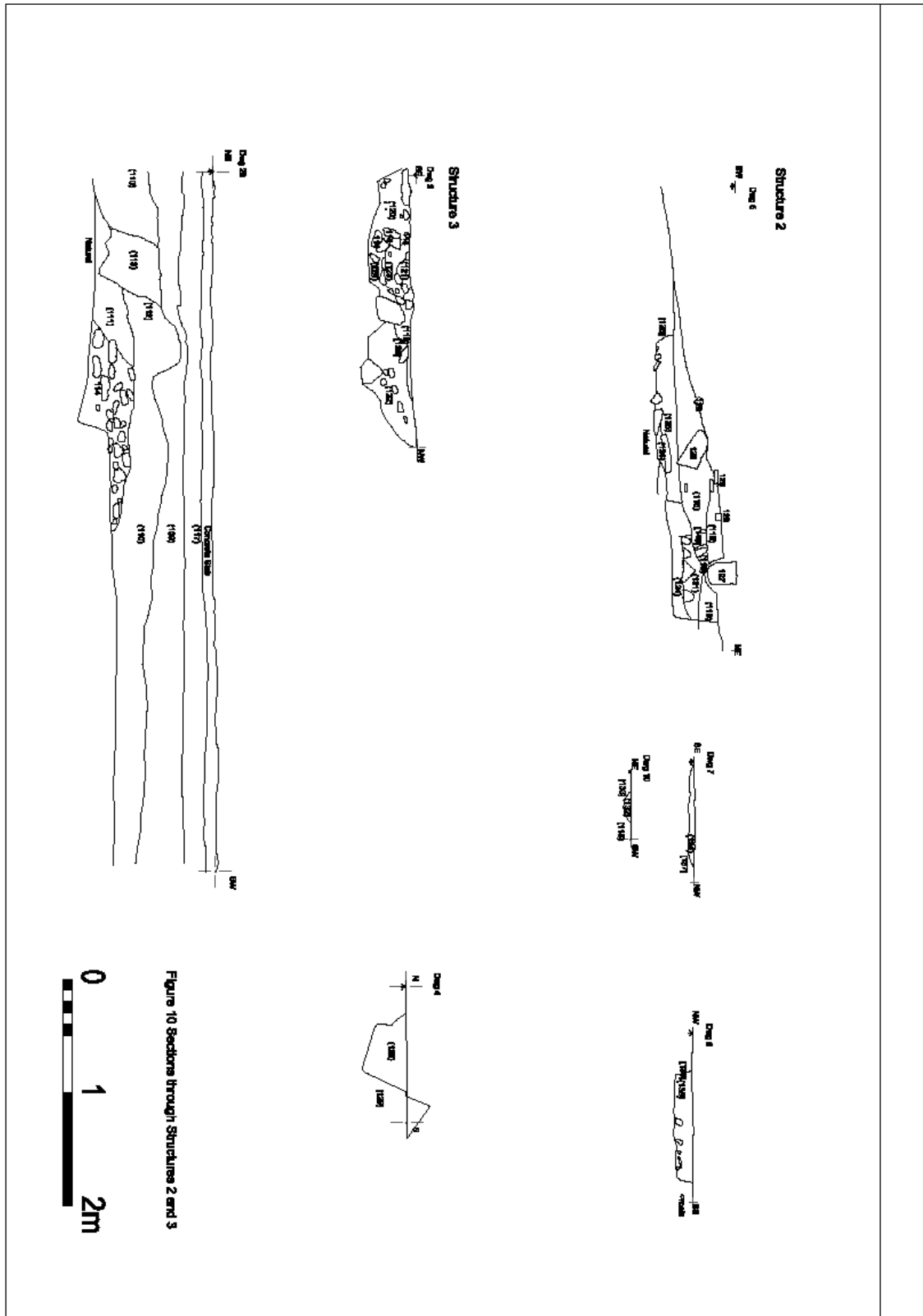


Figure 10 Sections through Structures 2 and 3



Fig 11 The site soon after machining (photo: HE Projects)



Fig 12 Structure 1 during excavation (photo: HE Projects)



Fig 13 Pot SF1 in situ (photo: HE projects)



Fig 14 The site open day (photo: HE Projects)