

# **St Martin's Affordable Housing, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Historic Environment Projects**



*St Martin's Affordable Housing, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly: Archaeological Watching Brief*

Report No

2010R093

Report Name

St Martin's Affordable Housing  
Archaeological Watching Brief

Report Author

S R Taylor

Event Type

Watching Brief

Client Organisation

Cornwall Rural Housing  
Association Ltd

Client Contact

David Perry, William G  
Weller & Son Ltd

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From) (To)

22/02/10

23/02/10

(Created By)

SRT

(Create Date)

01/09/10

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Middle Town, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly

(Town - for urban sites)

(Postcode)

TR25

(Easting) X co-ord

SV 92009

(Northing) Y co-ord

16217

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Fig no

Description

Cover

View of the site under excavation

1

Location map

2

Section through deposits



Historic Environment, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists

## **Project background**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council carried out a watching brief for the Cornwall Rural Housing Association Ltd prior to the construction of two affordable houses at Middle Town, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly (SV 92009 16217, Fig 1) in order to satisfy a planning condition.

The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Johns 2010) following a brief produced by the Council of the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Adviser (Breen 2010).

The site lies within an area of known archaeological interest where it is the Local Planning Authority's policy to provide for the examination of archaeological remains. The site was farmland and is located within an area categorised as 'bulb strip' that was formed from Anciently Enclosed Land, being land which was enclosed prior to the nineteenth century and is potentially medieval enclosure or earlier (Land Use Consultants 1996). This category of land has potential for archaeological remains.

There are two Scheduled Monuments within 200m of the site:

- SM 15517 Prehistoric cairn cemetery and field system on Tinkler's Hill, St Martin's
- SM 15519 Prehistoric cairn cemetery, field systems and settlement on Top Rock Hill, St Martin's

There are a number of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development site. These include the following sites identified by Primary Record Number in the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record:

- Two wells (PRNs 7254.01 and 7254.02)
- Well with hand pump (PRN 7249)
- Millstones at Ashford Farm, not *in situ* (PRN 7251)

Other sites in the vicinity are components of the Scheduled Monuments.

## **Aims and objectives**

The specific aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered
- To record any archaeological remains including above ground or buried field boundaries
- To establish the nature of the activity on the site
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation of the site
- To provide further information on the archaeology of the area from any archaeological remains encountered.
- To provide further information on the archaeology of the Isles of Scilly.

## **Working methods**

The work was carried out according to the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

A mini-digger supplied by the client stripped topsoil and subsoil down to the base of the subsoil under archaeological supervision. Sondages were cut into the colluvial deposits below this down to the level of the natural *ram*. All stratified deposits and features were given a unique context number and located on a plan and/or section drawing at an appropriate scale. Colour digital photographs were taken of the work in progress. The project officer was Sean Taylor of Historic Environment Projects, assisted by Katharine Sawyer.

## Results

The excavation revealed a fairly substantial depth of soil over the site (Fig 2). The topsoil, (101), a dark blackish brown sandy clay, was up to 0.35m deep. The darkness and thickness of the deposit is likely to be due to the manuring of the soil with large amounts of organic matter, probably seaweed, in the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Below this was another deposit, (102), which was much lighter in colour, a mid-greyish brown sandy clay, up to 0.3m thick. This represented the subsoil horizon at the base of the post medieval cultivated soils. Below this were three deposits representing colluvial and/or periglacial soils. Layer (103) is a dark yellowish brown sandy clay 0.26m thick containing water-worn pebbles. Beneath this layer (104) is a mid-yellowish brown silty clay 0.14m thick. These two layers are likely to represent colluvial deposits washed down the hillslope. Deposit (105) is a mid-reddish brown soft clay 0.28m thick and may be the result of periglacial activity or represent a previous colluvial event. This deposit lay over the natural *ram*, (106).

No features were recorded within the excavated deposits. A section was recorded across the field boundary running down the middle of the site that was to be partially removed. This revealed that the wall was of dry stone construction and was up to 1.5m high and 0.5m wide. It sat within topsoil (101) and is of fairly recent construction, probably as a bulb field shelter boundary.

Various finds were recovered (see Appendices). Those from the topsoil were predominately post-medieval or modern with two sherds of medieval coarseware probably having been washed down from upslope. The subsoil horizon, (102), contained only medieval coarseware, whilst lower soil horizon (103), assumed to be hillwash, contained medieval and prehistoric artefacts. A lower level of hillwash, (104), contained only prehistoric flints.

## Discussion

The results of the watching brief indicate that there was sustained agricultural activity in this area, probably from late prehistory onwards. This activity had intensified in the twentieth century with soil improvements resulting in a thick rich topsoil, probably for bulb farming. At various times in prehistory and in the medieval period soils have been washed down the slope, perhaps as the result of farming practices combined with climatic events or periods. Although no features or sites were identified within the project area, it is likely that any sites in the vicinity will be relatively well preserved because of the hillwash deposit.

## Finds summary report

CM Thorpe

A total of 31 artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

Pottery comprises the largest group, 19 sherds in total, some 61.3% of the collection. There are also stone, glass, clay pipe, and flint artefacts within the assemblage.

The finds were initially processed going through the stages of cleaning, and sorting. This greatly simplified the task of identification and cataloguing.

The artefacts were collected from recognisable features, being collected as tray finds by context. The total number of finds from each are summarised in Appendix 2.

The earliest identifiable artefacts recovered were the three flints (a blade, a flake, and a core). None are diagnostic but are most likely Neolithic or Bronze Age. Three rounded flint pebbles from (101) were probably introduced as a result of post-medieval manuring.

Five sherds can be assigned to the medieval period (c13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries), however these and all the rest of the material (both post-medieval and modern) are typical of the finds that have been derived from domestic midden material and utilised for the manuring and improvement of the fields.

## References

- Breen, E, 2010. *Brief for Archaeological Recording, St Martin's Affordable Housing, Middle Town, St Martin's*, Council of the Isles of Scilly
- Johns, C, 2010. *St Martin's Affordable Housing, Middle Town, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording during groundworks*, HE, Truro.
- Land Use Consultants and Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 1996. *Isles of Scilly Historic Landscape Assessment and Management Strategy*, Cornwall County Council

## Project archive

The HES project number is **2010018**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is temporarily housed at the offices of the Historic Environment Service, 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 (GRE716).
3. Electronic drawings stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (CAD)\CAD Archive\Scilly\St Martins Affordable Housing 2010018
4. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\Scilly\St Martins\St Martins Affordable Housing 2010018
5. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\Historic Environment (Documents)\HE Projects\Sites\SCILLY\SITES.Q-T\St Martin's Affordable Housing Watching Brief 2010018\ St Martins report.doc
6. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-80004

The main paper records, plans and artefacts retrieved during the project will be stored at the Isles of Scilly Museum, Church Street, St Marys. The site code is SR10.

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Type (Cut/Deposit)	Description
(101)	D	Dark blackish brown loose sandy clay up to 0.35m thick. Topsoil
(102)	D	Mid greyish brown soft sandy clay 0.3m thick, higher clay content than (101). Subsoil horizon.
(103)	D	Dark yellowish brown soft sandy clay 0.26m thick. Contained water-worn pebbles. Probably colluvial hillwash.
(104)	D	Mid yellowish brown soft silty clay 0.14m thick with frequent quartz grit.
(105)	D	Mid reddish brown soft clay 0.28m thick with occasional quartz grit.
(106)	D	Dark reddish yellow compact sand. Natural <i>ram</i> .
107	B	Field boundary wall of granite dry stone construction and a single stone's width. The wall was up to 1.5m high and 0.5m wide. The base of the wall was contained within topsoil (101) and the top of this was 0.1m higher to the east.

## Appendix 2 Catalogue of finds

### Context No: (101)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Medieval	37g	2		
Post-Medieval	190g	10		
Modern	28g	4		
Stonework				
Pebble	66g	3		
Clay				
Tile	28g	1		
Other: Clay pipe	10g	2		
Glass				
Post-Medieval	22g	1		

2 bodysherds Cornish medieval coarseware. 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

10 sherds post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware. 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

3 sherds modern white glazed stoneware (china). 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 fragment modern porcelain. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 fragment clay pipe stem. Ø = 4m. Pre 1650.

1 fragment clay pipe stem. Ø = 2mm. 18<sup>th</sup> century.

1 sherd Bridgewater terracotta roofing tile. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

3 water rounded flint pebbles.

1 shard post medieval green bottle glass. 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.



*St Martin's Affordable Housing, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly: Archaeological Watching Brief*  
**Context No: (102)**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>NO OF ITEMS</b>	<b>OBJECT NO</b>	<b>INTERIM BOX NO</b>
Pottery				
Medieval	11g	2		

2 sherds (1 basal angle) Cornish medieval coarseware. 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Context No: (103)**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>NO OF ITEMS</b>	<b>OBJECT NO</b>	<b>INTERIM BOX NO</b>
Pottery				
Medieval	6g	1		
Stonework				
Flint	9g	1		
Pebble	79g	1		

1 sherd Cornish medieval coarseware. 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 quartzite water rounded pebble, broken. Utilised?

1 retouched flint flake. Prehistoric.

**Context No: (104)**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>NO OF ITEMS</b>	<b>OBJECT NO</b>	<b>INTERIM BOX NO</b>
Stonework				
Flint	65g	2		
Quartz	23g	1		

1 flint core. Prehistoric.

1 flint blade. Prehistoric.

1 fragment of vein quartz (natural)



## **Appendix 3 Written Scheme of Investigation**

### **St Martin's Affordable Housing, Middle Town, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording during groundworks**

Client: Cornwall Rural Housing Partnership  
Client contact: David Perry, William G Weller & Son Ltd  
Client tel: 01209 215621  
Client email: [David@wmweller.co.uk](mailto:David@wmweller.co.uk)

#### **Project Background**

On 20 September 2007 the Planning and Development Committee of the Council for the Isles of Scilly approved planning application P/07/101 for the construction of two affordable houses at Middle Town, St Martin's, 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.

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared for Cornwall Rural Housing Partnership. It is based upon a Brief written by the Local Planning Authority Historic Environment Adviser (HEA) which sets out the minimum requirements for archaeological recording to discharge Condition 4 of the planning consent (Breen 2009).

#### **Site location and description**

The St Martin's Affordable Housing development site is located at SV 91999 16232 approximately 15m above sea level on the western edge of Middle Town.

#### **Archaeological background**

The site is currently farmland and is located within an area categorised as bulb strip which was formed from Anciently Enclosed Land being land that was enclosed prior to the nineteenth century and is potentially medieval enclosure or earlier (Land Use Consultants 1996). This category of land has potential for archaeological remains.

There are two Scheduled Monuments within 200m of the site:

- SM 15517 Prehistoric cairn cemetery and field system on Tinkler's Hill, St Martin's
- SM 15519 Prehistoric cairn cemetery, field systems and settlement on Top Rock Hill, St Martin's

There are a number of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development site. These include the following sites identified by Primary Record Number in the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record:

- Two wells
- Well with hand pump
- Millstones at Ashford Farm, not *in situ*

Other sites in the vicinity are located within and form the Scheduled Monuments.

## **Requirement for work**

Ground works may disturb buried archaeological remains including environmental and palaeoenvironmental material. The above site will therefore require a watching brief and possibly an environmental sampling strategy. It is important that a suitably qualified archaeologist(s) is present during the ground works in order to identify and record any features of interest and to undertake any environmental sampling that might be deemed necessary.

## **Project aims and objectives**

The specific aims of the watching brief are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered
- To record any archaeological remains including above ground or buried field boundaries
- To establish the nature of the activity on the site
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation of the site
- To provide further information on the archaeology of the area from any archaeological remains encountered.
- To provide further information on the archaeology of the Isles of Scilly.

The environmental sampling will include, where appropriate:

- Bulk sampling
- Monolith sampling
- Macro and micro flora analysis (including pollen analysis)
- Macro and micro fauna analysis
- Sampling for radiocarbon dating

## **Working Methods**

All recording work will be undertaken according to the IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA 2001a). Staff will follow the IFA *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology*. The Institute of field Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

### **Desk-based study**

Prior to the commencement of on-site works the project archaeologist will familiarise themselves with the site by examining the information held in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (either at Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Service or at the Planning Department of the Council of the Isles of Scilly) and the Cornwall Records Office.

### **Archaeological recording**

An archaeologist will be present during all ground works associated with the development, unless circumstances dictate a different approach. A toothless ditching bucket will be used for the removal of any overburden (ostensibly topsoil and disturbed modern deposits). The first revealed substratum will then be hand cleaned to test for the presence of archaeological features, deposits and finds with resulting evidence being recorded as appropriate.

Any surviving remains which will be disturbed or destroyed by the development will be archaeologically excavated and recorded.

If significant archaeological deposits are exposed, all works will cease and a meeting convened with the client and the HEA to discuss the most appropriate way forwards.

#### *Recording*

- A location plan will be made, plotting the areas of ground works onto the Ordnance Survey Mastermap at 1:200.
-

- The heights of all features identified will be tied into the Ordnance Datum if appropriate.
- The location of features recorded during the watching brief will be plotted onto a drafting film overlay to the prepared location plan.
- All finds from significant stratified contexts will be accurately located on the location plan at an appropriate scale.
- All archaeological contexts will be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence. All contexts recorded will be recorded via the medium of HES pro forma context recording sheets.
- Registers of drawings, photographs, finds and contexts, samples will be maintained during the fieldwork.
- The excavated spoil will be carefully inspected for finds.

#### *Site planning policy*

- Site drawings (plans, sections, locations of finds) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans will be linked to the prepared location map and to the national grid; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale and north-point.
- Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- Site drawings (plans and sections) will be digitised and converted into AutoCAD drawings.

#### *Photographic record*

- The photographic record will consist of prints in both black and white and colour together with the negatives. Digital photography will be used for report illustration.
- For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale will be included.
- In the case of detailed photographs a north arrow will be included if appropriate.
- The photographic record will be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.

#### *Finds*

- All finds will be retained from each archaeological context excavated.
- All retained finds, where appropriate, will be washed.
- All pottery, and other finds where appropriate, will be marked with the site code and context number.
- This WSI includes an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the project including environmental sampling.
- The requirements for conservation and storage will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the Acting Assistant Planning Officer (Conservation) for the Council of the Isles of Scilly.
- Finds work will be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Guidelines* (IFA 2001b).

#### *Sampling*

- The English Heritage Advisor for Archaeological Science will be consulted for advice if required (Vanessa Straker 0117 975 0689).

- Environmental sampling will be guided by *Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage 2004)
- .
- Other English Heritage guidance will be consulted as appropriate including *Geoarchaeology* (2004) and *Archaeometallurgy* (2001).
- The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will assess the potential for environmental sampling.
- If suitable deposits are identified the following types of sample will be taken as appropriate:
  - Bulk sampling
  - Monolith sampling
  - Macro & Micro Flora Analysis (including pollen analysis)
  - Macro & Micro Fauna Analysis
  - Radio-carbon dating for artefact analysis

#### *Human remains*

Any human remains which are encountered will initially be left *in situ* and reported to the HEA and the appropriate authorities. If removal is necessary this will comply with the relevant Government regulations. If burials are encountered their legal status will be ascertained and recording and/or removal will comply with the legal guidelines.

If human remains are not to be removed their physical security will be ensured, if possible by back filling as soon as possible after recording.

If human remains are to be removed this will be done with due reverence and in accordance to current best practice and legal requirements. The site will be adequately screened from public view. Once excavated human remains will not be exposed to public view.

#### **Archiving**

During this phase the results of the fieldwork will be collated for archiving. This will involve the following tasks.

- Indexing of site drawings and photographs.
- Processing and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples, if appropriate.

**Note:** The requirements for Archiving and Reporting will be reviewed in the light of the fieldwork results

#### **Report production**

A report will be produced which will describe the results of the desk-based study and the nature of the fieldwork undertaken, the circumstance and conditions under which it occurred and the results that were obtained. Production of the report will involve:

- Producing a descriptive text.
- Producing maps, scaled plans and section drawings.
- Selecting photographs.
- Report design.
- Report editing.
- Dissemination of the finished report.

The report will have the following contents:

- Summary
- Introduction - Background, aims, methods
- Results - A concise non-technical summary of the results
- Discussion - A discussion of archaeological findings in terms of both the site specific aims and the desk based research
- Specialists' reports - Specialists' reports or assessments as appropriate
- Archive - A summary of archive contents and date of deposition
- Appendices - Copies of the Brief and WSI, context register
- Illustrations - Location map
  - Site location plan
  - A drawing showing those areas examined as part of the archaeological watching
  - Copies of relevant historical cartography & plans
  - Plan and section drawings resulting from the archaeological recording.
  - Finds drawings (if appropriate)
  - Illustrative photographsNote: All plans will be tied to the national grid.

#### *Contingency for analysis and publication*

A contingency is made within the accompanying estimate for assessment for specialist analysis and full publication in an appropriate journal. The HEA will notify the contractor of such a need within four weeks of receipt of the report.

#### **Report dissemination**

The full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages will be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding six months) to be agreed between the applicant and HES, with copies supplied to the client (two), Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Record, the Isles of Scilly Museum and the Courtenay Library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, River Street, Truro and national archive centres. A further digital copy shall be supplied on CD-ROM in 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format. A draft will initially be submitted to the HEA for comment.

#### **Archive deposition**

- An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006) upon completion of the project. The requirements for final deposition of the project archive will be agreed by HEA and HES
- The archive including a copy of the written report will be deposited at the Isles of Scilly Museum within two months of the completion of the full report and confirmed in writing with the HEA.
- Where there is only a documentary archive this will be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office and the Courtenay Library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall as well as the Isles of Scilly Museum.
- A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEA.

### **Monitoring and Signing Off Condition**

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by the HEA. Where the HEA is satisfied with the archive report and the deposition of the archive, written discharge of the planning condition will be expected from the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

Notification of the start of work will be given in writing to the HEA as far in advance of its commencement as possible.

Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed with the HEA in writing prior to them being carried out.

Monitoring points during the study will include:

- Approval of the WSI
- Completion of fieldwork. When this has been approved by the HEA, then it should be possible for the client to commence building works
- Completion of archive report
- Deposition of the archive

### **Project team**

The project will be managed by Senior Archaeologist **Charlie Johns (BA, MIFA)**. As a Senior Archaeologist with HE Projects (1991- present) Charlie has special responsibility for projects in the Isles of Scilly where he has worked on numerous projects: notably directing the excavation of the Bryher Iron Age sword and mirror burial in 1999 (Johns 2002-3); updating the popular archaeological field guide 'Scilly's Archaeological Heritage' (Ratcliffe and Johns 2003); managing the Tresco Playing Field watching brief for the Tresco Estate (Taylor and Johns forthcoming); compiling the Isles of Scilly Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey for English Heritage (Johns *et al* 2004) and managing archaeological recording during construction of the off-island quays for the Duchy of Cornwall (Johns and Sawyer 2008). Current projects include the Lyonesse Project, a 2-year study of the evolution of the coastal and marine environment of Scilly (for English Heritage). Since 2005 he has co-directed the 'Islands in a Common Sea' research project in Scilly with Dr Jacqui Mulville of Cardiff University (Johns and Mulville forthcoming; Johns *et al* 2006), and is currently an Honorary Research Fellow in Cardiff University's School of History and Archaeology.

Depending upon availability the fieldwork will be undertaken either by **Katharine Sawyer (MA)** or **Sean Taylor (BA, AIFA)**.

Katharine is a freelance archaeologist based in St Mary's. Since 2000 she has undertaken archaeological watching briefs in Scilly and Cornwall, either independently or in association with HES including: Hell Bay Hotel, Bryher (Sawyer *et al* 2003); Tresco Playing Field (Taylor and Johns forthcoming), Lower Benham Battery St Mary's (Johns and Sawyer 2005) and the off-island quays refurbishment (Johns and Sawyer 2008). She is also a tour guide and lecturer, leading guided walks, boat trips and short break holidays, and teaching adult education classes. As a Trustee of the Isles of Scilly she undertakes identification of artefacts, interpretation and arrangement of displays. Since 2006 she has been studying part-time for a PhD at the University of Exeter on the Setting and Function of the Neolithic and Bronze Age Chambered Cairns and Cists of the Isles of Scilly. For the purpose of this project Katharine will be sub-contracted by HE Projects.

Sean Taylor has worked for Historic Environment Projects since December 2000. During this period he has worked on assessments, watching briefs, excavations, buildings surveys, and landscape surveys. The emphasis has been on developer-funded work and Sean has run three large excavations for HE Projects, at Scarcewater, Camelford, and Plympton, as well as a large number of smaller sites (Jones and Taylor 2002; Jones and Taylor forthcoming). These have involved managing teams of up to 15 archaeologists, making decisions on site strategy, and supervising site recording. The smaller projects have involved site excavation and recording (context recording, planning, photographing), and include Tresco Playing Field (Taylor and Johns forthcoming), Carn Thomas, St Mary's watching brief (Taylor 2008) and the recent St Agnes Affordable



Housing development (Taylor forthcoming). He is experienced in the use of EDM survey equipment for planning and landscape and buildings surveys, and GPS equipment for assessments. He is practised in the use of AutoCAD and GIS for analysing data and presenting the results of projects. He has also been responsible for post-excavation analysis, writing archive reports, and publishing the results in academic journals, and producing reports for clients required as part of the planning process. He has produced one monograph and is in the process of completing another Jones and Taylor 2004; Jones and Taylor forthcoming). Sean has been a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists since 2006.

Initial finds processing, identification and cataloguing will be carried out by **Carl Thorpe BSc**, HES' finds archaeologist who has carried out all similar work for Scillonian projects in the last two decades including the Isles of Scilly Electrification Project (Ratcliffe 1991), the Bryher cist burial, Tresco Playing Field and the off-island quays refurbishment. He is currently reassessing the pottery assemblage from the 1971 excavations at East Porth, Samson with a view to final publication in Cornish Archaeology (Neal forthcoming). Carl also has extensive experience as field archaeologist having undertaken many watching briefs and will provide Katharine with assistance in fieldwork and taking environmental samples if necessary.

#### *Specialists*

**John Allan MPhil – Medieval/post-medieval pottery specialist:** John works for the Exeter Archaeological Field Unit. He is the leading authority on medieval and post-medieval pottery in south-west England and author of many publications. He will carry out the pottery assessment and analysis in the event of medieval or post-medieval pottery being recovered

**Henrietta Quinnell BA, MIFA, FSA – Prehistoric, Roman, post-Roman pottery:** Henrietta is a freelance pottery specialist and the leading authority on prehistoric pottery in the south-west. She will carry out the pottery assessment and analysis in the event of prehistoric pottery being recovered.

**Julie Jones BA – Archaeobotanist:** An experienced freelance archaeobotanical specialist based in Bristol, Julie has carried out palaeoenvironmental assessments and analyses for numerous HES projects.

**Dana Challinor MA, MSc – Freelance Charcoal Specialist:** Dana's main area of expertise is charcoal analysis and wood species identification, but she also has experience with charred plant remains. For her Masters degree she specialised in Archaeobotany and received a distinction for her dissertation on charcoal in Bronze Age cremation burials. She has produced numerous assessment and evaluation reports, as well as reports for publication in journal and monograph formats and was formerly Head of the Environmental Department at Oxford Archaeology. She will undertake assessment and analysis of any suitable charcoal samples, including identification of samples suitable for radiocarbon dating.

**Ralph Fyfe, PhD, Palynologist:** Ralph is lecturer in environmental change in the School of Geography at the University of Plymouth. He has carried out numerous archaeological evaluations for a variety of organisations, including English Heritage, County Councils, National Parks and Archaeological Consultancies and will undertake assessment and analysis of pollen samples if required.

**Laura Ratcliffe-Conservationist, BSc, The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro:** Laura graduated in Archaeological Conservation from Cardiff University in 2001. Since then she has gained a wide variety of experience both on excavations and in a lab working on a wide variety of archaeological and historical material. She is currently based at the Royal Cornwall Museum where she is the museum's Collections Manager. Laura will carry out the assessment and conservation of pottery and metalwork on a free lance basis if required.

**Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, University of Waikato, New Zealand:** Samples for radiocarbon dating will be sent the University of Waikato.



### **Project timetable**

The fieldwork is anticipated to be carried out between early in 2010. A draft of the archive report will be completed within a month of the end of the fieldwork. Distribution of final copies of the archive report may be delayed pending receipt of specialists' reports. The deposition of the archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the archive report.

### **Historic Environment Projects**

Historic Environment Projects is the contracting arm of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council (HES). HE Projects employs some 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 80 projects each year.

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

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



### **Standards**

The HE Projects follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Code of Conduct and is a Registered Archaeological Organisation.

As part of Planning, Transportation and Estates, Cornwall County Council, the HES has certification in BS9001 (Quality Management), BS14001 (Environmental Management), OHSAS18001 (Health, Safety and Welfare), Investors in People and Charter Mark.

### **Terms and conditions**

#### **Contract**

HE Projects is part of the Historic Environment, Cornwall Council. If accepted, the contract for this work will be between the client and Cornwall Council.

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

#### **Report distribution**

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

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

#### **Copyright**

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to Historic Environment, Cornwall Council. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

Use of the material will be granted to the client.

### **Freedom of Information Act**

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.

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

### **Health and safety statement**

HE Projects follows Cornwall Council's *Statement of Safety Policy*. For more specific policy and guidelines the Unit uses the manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002) endorsed by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers and also the Council for British Archaeology's Handbook No. 6 *Safety in Archaeological Field Work* (1989).

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

### **Insurance**

As part of Cornwall Council, HE Projects is covered by Public and Employers Liability Insurance.

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*17 November 2009*

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## **Appendix 2 Brief for archaeological recording**

### **BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

**Date:** 11 September 2009

**Site:** St Martin's Affordable Housing, Middle Town, St Martin's

**Applicant:** Cornwall Rural Housing Partnership

**Agent:** Trewin Design Partnership, No 1 Stanhope Square, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6DR

**Planning Application number:** P/07/101

#### **Council of the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Adviser:**

Eleanor Breen, Planning and Development Department, Council of the Isles of Scilly, Old Wesleyan Chapel, Garrison Lane, St Mary's, TR21 0JD.

**Telephone** 01720 424351 **Email** ebreen@scilly.gov.uk

This brief is valid for six months only. After this period the Local Planning Authority Historic Environment Adviser (HEA) should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation (WSI) resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their WSI as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

**No ground works should be undertaken until the Local Planning Authority has approved the contractor's written scheme of investigation.**

#### **1. Introduction**

This brief has been written by the Local Planning Authority Historic Environment Adviser (HEA). It sets out the minimum requirements for archaeological recording at St Martin's Affordable Housing, Middle Town, St Martin's to discharge condition 4 placed on the development.

#### **2. Site Location and Description**

The St Martin's Affordable Housing, SV9199916232.

The development site is located approximately 20 metres above sea level at Middle Town, St Martin's. The site is currently within farmland.

#### **3. Planning Background**

On 20 September 2007 planning permission was granted for planning application P/07/101 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.

#### **4. Archaeological Background**

The St Martin's Affordable Housing development site is located at SV9199916232 approximately 15 metres above sea level on the western edge of Middle Town. The site is currently farmland and is located within an area categorised as bulb strip which was formed from Anciently Enclosed Land being land that was enclosed prior to the nineteenth century and is potentially medieval enclosure or earlier (Land Use Consultants 1996). This category of land has potential for archaeological remains.

Scheduled Monuments within 200 metres of the site

- 15517 PREHISTORIC CAIRN CEMETERY AND FIELD SYSTEM ON TINKLER'S HILL, ST MARTIN'S
- 15519 PREHISTORIC CAIRN CEMETERY, FIELD SYSTEM AND SETTLEMENTS ON TOP ROCK HILL, ST MARTIN'S

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

- 7254 Two wells
- 7249 Well with hand pump
- 7251 Millstones at Ashford Farm, not *in situ*

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

#### **5. Requirement for work**

Ground works may disturb buried archaeological remains. It is therefore important that a suitably qualified archaeologist(s) is present during the ground works in order to identify and record any features of interest.

The site specific aims are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered
- To record any archaeological remains including above ground or buried field boundaries

- To establish the nature of the activity on the site
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation of the site
- To provide further information on the archaeology of the area from any archaeological remains encountered.

## **6. General Methodology**

- 6.1 All stages of the investigation shall be supported by a written scheme of investigation.
- 6.2 The contractor is expected to follow the code of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).
- 6.3 Details including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other project personnel (including specialist staff) shall be included within the written scheme of investigation.
- 6.4 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.
- 6.5 The IfA's Standards and Guidance should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report and the general execution of the project.
- 6.6 Terminology will be consistent with the English Heritage Thesaurus available online at <http://thesaurus.english-heritage.org.uk/>.

## **7. Archaeological Recording Methodology**

- 7.1 Prior to the commencement of on-site works the contractor should familiarise themselves with the site by examining the information held by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record at Truro or at the Planning and Development Department, St Mary's. Other sources should be consulted as required.
- 7.2 An archaeologist shall be present during all ground works associated with the development. A toothless ditching bucket can be used for the removal of any overburden until the first archaeological horizon is exposed. This will then be hand cleaned and recorded as appropriate.
- 7.3 Any surviving remains which will be disturbed or destroyed by the development shall be archaeologically excavated and recorded.
- 7.4 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided. The site will be tied into the national grid.

- 7.5 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 7.6 The photographic record shall consist of photographs in both black and white prints and colour photography with negatives (and CD if appropriate). For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. In the case of detailed photographs a north arrow will be included. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.
- 7.7 If significant archaeological deposits are exposed, all works must cease and a meeting convened with the client and the HEA to discuss the most appropriate way forwards.
- 8. Finds**
- 8.1 All finds will be retained from each archaeological context excavated
- 8.2 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 8.3 All pottery, and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 8.4 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the project including environmental sampling.
- 8.5 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the HEA.
- 8.6 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute for Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*.
- 8.7 Environmental sampling should be guided by *Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, 2001/02).
- 8.8 Other English Heritage guidance that may be helpful includes *Geoarchaeology* (2004) and *Archaeometallurgy* (2001).
- 8.9 The English Heritage Advisor for Archaeological Science will be able to provide archaeological science advice if required (Vanessa Straker 0117 975 0689).



## **9. Human Remains**

- 9.1 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ and reported to the HEA and the appropriate authorities. If removal is necessary this must comply with the relevant National Government regulations.
- 9.2 If human remains are not to be removed their physical security must be ensured, preferably by back filling as soon as possible after recording.
- 9.3 If human remains are to be removed this must be done with due reverence and in accordance to current best practice and legal requirements. The site must be adequately screened from public view. Once excavated, human remains must not be exposed to public view.

## **10. Results**

- 10.1 The full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding six months) to be agreed between the applicant and archaeological contractor, Local Planning Authority, Cornwall Council Historic Environment Record and the curating museum. A further digital copy shall be supplied on CD-ROM preferably in 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format.
- 10.2 This report will be held by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record and made available for public consultation. Additional copies should be submitted to the National Monuments Record *via* OASIS and to the Planning Department of the Council of the Isles of Scilly.
- 10.3 The report must contain:
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
  - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation
  - A discussion of archaeological findings in terms of both the site specific aims and the desk based research
  - Location map, a drawing showing those areas examined as part of the archaeological recording, and copies of any archaeological plans and sections. All plans shall be tied to the national grid.
  - All specialist reports or assessments.
  - A summary of the archive contents and date of deposition.
  - A context register with brief descriptions shall be included as an appendix.
  - A copy of the brief and the approved written scheme of investigation will be included as an appendix.

10.4 A contingency shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal. The HEA will notify the contractor of such a need within four weeks of receipt of the report.

## **11. Archive Deposition**

11.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *MoRPHE* upon completion of the project. The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the curating museum.

11.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the paper archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

11.3 The archive including a copy of the written report shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within two months of the completion of the full report and confirmed in writing with the HEA.

11.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEA.

## **12. Monitoring**

12.1 The HEA will monitor the work and should be kept regularly informed of progress.

12.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given in writing to the HEA at least one week in advance of its commencement.

12.3 Any variations to the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed in writing with the HEA prior to them being carried out.

## **Abbreviations**

HEA	Historic Environment Advisor
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLA	Historic Landscape Assessment (Land Use Consultants 1996)
MoRPHE	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage (2006)
NMR	National Monuments Record
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number as used to identify sites in the Historic Environment Record
SM	Scheduled Monument

St Martin's Affordable Housing, St Martin's, Isles of Scilly: Archaeological Watching Brief

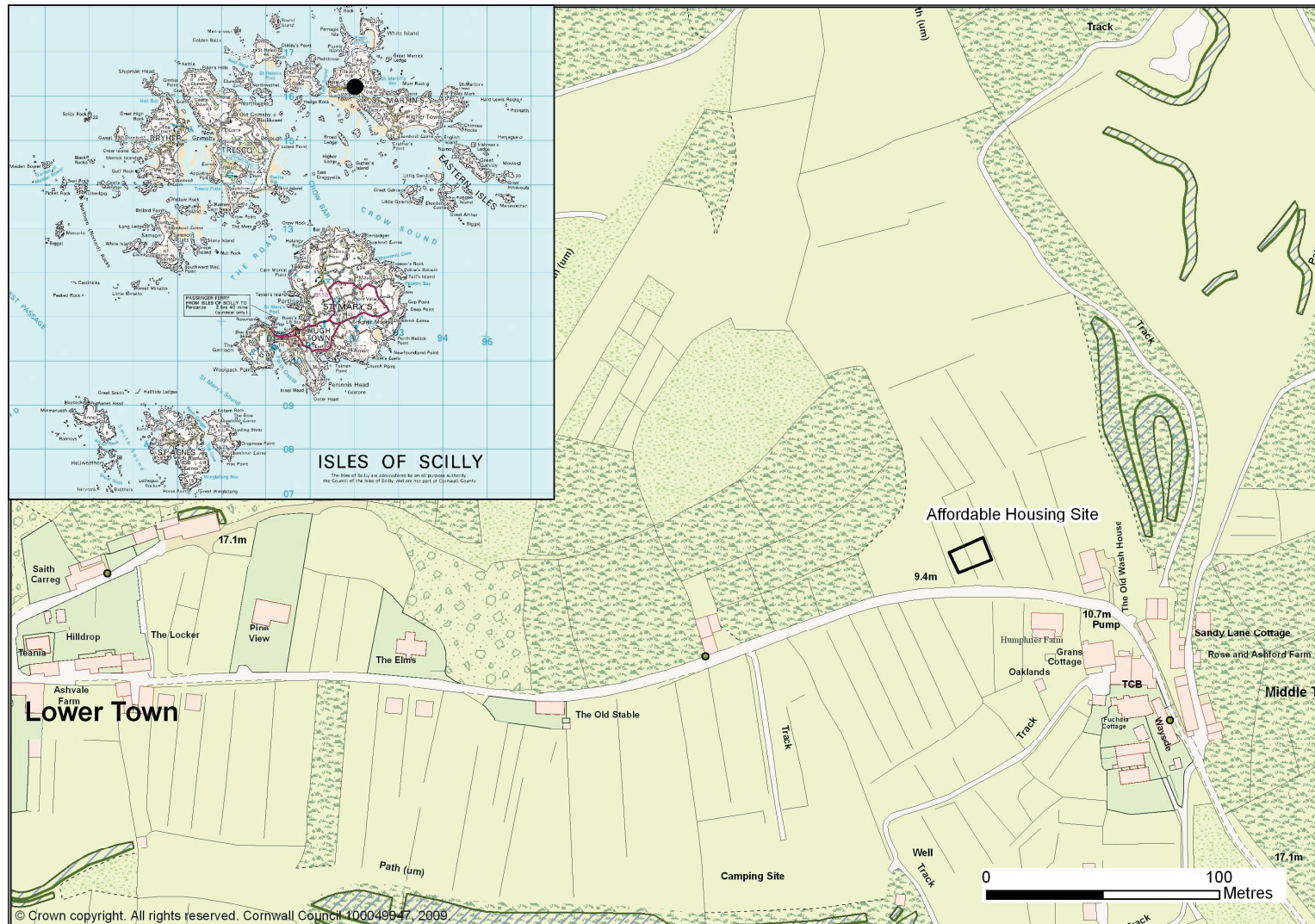
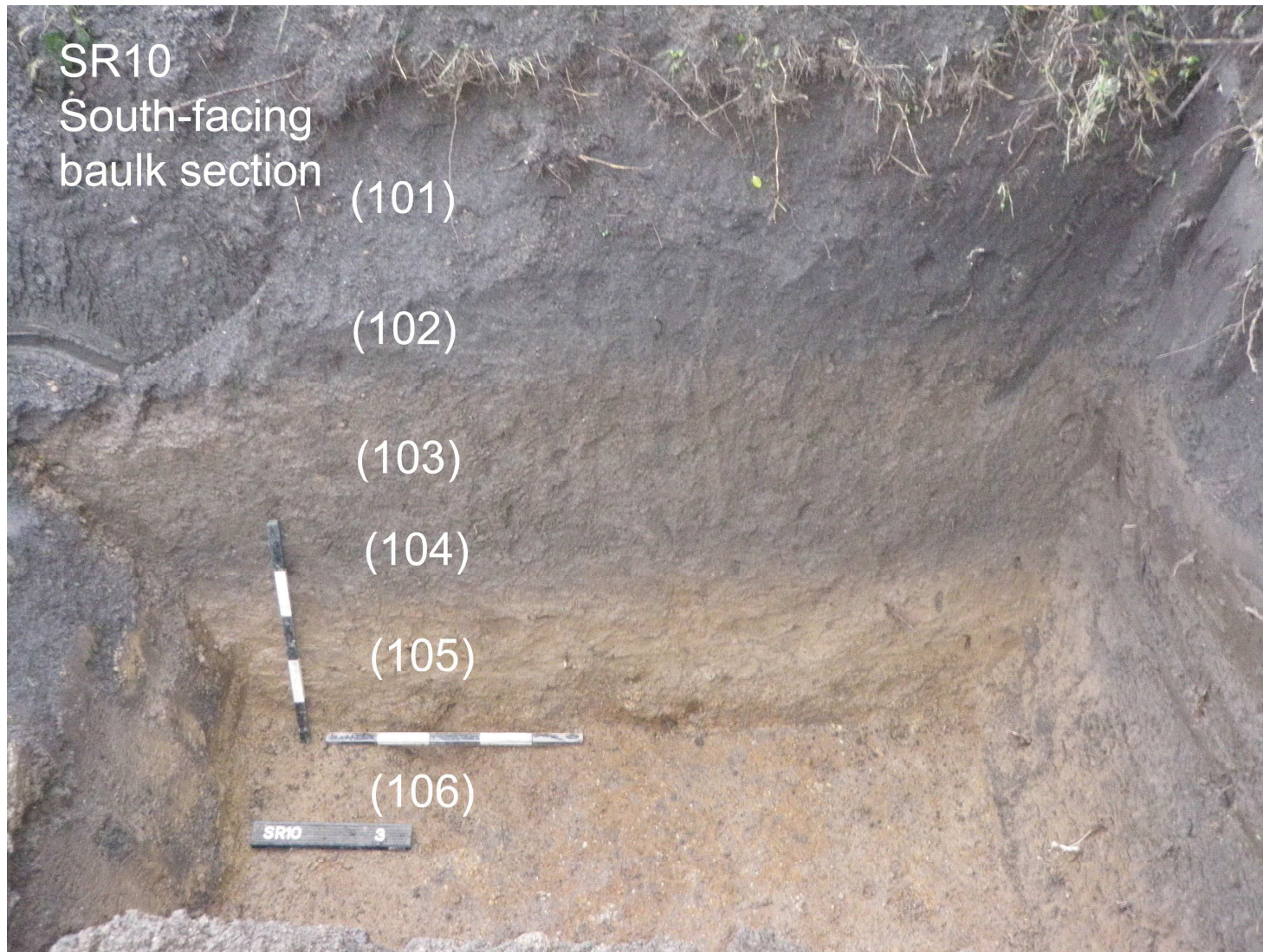


Figure 1: Location Map





*Figure 2: Section through deposits*