

# Tintagel Visitor Facilities, Cornwall

## Archaeological Watching Brief



**Historic Environment Service (Projects)**

Cornwall County Council



A Report for English Heritage

## **Tintagel Visitor Facilities, Cornwall**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

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## **Cover illustration**

Area 4 (taken by author in December 2003)

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## **Abbreviations**

|     |                                                              |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| CAU | Cornwall Archaeological Unit                                 |
| CRO | Cornwall County Record Office                                |
| EH  | English Heritage                                             |
| HER | Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record |
| HES | Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council        |
| NGR | National Grid Reference                                      |
| RCM | Royal Cornwall Museum                                        |
| PRN | Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER                        |
| OS  | Ordnance Survey                                              |

# 1 Summary

Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Service was commissioned by English Heritage to carry out a watching brief during an extension to the existing visitor facilities at Tintagel (SX 0519 8899). The visitor facilities are sited within the Scheduled Monument Cornwall Number 15446.

Four areas of excavation were recorded including two areas of levelling and foundation trenches (areas 1 and 2), a cut into the hillslope (area 3) and the digging of a service trench (area 4). A number of layers of made ground were recorded.

Thirty seven artefacts were recovered from six contexts. This included post\_Roman imported wares: 2 body sherds of Bv amphora, 7 sherds Bi amphora, 1 body sherd of Bii amphora, and 1 large sherd of Bv amphora. There were also 3 sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware, a few modern finds and 17 metal objects including 3 items of Copper alloy, the rest a variety of iron objects.

The site of the visitor facilities seems to have been created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the dressing and storage of slate before its shipment from Tintagel Haven. The area was built up with material cut back from the hillslope and lain down to create a platform for the building and dressing area, and to ensure an even gradient for the trackway to the Haven. Amongst the made layers were a number of re-deposited sherds of amphorae dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

## **2 Introduction**

### **2.1 Project background**

Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Service was commissioned by Ian Ashby, English Heritage Project Co-ordinator, to carry out a watching brief during an extension to the existing visitor facilities at Tintagel (SX 0519 8899, see Figures 1 and 2). To the south east of the existing visitor facilities a new single storey toilet block was built (Area 1), which allowed for the enlargement of the existing building (into Area 3) to create office space. A new single storey extension to the north-west (see Area 2) was created for extra storage. The visitor facilities are sited within the Scheduled Monument Cornwall Number 15446.

An archaeological evaluation carried out by CAU in 1994 (Lawson Jones), and a watching brief in 1995 (Lawson Jones), had focused on the northern side of the present visitor building and revealed archaeological layers dating primarily to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A sherd of post-Roman pottery and a fragment of a slate merells board (dating to the early and later medieval periods respectively) were recovered, the finds re-deposited in layers of 'made' ground (Lawson Jones 1994 and 1995), their likely origin from collapsed sections the hill slope adjacent to the lower ward which lies immediately above the present visitor centre.

### **2.2 Aims**

The aims of the project were:

- To ensure that the trenching was carried out in such a way as to allow adequate recording.
- To record all archaeological features, layers and finds affected by the works.
- To develop and further the understanding of the archaeology of the valley bottom.

### **2.3 Methods**

The programme of archaeological work consisted of two parts; fieldwork and a report.

#### **2.3.1 Fieldwork**

Fieldwork was carried out during late September and into October with a final day of fieldwork on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2003.

The project brief required that when archaeological features were identified, these should be recorded. The brief included,

- Monitoring ground disturbance whilst foundations were being excavated (identified features plotted on a base plan)
- producing drawings of features excavated and of sections revealed
- producing a photographic record of features and sections
- In the event of any significant archaeology to agree a revised excavation and sampling strategy with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments and the Regional Archaeological Science Advisor.



### **2.3.2 Report**

The results from the watching brief are presented in this concise report which includes a descriptive text and maps.

## **3 Background**

### **3.1 Location and setting**

The visitor facilities at Tintagel lie within the tight, steeply sloped valley that falls to Tintagel Haven, the small cove which sits snugly in the shadow of the precipitous Tintagel Island.

The visitor facilities are set back from the haven and are cut in to the hillslope beneath the lower ward of Tintagel castle. The valley has a flat bottom and the building lies to the west of the stream. A well used trackway runs down from Tintagel to a car park to the south of the site.

Geologically, the area is heavily faulted with slates of the Lower Carboniferous, Upper Devonian Delabole Slates and Lower Carboniferous Sheared Lava and Tuff (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1969).

### **3.2 Designations and Importance**

The significance of the sites around the area of the valley/trackway/harbour areas have been outlined in the Tintagel Castle Conservation Plan and the Tintagel Regeneration Project (see Craze 2003). The valley as a whole is deemed to be nationally and regionally significant historically, archaeologically, geologically and ecologically.

As mentioned previously the visitor facilities lie within Scheduled Monument Cornwall Number 15446. They are also within the Tintagel Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an Area of Great Historic Value, an Area of Great Scientific Value and within the Heritage Coast.

### **3.3 Historical Background**

The trackway and harbour area has a rich archaeological and historical background linked with the post-Roman and late medieval activity on Tintagel Island, and to the more recent industries of mining, slate quarrying and fishing (see Craze 2003). It has been suggested that the lower part of the trackway which leads to the Haven post-dates the occupation of the post-Roman and medieval sites on the island, the route cut when the Haven was used for shipping slate obtained from nearby quarries in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Craze 2003; Thorpe 1996).

Early medieval artefacts found on the island and next to the visitors facilities (see Lawson Jones 1994, 1995) include pottery originating from the Mediterranean and the continent. This suggests that the Haven would have been in use in the early medieval period, its use probably continuing into the later medieval and post-medieval periods.

There is a considerable revetted walled area on the eastern side of the Haven along with a number of small buildings and working platforms used for capstans, derricks and poppet-heads (Craze 2003; Lawson Jones 1994, 10). These date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (see Figures 3 and 4) and relate to the Haven been used for exporting slate. There are also winch positions in the harbour area which would have been used to load slates on board waiting boats and to lift fishing boats out of the water and onto the safety of dry land (Craze 2003, 8).

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Area 1

This area lay on the south eastern side of the existing visitor facilities and measured 8.8m by 6.4 m wide (see Figure 2). Initially the works involved the removal of some modern stone walling and the levelling of the car park. This required the removal of  $\approx 0.5$ m of layer (1) in against the hillslope on the western side, which also had to be cut in to (see section 1, Figure 5). Once the area was levelled the foundation trenches were dug using a JCB. The trenches measured 0.5m wide and between 0.4m and 0.8m deep (the deeper sections cut where the ground was damp and unstable). The southernmost foundation trench recorded as section 1.

Layer (1) was the most recent layer of the modern car park, beneath which was layer (2). This was composed of crumbly degraded concrete material between 0.05m and 0.07m thick. Beneath (2) on the western side of section 1 was layer (3), which was also evident behind (to the west) of the revetting wall (4). Below both layers (2) and (3) was a layer (5), a layer of 'made' ground measuring 0.03m thick on its western side, and 0.16m thick to the east. This a number of finds including 7 sherds of Bi amphora (dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries), 2 sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware and 1 sherd of modern terracotta flower pot. Below (5) was (6), another layer of made ground, composed of red brown sandy silt matrix with moderate small angular slate fragments. Beneath (6) was layer (7) which appeared to be natural, sitting above the slate bedrock (see section 1). At the base of (7), just above the bedrock (and in quite a damp area), was a natural lense (8) of purple brown sticky clean clay.

### 4.2 Area 2

This area measuring 4.4m by 4.2m (tapering in width slightly to the northwest, see Figure 2) lay to the north west of the existing visitor facilities. The area was initially stripped by approximately 0.8m of material and cut further westwards into the hillside (see section 2, Figure 6). Beneath the friable topsoil (9) was layer (10), which was recent in date and composed of loose light grey building sand. Below this was a layer (11) of made ground from which a single unidentifiable iron object was recovered. Under layer (11) were layers (12) and (13), two very thin friable sandy silts. Underneath these was a thin friable lime mortar layer (14) which was restricted to the northern end of the area, below which was layer (15). This was up to 0.28m thick and composed mainly of slate fragments. Within layer (15) were pockets of maroon sandy silt. A single sherd of Bii amphora was recovered from the layer. Below (15) was (16), a very mixed layer with several lenses but similar in its characteristics to layer (6) in Area 1. This covered the whole area and was taken down to a maximum depth of  $\approx 0.15$ m to level the site.

Once the area was levelled a foundation trench measuring 0.9m to 1.2m wide and  $\approx 0.95$ m deep was dug across the middle of the area turning southwards towards the north eastern corner of the visitor facilities. This was cut in to layer (16) and the northernmost end of the trench cut was used for section 2, C-D. On the western side a step of slate bedrock 1.2m wide and 1m deep was uncovered. Against the visitor facilities a  $\approx 0.3$ m wide linear cut [17] filled by mixed debris (18) marked the remains of the foundation trench dug in 1995 (see Lawson Jones). Within layer (18) one bent iron nail, possibly medieval in date, was recovered.

### 4.3 Area 3

This area, measuring 9m long and c2m wide (see Figure 2), was cut back in to the hillslope behind the existing toilet facilities. This was dug to allow for a new wall to be built. No section was recorded. A mini digger was used to cut in to the hillslope and bedrock from behind the existing revetment wall. Covering the bedrock was layer (19), a c0.3m thick mix of colluvium and dumped material. The layer had a sticky dark brown silty clay matrix with very frequent large slate fragments and occasional broken roof slate. A variety of objects were recovered from the layer including 14 iron objects of 19<sup>th</sup> date, 3 copper fittings including a gas lamp, a modern brick, 2 sherds of post medieval stoneware, a sherd of post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware, a shard of modern glass and a single sherd of Bv amphora.

### 4.4 Area 4

This area was a narrow trench cut measuring 0.5m wide, 6m long and between 0.72m and 0.8m deep (see Figure 2), situated close to the south eastern corner of the new southern extension and running towards the river (to the north of the footbridge). The southern section of the trench was recorded as section 3 (see Figure 7). Beneath the car park layer (1) which measured c0.1m thick was layer (20). This 0.32m thick layer of made ground had a mid grey silty sand matrix with moderate angular slate fragments and the occasional large slate stone. This was similar in its character to layer (5) in Area 1. Under this was another layer of made ground (21), a mid brown red clay with frequent slate fragments and occasional inclusion of mortar with areas of large stones. This was similar in appearance to layer (6) in Area 1 and (16) in Area 2. Cutting both layers (20) and (21) was an 0.8m wide asymmetrical cut [22] filled by (23), a loose pale grey brown sandy silt with frequent slate fragments and a 0.1m diameter cast iron pipe.

## 5 Discussion

The results suggest that layers (6), (16) and (21) in Areas 1, 2 and 4 respectively, are all similar in character and that they are made or built-up ground. The area may have been raised to allow for better access to Tintagel Haven and to ensure an even gradient for the trackway; the lowermost stretch of which is considered to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Craze 2003, 8; Thorpe 1996, 9) and completed for the use of the Haven for the shipment of slate. Layers (5) and (20) are also made ground and have similar characteristics suggesting a similar origin and date, perhaps as a later levelling phase for the site.

The c1880 OS map records the trackway (which is not shown on the c1840 Tithe map; see Craze 2003, figure 5) running in front of a rectangular building which sits in a cut in to the hillslope. The building had been enlarged by the c1907 map and was known as the Custodian's Cottage in the 1930s (Craze 2003, 23) the shell of which may form part of the present visitors centre. The area surrounding the visitors facilities may have been a level platform, earlier investigations (Lawson Jones 1994, 11) suggesting that the northern side of the area may have been a dressing floor. Here slates would be finished and perhaps stored before shipment. Although slate fragments were found in the present investigations very few of the fragments were of large primary waste but more that of small shattered fragments perhaps associated with dressing. Alternatively this could also suggest processing was taking place here before the creation of the trackway.

However the volume of the material needed for the made layers (5), (6), (16), (20) and (21) suggests that it may have also come from the cutting away of the hillslope to the west. Finds from these made layers covered a range of dates (5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD to post medieval period) and are similar in the range of the finds found in layer (19), a mixture of

hillslope and 19<sup>th</sup> century dumped material. Other watching briefs associated with the extension of the visitor facilities building found a similar range of finds including a medieval slate merrell board in 19<sup>th</sup> century deposits (Lawson Jones 1994).

Layer (19) was held back from the existing visitor facilities by a retaining stone wall, which appeared to be modern in its date, although the line of which may have been recorded on the 1880 and 1907 OS maps. The finds within layer (19) suggest that a mixture of hillwash material and rubbish was dumped in behind the revetment wall any time from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The iron tyre for a wheel barrow and iron wedge would have been used in the slate industry. The single sherd of Bv amphora recovered from the layer, like the differing amphora fragments discovered from the other layers, probably originates through hill wash, or was discarded from the Lower Castle Ward.

The amphorae were large storage jars imported from the Mediterranean in the post-Roman period. It is considered that the importation started in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps continuing until about the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century (this is the conventional dating given for imported wares based on the dating of sequences at Carthage, see Fulford and Peacock 1984 and the finds report within this report). However recent radio carbon dates obtained from excavations on the Lower Terrace at Tintagel (Site C, see Harry and Morris 1997) show that the importation/use of amphora continued here into the late 6<sup>th</sup> /early 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.

## 6 Appendices

### 6.1 Context descriptions

| Location                         | Context No | Context Type | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Area 1 (Section 1, see Figure 5) | 1          | Layer        | Uppermost car park layer 0.04m to 0.08m thick mid-orange brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular shillet fragments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                  | 2          | Layer        | Car park layer composed of friable concrete 0.05cm to 0.06m thick; much degraded and crumbly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                  | 3          | Layer        | Mid brown silty clay with frequent angular slate fragments. Layer of made ground up to 0.23m thick restricted to the western side of Section 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  | 4          | Build        | Vertically set slate facing of revetment wall $\pm$ 0.1-0.15m wide.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                  | 5          | Layer        | 0.03m to 0.1cm thick compact blue grey shillet layer composed of shattered slate fragments. Made ground from which 7 sherds of Bi amphora, 2 sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware and 1 sherd of modern terracotta flowerpot were recovered.                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                  | 6          | Layer        | 0.03m to 0.15m thick dark brown red loose sandy silt with moderate small angular slate fragments. Made ground. Similar to (16) recorded in Area 2 and Section 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  | 7          | Layer        | Plastic pale yellow orange clay above bedrock on eastern side of Section 1 up to 0.38m thick but not fully excavated. Natural.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                  | 8          | Layer        | 0.05m thick lense of purple brown clean sticky clay above bedrock. Natural.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Area 2 (Section 2, see Figure 6) | 9          | Layer        | 0.02m to 0.07m thick topsoil; friable dark brown silty sand including occasional rounded slate pebbles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                  | 10         | Layer        | 0.04m to 0.1m thick loose light grey building sand. Recent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                  | 11         | Layer        | Friable dark brown clayey silt with a concentrated area of very small angular slate fragments up to 0.17m thick. Also included a number of rounded slate pebbles, clinker and specks of green paint. Made ground from which 1 iron object was recovered.                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                  | 12         | Layer        | 0.02m thick friable dark pink orange sandy silt.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  | 13         | Layer        | 0.03m thick friable light green grey sandy silt.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  | 14         | Layer        | 0.05m thick soft, friable lime mortar layer (restricted to north end of site). Made ground.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                  | 15         | Layer        | Layer up to 0.28m thick composed mainly of slate fragments with pockets of maroon sandy silt. A single body sherd of Bii amphora was recovered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  | 16         | Layer        | Very mixed and deep (1.2m deep and not fully excavated) jumbled layer with lenses of mid greenish brown clayey silt with occasional rounded quartz and slate pebbles, and red-orange/ purple silty coarse sand with moderate small slate fragments, and occasional rounded pebbles of slate and Elvin. A less slate rich layer than (15) but also similar to (6) in Area 1 and (21) in Area 4. Made ground. |

|                              |    |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------|----|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              | 17 | Cut   | ∅0.3m wide foundation trench cut for foundations of existing visitor facilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                              | 18 | Fill  | Back fill of trench cut 17, ∅0.3m wide. Mixed debris from which an iron nail was recovered. Dug in 1995 as part of visitor facilities extension (see Lawson Jones 1995).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                              |    |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Area 3 (No section)          | 19 | Layer | Sticky dark grey brown silty clay matrix with very frequent large slate fragments and occasional broken roof slate. Also frequent metal and glass objects. Originally turfed over this is a mixture of hillslope material and late 19 <sup>th</sup> / early 20 <sup>th</sup> century debris revetted behind the original stone wall behind the existing visitor facilities (see site plan, Figure 2). Recovered from the layer was a mixture of metal objects, brick, stoneware, glass and a large sherd of Bv amphora. |
|                              |    |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Area 4 (Section 3, Figure 7) | 20 | Layer | Loose mid grey silty sand matrix with moderate angular small slate fragments and the occasional large slate stone up to 0.32m thick. Within the layer were lenses of pale orange brown silty clay with the occasional shillet fragment Made ground. Similar to layer (5) in Area 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                              | 21 | Layer | Compact mid brown red clay with frequent slate fragments. Occasional inclusion of mortar and areas of large stones. Made ground. Excavated up to 0.2m thick. Similar to layer (6) in Area 1 and layer (16) in Area 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                              | 22 | Cut   | Asymmetrical trench cut filled by 23 measuring 1.68m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.74m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                              | 23 | Fill  | Loose pale grey brown sandy silt with very frequent loose small shillet fragments, and occasional fragments of and large slate stones with a ∅0.1m diameter cast iron pipe running through it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## 6.2 Finds

(by Carl Thorpe)

The finds were processed within the CAU and identified by Carl Thorpe. A total of 37 artefacts were found comprising 2 body sherds of Bv amphora, 7 sherds Bi amphora, 1 body sherd of Bii amphora, 1 large sherd Bv amphora, 3 sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware, 1 sherd of modern terracotta flowerpot, 1 modern brick, 1 sherd modern stoneware, 1 sherd modern stoneware, 1 shard of modern clear bottle glass and 1 cow tooth.

There were 17 metal objects including 3 items of copper alloy, the rest a variety of iron objects. Currently all the artefacts are being temporarily stored in the CAU finds store, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Truro, Cornwall.

Most of the artefacts were collected from recognisable features or layers, being collected by context. None was three dimensionally recorded.

The total number of finds from each field are summarised in the tables below.

### 6.2.1 Area 1: Context (5).

| MATERIAL                                                                                        | WEIGHT (g) | NO OF ITEMS | OBJECT NO | INTERIM BOX NO |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Pottery                                                                                         |            |             |           |                |
| Early Medieval                                                                                  | 15g        | 7           |           | 1              |
| Post-Medieval                                                                                   | 48g        | 3           |           | 1              |
| 7 sherds Bi amphora. Post-Roman. 5 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD.               |            |             |           |                |
| 2 sherds post -medieval Glazed Red Earthenware. 18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. |            |             |           |                |
| 1 sherd modern terracotta flowerpot. 19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries.            |            |             |           |                |

### 6.2.2 Area 2: U/S.

| MATERIAL                                                                                  | WEIGHT (g) | NO OF ITEMS | OBJECT NO | INTERIM BOX NO |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Pottery                                                                                   |            |             |           |                |
| Early Medieval                                                                            | 51g        | 2           |           | 1              |
| Bone                                                                                      |            |             |           |                |
| Animal                                                                                    | 27g        | 1           |           | 1              |
| 2 body sherds of Bv amphora. Post-Roman. 5 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD. |            |             |           |                |
| 1 cow tooth.                                                                              |            |             |           |                |

### 6.2.3 Area 2: Context (11).

| MATERIAL                     | WEIGHT (g) | NO OF ITEMS | OBJECT NO | INTERIM BOX NO |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Metalwork                    |            |             |           |                |
| Iron                         | 32g        | 1           |           |                |
| 1 iron object. Unknown date. |            |             |           |                |

### 6.2.4 Area 2: Context (15).

| MATERIAL                                                                                  | WEIGHT (g) | NO OF ITEMS | OBJECT NO | INTERIM BOX NO |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Pottery                                                                                   |            |             |           |                |
| Early Medieval                                                                            | 14g        | 1           |           | 1              |
| 1 body sherd of Bii amphora. Post-Roman. 5 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD. |            |             |           |                |

### 6.2.5 Area 2: Context (18).

| MATERIAL                    | WEIGHT (g) | NO OF ITEMS | OBJECT NO | INTERIM BOX NO |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Metalwork                   |            |             |           |                |
| Iron                        | 26g        | 1           |           |                |
| 1 bent iron nail. Medieval? |            |             |           |                |

### 6.2.6 Area 3: Context (19).

| MATERIAL       | WEIGHT (g) | NO OF ITEMS | OBJECT NO | INTERIM BOX NO |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Pottery        |            |             |           |                |
| Early Medieval | 88g        | 1           |           |                |
| Post-Medieval  |            | 3           |           |                |
| Metalwork      |            |             |           |                |
| Copper Alloy   |            | 3           |           |                |
| Iron           |            | 12          |           |                |
| Clay           |            |             |           |                |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Other Brick                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | 1 |  |  |
| Glass                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |   |  |  |
| Modern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  | 1 |  |  |
| <p>1 iron tyre (for wheel barrow?). 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 fragment of iron piping. 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 iron barrel hoop. 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 iron steel yard chain link suspension fitment? 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 iron awl. 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 iron handle (for picking up slates). 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 iron tether hoop. 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 iron wedge (for slate splitting?). 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 iron shovel (Hot coals/ashes?). 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 bucket handle. 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>2 fragments of chain link. 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 cu alloy gas lamp fitting? 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 cu alloy gas lamp fitting? 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 cu alloy fitting. 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>1 Modern brick. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p> <p>1 sherd Modern stoneware (cider jug). 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p> <p>1 sherd Post Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware. 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p> <p>1 sherd Modern stoneware. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p> <p>1 shard Modern clear bottle glass. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p> <p>1 large sherd Bv amphora.</p> |  |   |  |  |

### 6.2.7 Discussion

The earliest identifiable artefacts recovered during this project were pottery dating from the post-Roman period. These came from contexts, Area 2 u/s, (5), (15) and (19). In this particular case all the material is of imported Mediterranean wares from large storage jars or amphorae. The importation of this material commenced in the 5<sup>th</sup> century and for Tintagel Castle continued until the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century (this is the conventional dating given for imported wares based on dating of sequences at Carthage (Fulford and Peacock 1984), however recent radio carbon dates obtained from excavations on the Lower Terrace, Site C have appeared to show these continuing into the late 6<sup>th</sup> century and possibly going on to the 7<sup>th</sup> century (Harry and Morris 1997).

*Class Bi Amphorae (Peacock and Williams Form 43).*

A widespread form, production sites are known in the Argolid region of the Peloponnese; however other sites on the Greek mainland, Crete and the wine producing Greek islands may have produced similar forms. A globular shaped vessel with basal knob, short conical neck and high everted rim that is characterised by combed ribbing often fairly deep in a band on the shoulder region; the fabric is fine grained, well sorted with white grains of limestone often visible, pink buff to orange brown in colour. Both graffiti and dipinti are



known on vessel surfaces, perhaps traders or makers marks. Though a fairly long lived form, current from the early 5<sup>th</sup> century to the late 6<sup>th</sup> century the peak of its use and distribution was reached around the mid 5<sup>th</sup> to mid 6<sup>th</sup> centuries i.e. between AD 450 and 550. A wine content has been suggested.

A total of 7 sherds (possibly one fragmented sherd) all undecorated, were recovered from context (5).

*Class Bii Amphorae (Peacock and Williams Form 44).*

Known from several kiln sites to have originated from the coastal plain of Cilicia in southeast Turkey. An ovoid shape with rounded base, broad neck, and twisted asymmetric handles; the vessel is characterised by tegulated ribbing that covers the body. The fabric is hard, sandy and variable in colour from pinkish-cream to reddish-yellow. Examples with graffiti and dipinti are known. The form of Bii is that dating from about AD450 to 600 (Peacock and Williams 1986). The contents are uncertain, but the olive oil industry of the Antioch region may be involved.

A single body sherd came from context (15).

*Class Bv Amphorae (Thomas 1981).*

These amphorae are still not provenanced, but they resemble Tunisian Africana Grande Peacock and Williams Class 34 from Byzacena. Large (up to 1.0m high) cylindrical in form with a pronounced foot spike and large handles. Characterised by thick-ridged walls the fabric is very sandy, pale buff-brown in colour. Residue analysis has shown these vessels to have carried olive oil.

3 sherds were recovered coming from contexts, Area 2 u/s, and (19).

Unfortunately all the imported pottery showed signs of being highly abraded with rounded edges, indicating that they were all in redeposited contexts. They have almost certainly been eroded from terraces further up the valley side, being brought down by hill wash or collapse.

All the rest of the material recovered is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and most appears to be related to the extraction of slate from the nearby cliffs; certainly the stone wedge and wheel barrow tyre can be assigned to this activity. Previous archaeological work on this site (Lawson-Jones 1994, 1995) had identified that this area of the valley was used for slate preparation and storage and this material seems to confirm this observation.

All finds are stored in a sturdy box and should be kept under stable conditions. Arrangements should be made for the final deposition of all objects within the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro.

## 7 References

### 7.1 Primary sources

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### 7.2 Publications

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Thomas AC, 1993 *Tintagel, Arthur and Archaeology*. Batsford/English Heritage, London

## 8 Project archive

The CAU project number is **2003047**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall County 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 (GRE484).
3. Electronic drawings stored in the directory. G:\CAU\Drawings\CAD Archive\Tintagel Visitor Facilities 2003047
4. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBPs1613-14
5. Digital photographs stored in the directory..G:\CAU\IMAGES\SITES\SITES\TINTAGELVISITORFACILITIES(2003047)
6. This report held in digital form as: G:\CAU\DOCUMENT\THE PROJECTS\SITES\SITES\TINTAGEL VISITOR FACILITIES (2003047)\TINTAGEL VISITOR FACILITIES REPORT (2003047).DOC

Artefacts retrieved during the project to be stored at the Royal Cornwall Museum, River Street, Truro. The finds code for the project was TVF03.

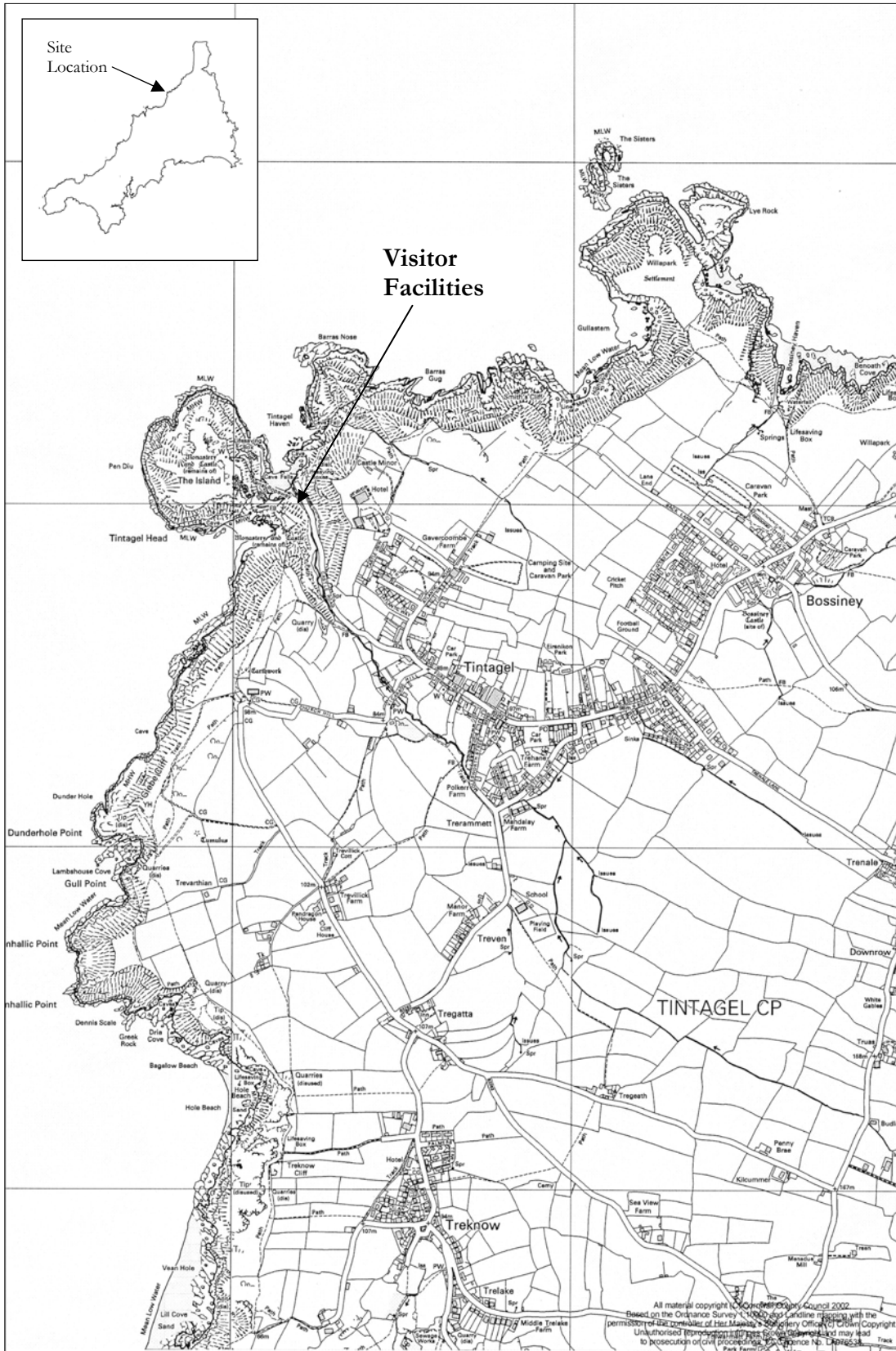


Fig 1 Location map



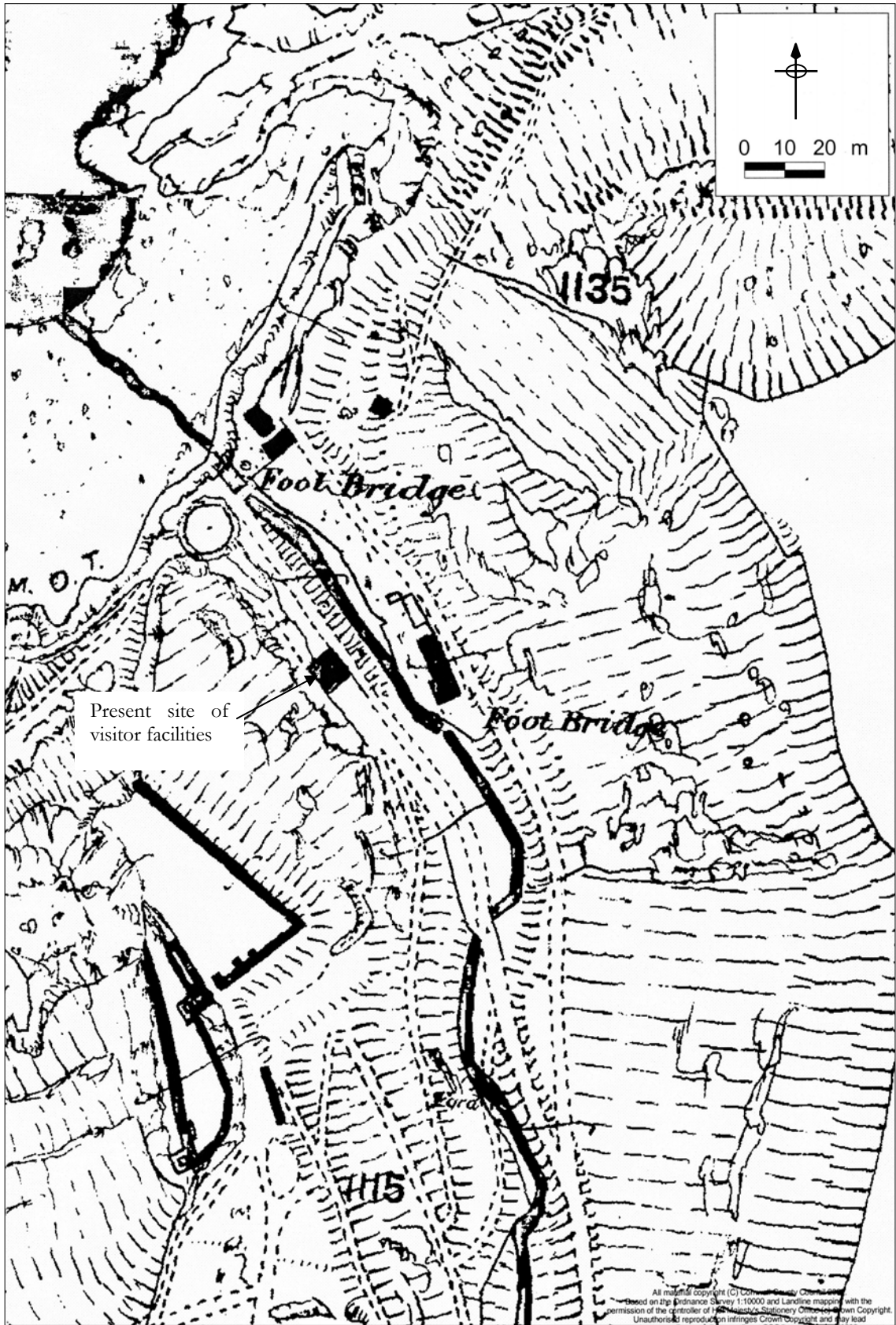


Fig 3 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880

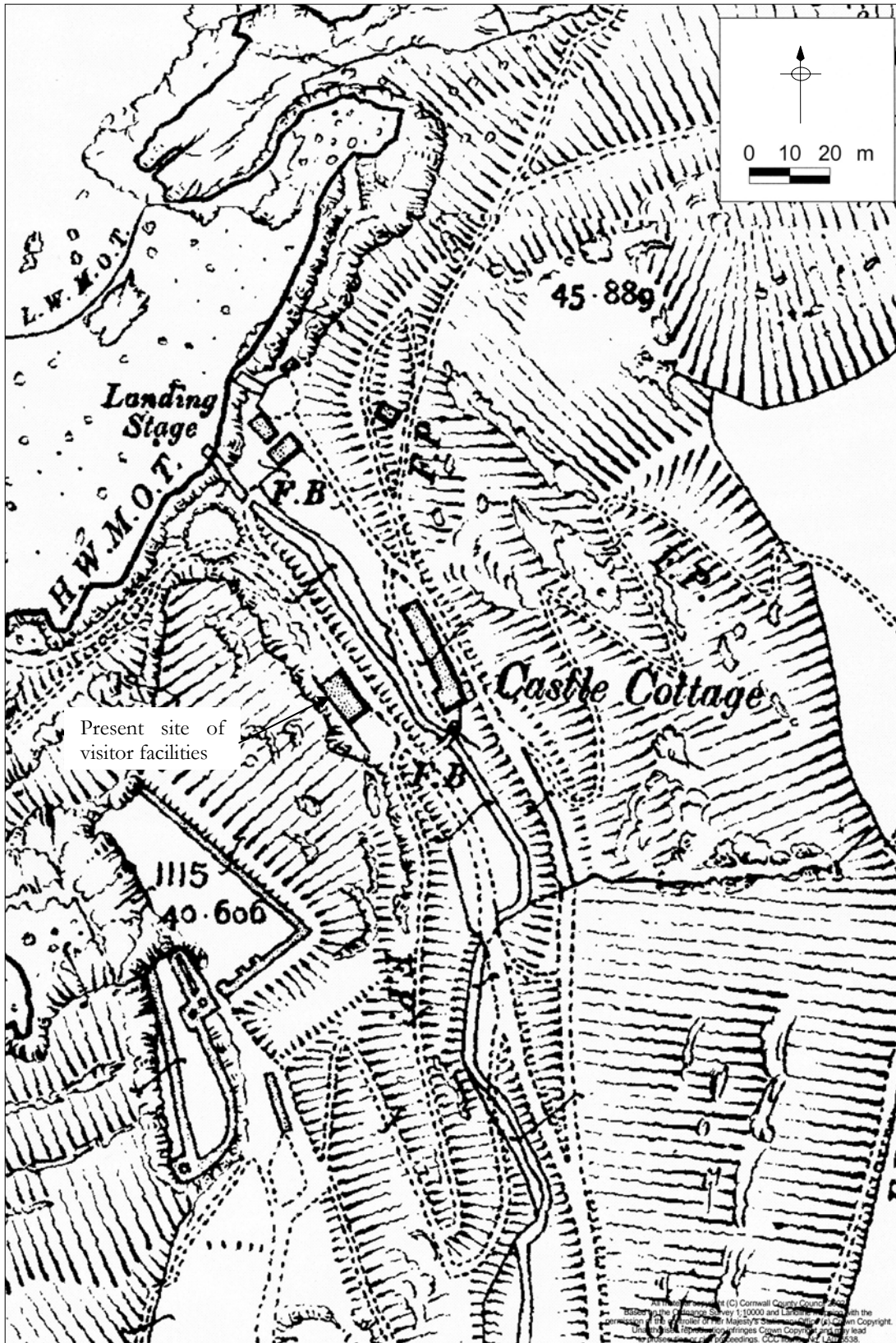


Fig 4 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907

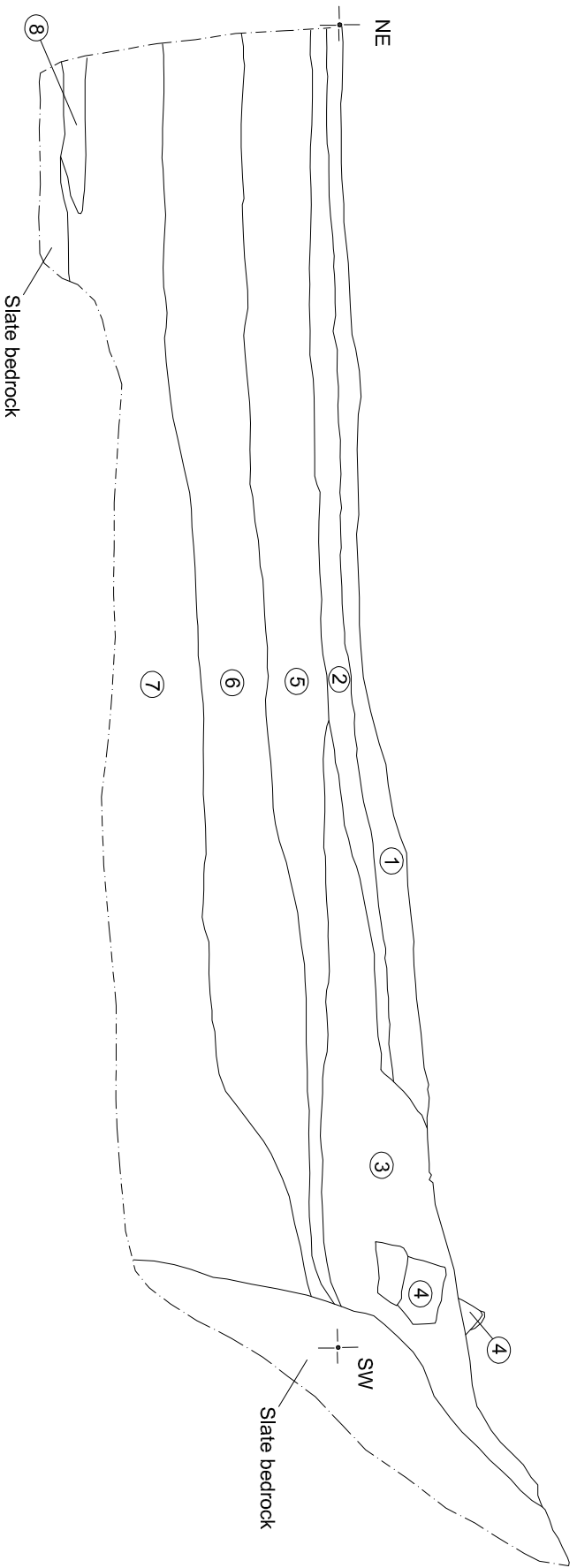


Figure 5 Section 1 (Area 1)



SW A

B NE

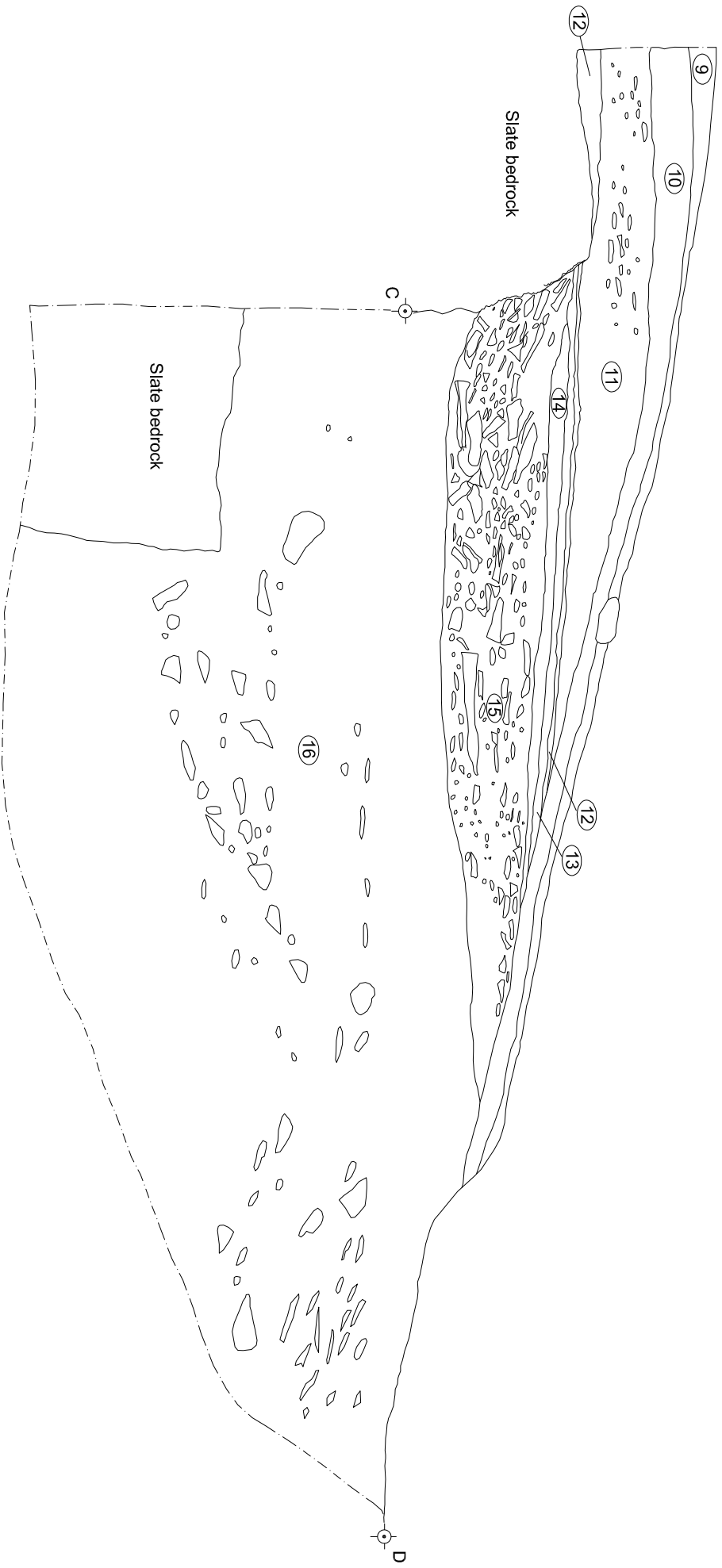


Figure 6 Section 2 (Area 2)

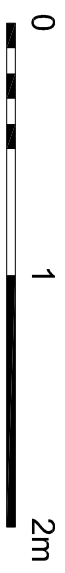
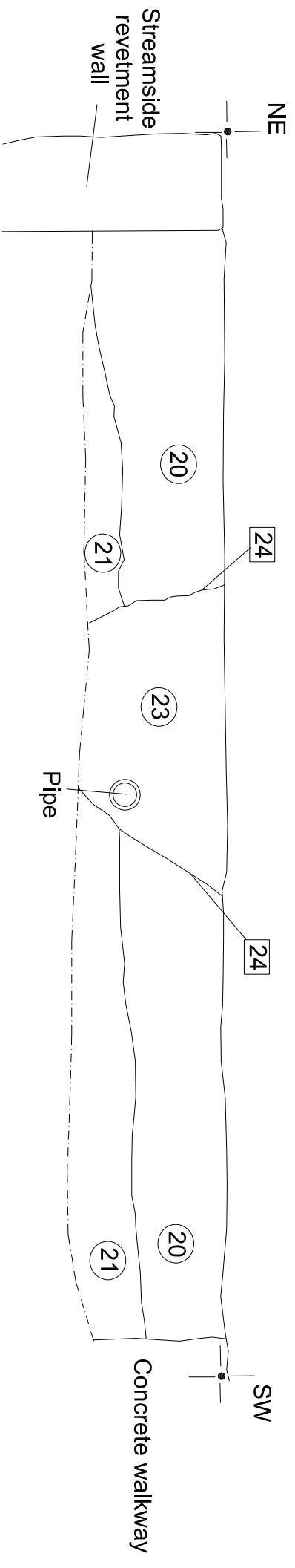


Figure 7 Section 3 (Area 4)