

# **Sampson Cottage, Bryher Isles of Scilly**

## **Archaeological watching brief**





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<b>Client</b>	<b>The Duchy of Cornwall</b>
<b>Report Number</b>	<b>2011R029</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16/03/2011</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Report authors</b>	<b>Charles Johns, Katharine Sawyer, Francis Shepherd</b>
<b>Checked by</b>	<b>Peter Rose</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Phil Markham</b>

Historic Environment, Cornwall Council

Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY

tel (01872) 323603 fax (01872) 323811 E-mail [hes@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:hes@cornwall.gov.uk)

[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

## **Acknowledgements**

This study was commissioned by Adrian Smith Assistant Land Steward for the Duchy of Cornwall and carried out by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was Charles Johns; fieldwork was undertaken by Katharine Sawyer and Francis Shepherd. Finds processing and identification was carried out by Carl Thorpe.

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

## **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.



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Institute for Archaeologists

## **Cover illustration**

The septic tank viewed from the south-west (HE Projects)

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## Abbreviations

CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

## **1 Summary**

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out in October and November 2010 by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council for the Duchy of Cornwall in order to satisfy a planning condition for archaeological recording during groundworks at the site of Sampson Cottage, Bryher (NGR SV87957 14400). There was an existing dwelling dating from the 1950s on the development site which was demolished prior to the proposed building work, the watching brief included monitoring the removal of the existing footings and excavations for a new rain water tank, septic tank, soakaway and associated service trenches.

There were no archaeological features or finds below the building or in the pits for the rainwater tank, soakaway and connecting trench, but in one corner of the pit for the new septic tank were 43 sherds of pottery in a truncated pit.

The pottery has been identified as briquetage - the remains of shallow pans used in to evaporate seawater in the salt-making process - and possibly dating to the Bronze Age.

As far as can be determined this is only the second time that briquetage has been recorded on Scilly. The only other occurrence was some small abraded pieces of baked clay found during an evaluation at Dolphin Town, Tresco in 1999.

Because of the unusual nature of this discovery and to help place the Dolphin Town briquetage in context it is recommended that a short note on the discovery should be published in *Cornish Archaeology*, the annual journal of the Cornwall Archaeological Society with line drawings illustrating the two vessel forms present. The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly HER should also be updated and a PRN allocated to this site.





## **2 Introduction**

### **2.1 Project background**

In October 2010 Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council (HE Projects) was commissioned by the Duchy of Cornwall to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in order to satisfy a planning condition. There was an existing dwelling dating from the 1950s on the development site which was demolished prior to the proposed building work, the watching brief included monitoring the removal of the existing footings and excavations for a new septic tank, soakaway and associated service trenches.

### **2.2 Aims**

The site specific aims were:

- To create a photographic record if required
- 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

### **2.3 Methods**

The watching brief was carried out according to the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work (Johns 2010, see Appendix 3), based on the brief for archaeological recording by the Historic Environment Adviser for the Council of the Isles of Scilly (Breen 2010, see Appendix 2).

## **3 Location and setting**

Sampson Cottage is located on the north-east side of Samson Hill, Bryher (NGR SV87957 14400) at approximately 10m above sea level. The site is currently occupied by a dwelling and garden which was apparently land taken in for the purpose of constructing this dwelling in the 1950s.

## **4 Site history**

### **4.1 Historic Landscape Character**

The land on which the cottage was built is former heathland and the land to be used for drainage purposes is classed as Anciently Enclosed Land being land that was enclosed prior to the nineteenth century and is potentially medieval enclosure or earlier (Land Use Consultants 1996). Both of these classifications of historic landscape types have potential for archaeological remains.

## **4.2 Archaeological background**

Samson Hill is an area rich in archaeological sites of national importance. Most sites are prehistoric in date.

There are number of Scheduled Monuments on and around Samson Hill:

- 15464 Prehistoric enclosure south-east of The Brow, Bryher;
- 15465 Prehistoric hut circle south of The Brow, Bryher;
- 15546 Iron Age cist on northern Samson Hill, 165m north-east of Western Carn, Bryher;
- 15462 Prehistoric field sysem on the south-west flank of Samson Hill, Bryher;
- 15424 Prehistoric entrance grave and round cairn on western Samson Hill, Bryher;
- 15425 Two kerbed platform cairns north of Bonfire Carn on eastern Samson hill, Bryher;
- 15426 Prehistoric entrance grave at Works Carn, Bryher; and
- 15397 Civil War battery at Works Point, Bryher

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

- 7306 Prehistoric hut circle;
- 7683 A broken granite saddle quern lying just on the boulder beach south of The Brow; and
- 7684 possible hut circle, this site may be a modern rubbish pit.

## **5 Archaeological results**

Katharine Sawyer observed groundworks at Samson Hill Cottage on 21 October 2010. The development site is on an east-facing slope and the upper part of the site has been terraced to three levels. The previous house was on the uppermost terrace with a vegetation-covered slope behind (west) of it and two levels of garden below. There is a drystone wall (possibly a former field boundary) on the edge of the lowest terrace and then a slope below this wall.

The bases of the concrete walls of the building were still in place but the superstructure had already been removed. The walls retained an infill of topsoil context (1) with patches of *ram* (2) visible in the western part. The concrete walls were removed by machine and the infill dug out. It consisted of topsoil with pieces of decomposing vegetation and small pieces of concrete and was up to 0.8m deep at the eastern edge grading to a centimetre or two at the western side. There was no discernible layer between the topsoil infill and the ram, which was orange-brown in colour, gritty with crumbling stone and very hard.

Much of the terrace immediately below the building was then stripped to the ram. On the eastern side of it was a layer of redeposited ram (3) of up to 0.2m in depth, presumably from the top of the site, above the natural topsoil (4) which was up to 0.3m deep and was over the natural ram. There were no finds or features on either terrace apart from two apparently worked pieces of granite (possibly quernstones), one found earlier by the builders, the other by me, both close to the granite path to the immediate south of the building.

In the area below (east of) the drystone wall, pits were dug for an above-ground rainwater tank and a soakaway and the two were connected by a trench. Work was then started on a pit for the septic tank. The rainwater tank pit, which measures about

2m square, revealed 0.2m depth of topsoil (4) over hard ram (2). In the soakaway pit, which is about 3m to the south, there was 0.3m of topsoil over a paler orange-brown, softer ram (5).

The pit for the septic tank is about 2m to the east of the rainwater tank pit. In the north-west corner of this several pieces of pottery were discovered but no further investigation took place at this time.

On 21 November 2010, Francis Shepherd visited the site to further investigate the pottery and its context. The septic tank trench was on a slight incline (east to west) and measured approximately 2m square (Figs 2 and 3). It contained two possible features and a sizable amount of a brick red coloured material (6). This material was widely distributed throughout the loose soil in the north-eastern corner of the trench.

The larger feature [7] proved to contain mixed topsoil and subsoil (8) including degraded turf and a very sharp straight edged cut. It seemed likely that this was a modern feature and due to time constraints it was decided not to pursue this further. This feature is recorded as 'previously disturbed area' and occupies the majority of the south-western area (below).

The small sub-circular 'scrape' in the north-eastern corner may have been the truncated remains of a small discrete feature measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.05m deep [9] cut into degraded natural with large granite inclusions (Fig 4). The feature had very little edge definition and no clear cut, the base was irregular and followed the same trend east to west as the slope. It contained light yellowish grey silty clay (10) that seemed to contain or pack a handful of sherds of very soft and chunky pot-like material. Two large stones (0.1m) were also found within the feature and the pot-like material seemed to be crushed in and around them. There was more of the brick red material, although this was found high in what remained of the feature and is likely to have been intrusive.

## 6 Finds summary report

By Carl Thorpe

A total of 44 artefacts were recovered during this project.

Pottery comprises the largest number of finds (43 sherds or 97.7% of the collection). There is also one flint within the assemblage.

The material is derived from context (10), the fill of truncated feature [9]. The total number of finds is summarised below.

### Context No: (10) Septic Tank pit.

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				
Bronze Age	708g	43		
Stonework				
Flint	1g	1		

12 rim sherds Briquetage, rounded rim, thick walled. Pan or evaporating dish.

31 sherds Briquetage; wall sherds from Pan, evaporating dish or supports.

1 flint waste flake. Prehistoric = 1g

The ceramics from this site are unusual in that the whole collection is composed of briquetage, which is a special type of pottery utilised in the prehistoric period for the manufacture of salt. This process involved the evaporation of sea water to obtain the

salt. The interaction of the sea water with the pottery makes the pottery porous and very distinctive. The fabric for all the vessels is granitic. The form of the vessels consists of a flat dish or pan with slight rim, and deeper slab sided bowls.

Dating of this material is uncertain. Forms similar to these of Bronze Age date were recovered from excavations at Brean Down, Somerset (Bell 1990) while similar material of Romano-British date has been found on the Cornish mainland at Trebarveth, St Keverne (Peacock 1969) and Carngoon Bank, Landewednack (McAvoy 1980). The small waste flake of flint associated with the material from Sampson Hill Cottage may hint at this collection being more likely to belong within the Bronze Age, but this is very tentative.

## **7 Recommendations**

As far as can be determined this is only the second time that briquetage has been recorded on Scilly. The only other occurrence was some small abraded pieces of baked clay found during an evaluation at Dolphin Town, Tresco in 1999. Some of these pieces had surfaces suggesting they had once formed parts of vessels, although only three of these pieces were found in an undisturbed context (layer 5) containing Bronze Age pottery (Quinnell forthcoming).

Because of the unusual nature of this discovery and to help place the Dolphin Town briquetage in context it is recommended that a short note on the discovery should be published in *Cornish Archaeology*, the annual journal of the Cornwall Archaeological Society with line drawings illustrating the two vessel forms present. The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly HER should also be updated and a PRN allocated to this site.

## **8 References**

### **8.1 Primary sources**

- Ordnance Survey, c1880. *25 Inch Map* First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)  
Ordnance Survey, c1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)  
Ordnance Survey, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*

### **8.2 Publications**

- Bell, M, 1990. *Brean Down Excavations 1983 – 1987*, English Heritage  
Breen, E, 2010. Brief for Archaeological Recording, Sampson Cottage, Bryher, Council of the Isles of Scilly  
Johns, C, 2010. Sampson, Bryher: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording, HE projects, Truro  
Land Use Consultants 1996 Isles of Scilly Historic Landscape Assessment and Management Strategy  
McAvoy, F, 1980. 'The Excavation of a Multi-period Site at Carngoon Bank, Lizard', *Cornish Archaeol* **19**, 31-62  
Peacock D, 1969. A Romano-British Salt-working Site at Trebarveth, St Keverne, *Cornish Archaeol* **8**, 47-65  
Quinnell, H, forthcoming. Daub or briquetage in S Taylor and C Johns forthcoming. Archaeological recording on a multi-period site at Dolphin Town, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, 199-2003, *Cornish Archaeol*

## **9 Project archive**

The HE project number is **2010099**

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 file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration and copies of documentary/cartographic source material (file no 2010098).
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE 700).
3. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 2172
4. Digital photographs stored in the directory ..\Images\Sites\Scilly\Sites A-D\Bryher Sampson Cottage Watching Brief 2010099
5. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-96016

This report text is held in digital form as... HE Projects\Sites\Scilly\Sites A-D\Bryher Sampson Cottage Watching Brief 2010099

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 BRS10.

## 10 Appendix 1: List of contexts

Context	Type (Cut/Deposit)	Description
(1)	D	Dark brownish grey loose clayey sand with few inclusions. Redeposited topsoil within footprint of building.
(2)	D	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay. Hard natural <i>ram</i> within footprint of the building.
(3)	D	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay. Redeposited <i>ram</i> up to 0.2m deep above buried topsoil (4) on eastern side of terrace below building
(4)	D	Buried topsoil 0.3m deep above natural <i>ram</i> on eastern side of terrace below building
(5)	D	Pale orange-brown natural <i>ram</i> below topsoil in septic tank pit
(6)	D	Brick-red coloured material in septic tank trench
[7]	C	Modern feature cut into <i>ram</i> in septic tank pit
(8)	D	Mixed soil and subsoil, fill of [7]
[9]	c	Shallow scrape 0.2m in diameter and 0.05m deep containing deposit (10) and briquetage
(10)	D	Light yellowish grey silty clay with briquetage fragments, fill of [9].

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

### **BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

**Date:** 19 April 2010                      **Site:** Sampson Cottage, Bryher

**Applicant:** Duchy of Cornwall

**Contact:** Adrian Smith

**Planning Application number:** P/07/115

#### **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 Sampson Cottage to discharge condition 6 placed on the development.

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

Sampson Cottage is located on the northeast side of Samson Hill, Bryher SV8795714400 at approximately 10 metres above sea level. The site is currently occupied by a dwelling and garden which was apparently land taken in for the purpose of constructing this dwelling in the 1950s.

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

On 4 December 2007 planning permission P/07/115 was granted for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the building of a new cottage at the same location at Samson Hill, Bryher.

#### **Condition 6 of planning permission P/07/115 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 6

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**

Samson Hill is an area rich in archaeological sites of national importance. Most sites are prehistoric in date.

#### **Scheduled Monuments on and around Samson Hill. Bryher**

15464 Prehistoric enclosure south east of The Brow, Bryher

15465 Prehistoric hut circle south of The Brow, Bryher

15546 IRON AGE CIST ON NORTHERN SAMSON HILL, 165M NNE OF WESTERN CARN, BRYHER

15462 PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM ON THE SOUTH WEST FLANK OF SAMSON HILL, BRYHER

15424 PREHISTORIC ENTRANCE GRAVE AND ROUND CAIRN ON WESTERN SAMSON HILL, BRYHER

15425 TWO KERBED PLATFORM CAIRNS NORTH OF BONFIRE CARN ON EASTERN SAMSON HILL, BRYHER

15426 PREHISTORIC ENTRANCE GRAVE AT WORKS CARN, BRYHER

15397 CIVIL WAR BATTERY AT WORKS POINT, BRYHER

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

7306 Prehistoric hut circle

7683 A broken granite saddle quern lying just on the boulder beach south of The Brow.

7684 possible hut circle. This site may be a modern rubbish pit.

### **Historic landscape types**

The land on which the cottage was built is former heathland and the land to be used for drainage purposes is classed as Anciently Enclosed Land being land that was enclosed prior to the nineteenth century and is potentially medieval enclosure or earlier (Land Use Consultants 1996). Both of these classifications of historic landscape types have potential for archaeological remains.

### **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 create a photographic record if required.
- 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.

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

MoRPHE Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

NMR National Monuments Record

OS Ordnance Survey

## **Bibliography**

Land Use Consultants 1996 Isles of Scilly Historic Landscape Assessment and Management Strategy

## **12 Appendix 3: WSI for archaeological recording**

### **Sampson Cottage, Samson Hill, Bryher, Isles of Scilly: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording during groundworks**

Client: Duchy of Cornwall  
Client contact: Adrian Smith  
Client tel: 01720 422508  
Client email: [ASmith@DuchyofCornwall.org](mailto:ASmith@DuchyofCornwall.org)

#### **12.1 Project Background**

On 4 December 2007 planning permission P/07/115 was granted for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the building of a new cottage at the same location at Samson Hill, Bryher.

Condition 6 of planning permission P/07/115 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 6

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) for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the development has been prepared for the Duchy of Cornwall. 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 2010).

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

Sampson Cottage is located on the northeast side of Samson Hill, Bryher SV8795714400 at approximately 10m above sea level. The site is currently occupied by a dwelling and garden which was apparently land taken in for the purpose of constructing this dwelling in the 1950s.

#### **12.3 Archaeological background**

Samson Hill is an area rich in archaeological sites of national importance. Most sites are prehistoric in date, and include the following Scheduled Monuments:

- 15464 Prehistoric enclosure south east of The Brow, Bryher
- 15465 Prehistoric hut circle south of The Brow, Bryher
- 15546 Iron Age Cist on northern Samson Hill, 165m north-east of the Western Carn, Bryher
- 15462 Prehistoric field system on the south-west flank of Samson Hill, Bryher
- 15424 Prehistoric entrance grave and round cairn on western Samson Hill, Bryher
- 15425 Two kerbed platform cairns north of Bonfire Carn on eastern Samson Hill, Bryher

- 15426 Prehistoric entrance grave at Works Carn, Bryher
- 16397 Civil War Battery at Works Point, Bryher

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

- 7306 Prehistoric hut circle
- 7683 A broken granite saddle quern lying just on the boulder beach south of The Brow.
- 7684 possible hut circle. This site may be a modern rubbish pit

The land on which the cottage was built is former heathland and the land to be used for drainage purposes is classed as Anciently Enclosed Land being land that was enclosed prior to the nineteenth century and is potentially medieval enclosure or earlier (Land Use Consultants 1996). Both of these classifications of historic landscape types have potential for archaeological remains.

## **12.4 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.

## **12.5 Project aims and objectives**

- 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.

## **12.6 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.

### **12.6.1 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.

### **12.6.2 Archaeological recording**

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.

### **12.6.3 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

### **12.6.4 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 photographs
  - Note: 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.

#### **12.6.5 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 HE Projects, 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.

#### **12.6.6 Archive deposition**

- An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *the 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 HE Projects



- 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.

#### **12.6.7 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

### **12.7 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 management of the Lyonesse Project, a 2-year study of the evolution of the coastal and marine environment of Scilly and the Research Framework for the historic environment of Scilly (both 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, 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. These have involved managing teams of up to 15 archaeologists, making decisions on site strategy, and supervising site recording. Projects on Scilly include Tresco Playing Field (Taylor and Johns forthcoming), Carn Thomas, St Mary's (Taylor 2008), and the recent Bryher, St Martin's and St Agnes Affordable Housing development (Taylor 2010a; Taylor 2010b; Taylor and Johns 2010). 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. 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 to the University of Waikato.

### **12.7.1 Project timetable**

The fieldwork is anticipated to be carried out between on late October /early November 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.

## **12.8 Historic Environment Projects**

Historic Environment Projects is the contracting arm of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council (HE). 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



### **12.9 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.

## **12.10 Terms and conditions**

### **12.10.1 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.

### **12.10.2 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.

### **12.10.3 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.

### **12.10.4 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.

### **12.10.5 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.

### **12.10.6 Insurance**

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

## **12.11 References**

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- Taylor S, and Johns, C, forthcoming. Archaeological recording on the site of the new sports field at Dolphin Town, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol*

*Charles Johns*

*Senior Archaeologist*

*15 October 2009*

*Historic Environment Projects*

*Cornwall Council*

*Kennall Building, Old County Hall,*

*Station Road,*

*Truro, Cornwall. TR1 3AY*

*Tel: 01872 322056 Fax: 01872 323811*

*Email: [chjohns@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:chjohns@cornwall.gov.uk)*

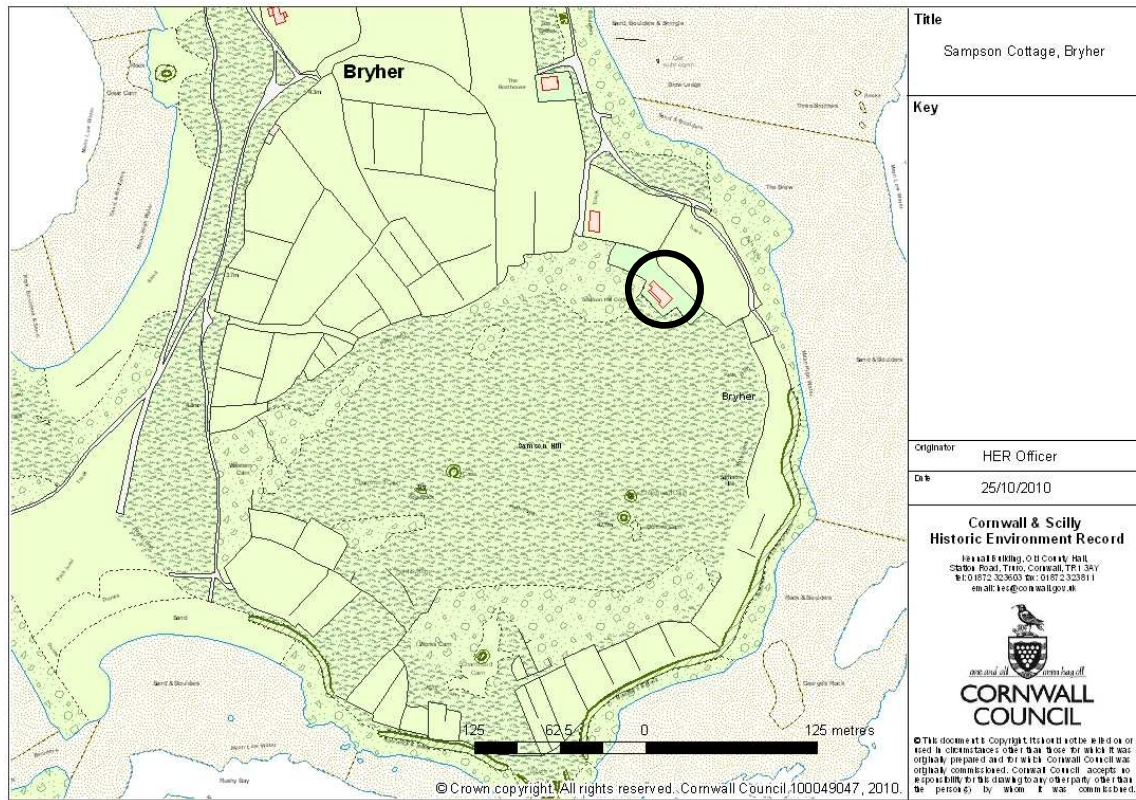


Fig 1 Location map

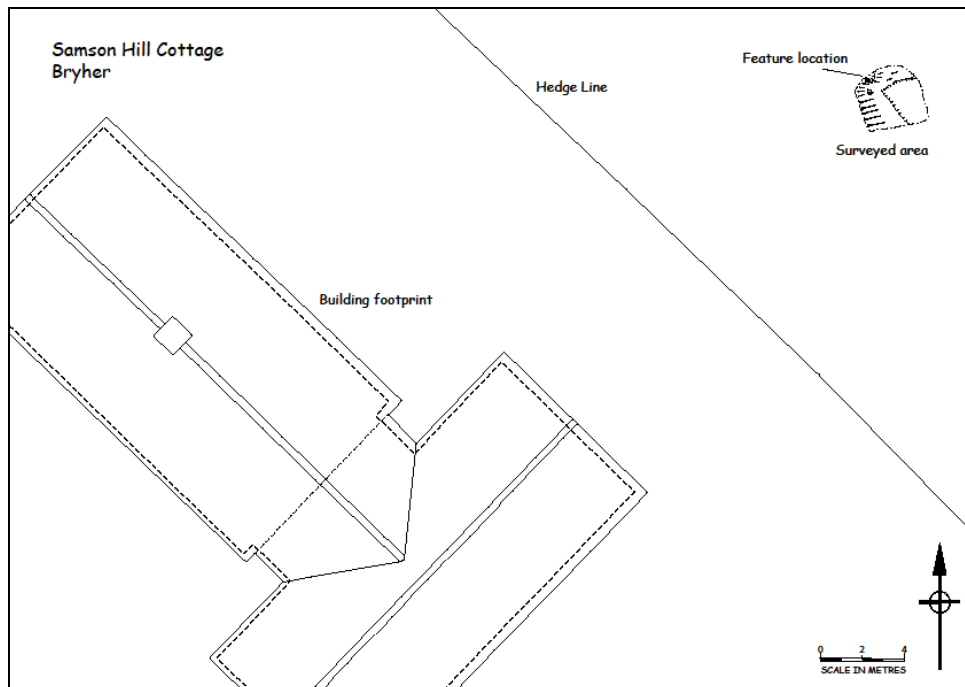


Fig 2 Location of the septic tank pit



*Fig 3 Location of the briquetage (arrowed) within the septic tank, viewed from the north-east (HE Projects)*



*Fig 4 The briquetage in situ, viewed from the north-east (HE Projects)*