

Lescudjack Castle, Penzance, Cornwall: Archaeological watching brief at 12 Pendennis Place



Historic Environment Projects

Report No

2010R148

Report Name

Lescudjack Castle, Penzance, Cornwall:
archaeological watching brief at 12
Pendennis Place

Report Author

Francis Shepherd

Event Type

Watching Brief

Client Organisation

BMJ Developments (South West)

Client Contact

Mr Jim McKenna

Monuments (MonUID)

Lescudjack

Hillfort

CO537

SAM537

Fieldwork dates (From) (To)

24/11/10

25/11/10

(Created By)

F. Shepherd

(Create Date)

01/12/2010

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

12 Pendennis Place, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2BD

(Town - for urban sites)

Penzance

(Postcode)

TR18 2BD

(Easting) X co-ord

SW 4736

(Northing) Y co-ord

3105

List of Figures

Fig 1. *Location of survey area*

Fig 2. *Lescudjack Castle Scheduling extents*

Fig 3. *Post excavation plan of surveyed area*



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

Project background

Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council were commissioned by Mr Jim McKenna, Director, BMJ Developments (South West) Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording prior to the construction of 3 dwellings at Pendennis Place, Penzance (Fig 1). The site is adjacent to the hillfort of Lescudjack which is a Scheduled Monument (CO537). An assessment of the hillfort was carried out by HE Projects (Kirkham 2005), which made recommendations for the management and presentation of the site.

The proposed development will cover an area of approximately 0.1 HA. These investigations were required as part of planning condition (08-0284-P). The condition contains the following words:

'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 to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the County Archaeologist'.

Phil Markham (Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council) produced a brief for archaeological recording (24/8/10), and a written scheme of investigation was produced prepared by Andy Jones of HE Projects. This was subsequently agreed and HE Projects were commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork.

This document sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief.

The proposed development is sited on the eastern side of the hill-fort of Lescudjack. Despite being located within the settlement of Penzance, Lescudjack (Cornwall Historic Environment Record number MCO70) has not been the subject of any previous archaeological excavation (Fig 2). However, on morphological grounds it is likely to be Iron Age in date (c. 650 BC – AD 43) and could well have been the most important of the hill-forts of West Penwith, bearing in mind not only its size but also its location in the fertile lowlands overlooking Mount's Bay (Kirkham 2005). A limited amount of information about the site is recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record which states that Lescudjack Castle was recorded by Hals (writing in the late seventeenth century) whose observations are repeated in later accounts. Halliwell (1861, quoting Hals) calls it a 'notable treble entrenchment', though the locations of the two outer ramparts are not known. The earthwork was already damaged as he says 'the only part remaining is a large raised circular mound enclosing several fields. The mound is nearly perfect and there is a pathway outside which was probably the site of the original entrenchment'. Today the site is partially an open public space and partly used for allotments.

However, given the proximity of the development area to the hillfort, there was potential for buried archaeological sites to survive within the project area and there was the scope for the survival of previously unrecorded archaeological remains and artefacts of other periods to be recovered (Jones 2010).

The development area was a building plot located between two existing buildings numbers 11 and 14 Pendennis Place (Fig 3). The site slopes down from west to east and is bounded to the west by a well established Cornish hedge and to the east by an access road that terminates at no 14 Pendennis Place. Beyond the road a tree covered bank slopes down towards Chyandour Lane.

Aims and objectives

- To ensure that the site works were carried out in such a way as to allow recording as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Jones 31/07/10)
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and record any archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any of the archaeological remains encountered.
- To establish the nature of the activity on the site.

- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- To deposit the archive (including any finds) with the Royal Cornwall Museum and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

The key objective was:

- To locate and identify and record any prehistoric activity associated with the hillfort in the area of the development.

Working methods

Fieldwork

The soil strip was carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The soil was stripped cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers were expected to be revealed (ie, top of the "natural"). The area was then inspected by an HE Projects archaeologist.

Recording - general

- Site plans were made in pencil (4H) on drafting film and all drawings include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.
- Plans were drawn at 1:20.

Archiving

- All project records have been ordered, catalogued and stored in an appropriate manner (according to HE guidelines).
- The documentary archive in due course will be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office, but in the medium term will be stored at Pound and Co. All digital records have been filed on the Cornwall Council network.
- An English Heritage/ADS online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) record will be made.

Results (see fig 3)

Topsoil stripping started on the morning of 24th November 2010. The area to be stripped was covered with a variety of dumped material including old timbers and metal fencing panels.

The topsoil had a maximum recorded depth of 0.70m. To the western edge this overlaid a mixture of weathered stone and subsoil to a maximum depth of 1m. Beyond this more solid natural clay and stone was evident. To the north-west an area of less weathered natural was noted but this area had been disturbed by the digging of a large trench which had been subsequently backfilled with modern building materials. The owner of No 11 reports that this was dug as part of a previous but now expired planning application on the site (Derek Freestone pers comm).

Further to the east two trenches were encountered bisecting the site. These were expected and proved to be a redundant water main and an active sewer.

Beyond this an unexpected electrical cable was encountered, the trench of which was extensive to the far south-west, but was almost undetectable to the north.

Close to the road a small wall had been demolished. It was decided by the archaeologist on site that this, combined with the disturbance caused by the construction of the road and the fact that this area was outside the building footprint, negated the need for further monitoring. The extent of the electrical cable needed to be determined for the

developer's safety so the excavation of the area to the far south-east of the site was monitored, but nothing of any note was observed.

The fact that no structures of any sort were recorded lends credence to the assertion made by Graeme Kirkham (Kirkham 2005 p.42) that the hill fort was likely to be a univallate enclosure rather than the triple enclosure suggested by Hals (see above).

No finds of any period were recovered from the project area.

References

Halliwel, J O, 1861. *Rambles in western Cornwall by the footsteps of the giants*, London
Jones, A, 2010. *12 Pendennis Place, Penzance Archaeological Recording, Project Design and Estimate for Archaeological mitigation* Historic Environment - Projects. Truro
Kirkham, G, 2005. *Lescudjack hillfort Penzance, Cornwall Archaeological Assessment*. Historic Environment - Projects. Truro

Project archive

The HE project number is **2010116**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is 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 files containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Finished illustrations of finds, plans and sections are stored as GRE:732
3. Electronic drawings stored in the directory..\CAD ARCHIVE\R:\Historic Environment (CAD)\CAD Archive\Sites P-Q\12 Pendennis Place Penzance WB 2010116
4. Digital photographs stored in the directory..\Images\SITES.M-P\PENZANCE\12 Pendennis Place WB 2010116
5. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-88335

This report text is held in digital form as: ...\\HE Projects\Sites\Sites P\PENZANCE\12 Pendennis Place WB\12 Pendennis Place WB 2010116.docx

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Mitigation at 12 Pendennis Place, Penzance

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council have been requested by Mr Jim McKenna, Director, BMJ Developments (South West) Ltd to provide a project design and estimate for a programme of archaeological recording ahead of the construction of 3 dwellings at Pendennis Place, Penzance. The site is adjacent to the Hillfort of Lescudjack which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CO537). An assessment of the hillfort was carried out by HE Projects (Kirkham 2005), which made recommendations for the management and presentation of the site.

The proposed development will cover an area of approximately 0.1 HA. These investigations are required as part of planning condition (08-0284-P). The condition contains the following words:

'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 to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the County Archaeologist'.

Phil Markham (Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council) has produced a brief for archaeological recording (24/8/10).

1.2 Historical background

The proposed development is sited on the eastern side of the hill-fort of Lescudjack. Despite being located within the settlement of Penzance, Lescudjack (MCO70) has not been the subject of any previous archaeological investigation. However, on morphological grounds it is likely to be Iron Age in date (c. 650 BC – AD 43) and could well have been the most important of the hill-forts of West Penwith, bearing in mind not only its size but also its location in the fertile lowlands overlooking Mount's Bay. A limited amount of information about the site is recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record which states that Lescudjack Castle was recorded by Hals (writing in the late seventeenth century) whose observations are repeated in later accounts. Halliwell (quoting Hals) calls it a 'notable treble entrenchment', though the locations of the two outer ramparts are not known. The earthwork was already damaged as he says 'the only part remaining is a large raised circular mound enclosing several fields. The mound is nearly perfect and there is a pathway outside which was probably the site of the original entrenchment'. Today the site is partially an open public space and partly used for allotments.

Given the proximity of the development area to the hillfort, there is potential for buried archaeological sites to survive within the project area and there is the scope for the survival of previously unrecorded archaeological remains and artefacts of all periods.

2. Aims and objectives

- To ensure that the site works are carried out in such a way as to allow recording as set out in this Written Scheme of Investigation.
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To establish the nature of the activity on the site.
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.

- To deposit the archive (including any finds) with the Royal Cornwall Museum and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

2.1 Key objectives are:

- To locate and identify and record any prehistoric activity associated with the hillfort in the area of the development.

3. Methodology

The archaeological programme will follow five stages: fieldwork; archiving; assessment; analysis; final publication.

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 Archaeological Recording

The soil strip should be carried out under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The soil will be stripped cleanly to a level at which archaeological features or layers can be expected to be revealed (ie, top of the "natural"). **Machines will not run over the stripped area until the archaeological works are complete.** The area will then be inspected by an archaeologist and any archaeological features or layers exposed in the stripped area will be carefully excavated by hand and archaeologically recorded by written description, plan and section and photographic record as appropriate by an HE Projects archaeologist.

During the archaeological recording the archaeologist will:

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

If complex and/or significant archaeological deposits are encountered then the archaeological requirements should be reviewed by the client, the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer and HE Projects. In the event that remains cannot be preserved *in situ* then full-scale excavation may be required. A contingency should be allowed to record any significant archaeological remains which are uncovered during the stripping. The significance of the remains should be agreed between the client, the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer and HE Projects.

Where necessary the detailed archaeological recording may include:

Excavation of archaeological features exposed in the stripped area and plotting them onto a base map.

Production of plans and section drawings of the excavated features and recording of features using a continuous numbering system.

Retrieval of artefacts.

3.1.2 Recording – general

Site drawings (plans, sections, locations of finds) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans will be linked to the Ordnance Survey Landline (electronic) map; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.

All features and finds will be accurately located at an appropriate scale. Sections will normally be drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20.

All archaeological contexts will be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence.

Photography: scaled monochrome photography will be used as the main record medium, with colour digital images used more selectively and for illustrative purposes. This will include both general and site specific photographs. Photographs should have a scale and detailed ones should include a north arrow.

Drawings and photographs will be recorded in a register giving details of feature number and location.

Sealed/undisturbed archaeological contexts in the form of buried soils, layers or deposits within significant archaeological features (ditches and pits, etc) will be sampled for environmental evidence and dating material. In the event that significant organic remains are encountered, advice may be needed from Vanessa Straker (Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science).

If human remains are discovered on the site the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer and the Ministry of Justice will be informed. All recording will conform to best practice and legal requirements.

If human remains are uncovered, which require excavation, they will be will be excavated with due reverence. The site will be adequately screened from public view. Once excavated, human remains must not be exposed to public view.

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

3.2 Treatment of finds

The archaeological fieldwork may produce artefactual material.

- All finds in significant stratified contexts predating 1800 AD (eg, settlement features) should be collected by context and described. Post medieval or modern finds may be disposed of at the cataloguing stage. This process will be reviewed ahead of its implementation.
- All finds will be collected in sealable plastic bags which will be labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier.

3.3 Archiving

Following review with the HE Project Manager the results from the fieldwork will be collated as an archive. This will involve washing and cataloguing of finds, the indexing and cross-referencing of photographs, drawings and context records.

All finds, etc will be stored in a proper manner (being clearly labelled and marked and stored according to HE guidelines).

All records (context sheets, photographs, etc) will be ordered, catalogued and stored in an appropriate manner (according to HE guidelines).

The site archive and finds will initially be stored at HE premises and transferred to the Royal Cornwall Museum and the RCM conditions for archives will be followed. The RCM will be notified of the commencement of the project and included in discussions for sampling and disposal as appropriate.

In the event that there are no finds or they are retained by the owner, the documentary archive in due course shall be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office, but in the medium term will be stored at Pound and Co. All digital records will be filed on the Cornwall Council network.

3.4 Archive report

The results from the fieldwork will be presented in a concise report. Copies of the report will be distributed to the Client, the County Archaeologist and the local and main archaeological record libraries. A PDF copy of the report will be produced.

This will involve:

- producing a descriptive text;
- producing maps and line drawings;
- selecting photographs;
- report design;
- report editing;
- dissemination of the finished report
- deposition of archive and finds in the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.

The report will have the following contents:

- Summary - Concise non-technical summary.
- Introduction - Background, objectives, aims and methods.
- Results - Factual description of the results of the various aspects of the project, with separate sections as necessary for discussion/interpretation and potential for further analysis.
- Discussion - Discussion of the interpretation of the results, highlighting information gained on a chronological or thematic basis
Recommendations for further analysis and publication.
- Archive - A brief summary and index to the project archive.
- Appendix - A copy of the project brief.
- A copy of the WSI
- Illustrations - General location plan.
- Detailed location plans to link fieldwork results to OS map.
- Selected plans and section drawings (as appropriate).
- Finds drawings (if appropriate).
- Photographs (if appropriate).

An English Heritage/ADS online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) record will be made.

3.5 Assessment/analysis

The structural and stratigraphic data and artefactual material will be assessed to establish whether further analyses and reporting is appropriate. The outline of the final report, and the work required to produce it will be determined in an updated project design.

In the event of significant remains being recovered (eg, prehistoric or medieval artefacts) it may be appropriate to:

- Consult with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer over the requirements for assessment, analysis and reporting.
- Liaise with specialists (eg, artefacts) to arrange for assessment of the potential for further analysis and reporting.
- Arrange for specialist analyses, where appropriate.

3.6 Final publication

In the event of significant remains being recorded the scope and final form of the report will be reviewed; for example in addition to an archive report the results should be published in an academic journal (eg, *Cornish Archaeology*).

4. Monitoring

This written scheme of investigation will need to be approved by the Planning authority.

The recording exercise will be monitored. The Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer should be informed 1 week in advance of the intention to start the recording.

HE Projects will liaise with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer to advise on the programme and progress of work, and agree site meetings as required.

A summary of the results will be presented to the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer within 1 month of the completion of the fieldwork.

In the event that significant remains are encountered an updated project design will be agreed with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer.

5. Project Staff

An experienced archaeologist employed by HE will carry out the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be compiled by experienced archaeologist(s) employed by HE.

Relevant experienced and qualified specialists will be employed to undertake appropriate tasks during the assessment and analysis stages of the project.

The project will be managed by a manager who is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, who will:

- Take responsibility for the overall direction of the project.
- Discuss and agree the objectives and programme of each stage of the project with project staff, including arrangements for Health and Safety.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.

6. Timetable

The archiving and archive report will be completed within 12 months of the ending of the excavations. The timetable for further stages of assessment, analyses and publication will be agreed with Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer in the light of the results of the excavations.

7. Health and safety during the fieldwork

7.1 Health and safety statement

Historic Environment is within the Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate of Cornwall Council. The HE projects team 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.

Prior to carrying out any excavations HE will carry out a risk assessment

8. Insurance

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

9. Standards

The HE follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Code of Conduct and is a Registered Archaeological Organization.

As part of Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate of Cornwall Council, the HE projects team has certification in BS9001 (Quality Management), BS14001 (Environmental Management), OHSAS18001 (Health, Safety and Welfare), Investors in People and Charter Mark.

10. Copyright

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

This project design and estimate is the copyright of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council. Use of the material will be granted to the client.

11. Freedom of Information

All information gathered during the implementation of the project will be subject to the rules and regulations of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Notes

It is assumed that the client will supply the mechanical excavator. The cost is not included in the attached estimate.

The client will be responsible for the Health and Safety arrangements onsite (including fencing, etc), and it is assumed that welfare facilities will be made available.

In the event that human remains are uncovered the client will ensure that appropriate screening is put in place.

The post excavation programme (assessment, analysis and reporting) will need to be reviewed in the light of the fieldwork.

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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

12 Pendennis Place, Penzance: Estimate for Archaeological recording

Important

This estimate has been costed to include a *contingency element, which will only be used in the event that complex/extensive archaeological remains are recovered.

Two Scenarios have been given for the project, the first for a project where little is found. The second is for a project where significant archaeological remains are uncovered. However, in the event that extensive/significant deposits were encountered the estimate may need to be reviewed.

In the event that full excavation is required additional time will need to be negotiated between the client and HE Projects.

Note: estimates for assessment, analyses and final report stages will need to be reviewed in the light of the results.

Scenario One

Fieldwork

Preparation 0.25

Fieldwork-

 Archaeological monitoring 3

Project management 0.5

3.75 days @£243 = **£911.25**

Travel 3 visits £72

Materials/equipment £20

Photography (1 film @ £15) £15

= **£107**

Fieldwork Total

£1018.25

Archive/Archive Report

Report

- illustrations 1.5

- text/edit 2.5

- archive/OASIS 0.5

Project management 0.5

5 days @£243 = **£1215**

Materials/reprographic

£20

Archive/Archive Report Total

£1235

Scenario 1 Summary

Fieldwork **£1018.25**

Archive Report **£1235**

Total: **£2253.25** (not including VAT)

Scenario Two (where significant archaeological deposits are found)

Note: this may need review according to the extent and complexity of the remains
Estimate does not include costs for welfare facilities, etc and it assumed that these will be provided by the client.

Fieldwork

Preparation 1

Fieldwork-

Archaeological monitoring 3

*Contingency (5 days x2 HE archaeologists) 10

Project management 1

15 days @£243= **£3645**

Travel 3 visits £72

*Contingency travel 5 visits van hire £150

*Contingency diesel £75

Materials/equipment £50

Photography (1 films @ £15) £15

= £362

Fieldwork Total

£4007

Archive

Catalogues (photos, drawings, etc)	3
Sample processing	2
Finds processing	2
Project management	1

8 days @£243= **£1944**

Materials/reprographic

£30

Archive Total

£1974

Archive Report

Report	
- illustrations	3
- text	4
- edit	1
- archive/event record	0.5
Project management	1.5

10 days @£243= **£2430**

Materials/reprographic

£100

Report Total

£2530

Assessment and Analysis (outline costing only to be reviewed in the light of fieldwork results)

Project management/liaison	2
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2 days @£243= **£486**

Contingency* for specialist assessment and analysis -
environmental/artefact reports, radiocarbon dating, etc. **£3000**

Assessment and Analysis Total

£3486

Contingency* cost for academic publication (guideline only) £3000

Scenario 2 Summary

Fieldwork	£4007 (including £2655 Contingency*)
Archive	£1974
Archive Report	£2530
Assessment and Analysis	£3486 (including £3486 Contingency*)
Outline Publication cost	£3000 (including £3000 Contingency*)

—————
Total: **£14, 997** (not including VAT)
(including **£9141 Contingency***)

Note

- This estimate includes a contingency of up to **£9141**
- All costs are based upon April 2010 to March2011 rates
- This estimate should be reviewed on completion of the fieldwork
- Additional days are charged at £243, plus cost of travel, materials etc
- This estimate does not include VAT.

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Fig 1. Survey area location



Fig 2. Lescudjack Castle Scheduling extents

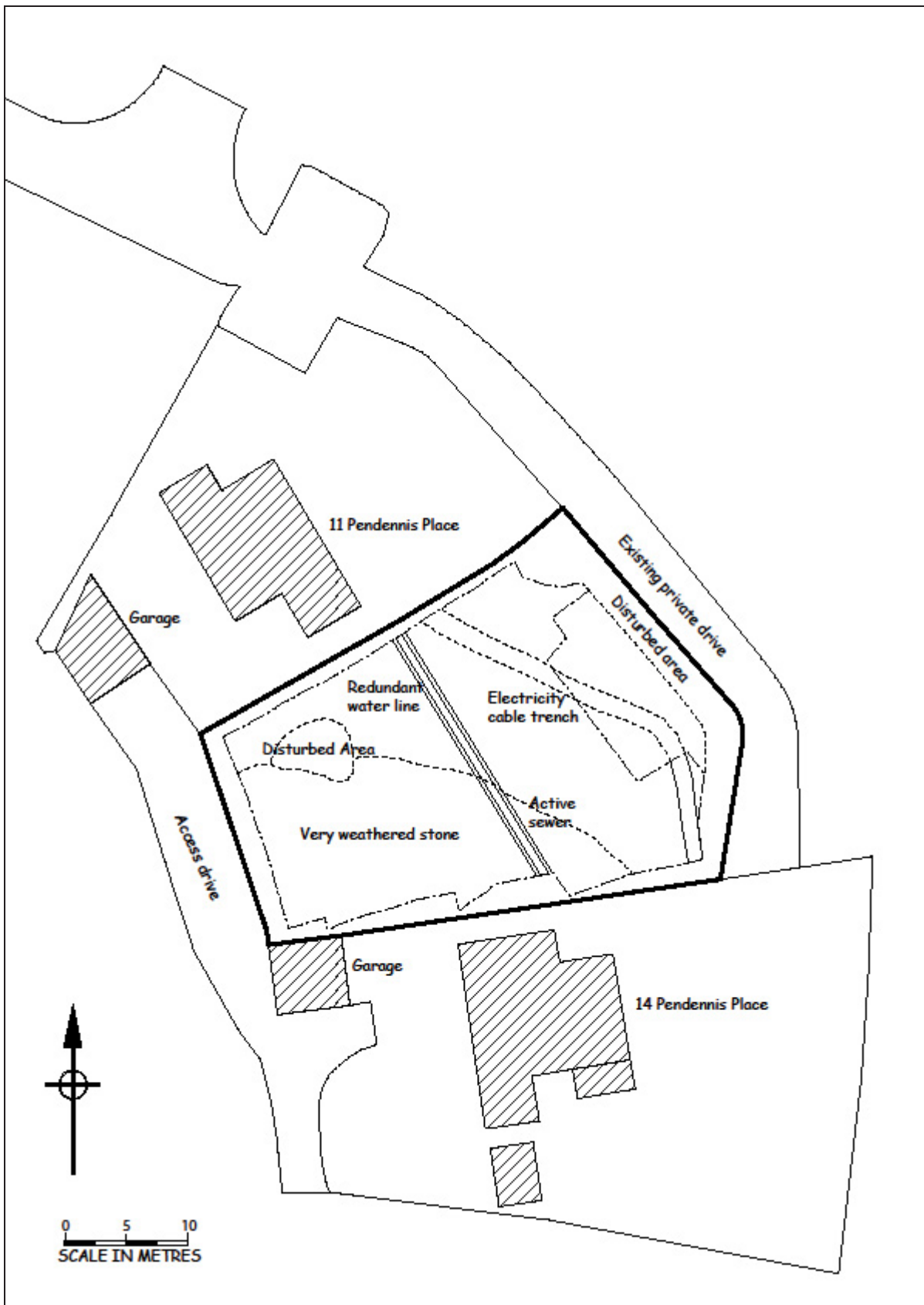


Fig 3. Post excavation plan of surveyed area