



Trengwainton Carn, Phase 2, Cornwall

Archaeological watching brief and recording



Report No

2011R128

Report Name

Trengwainton Carn, Phase 2, Cornwall.
Archaeological watching brief and recording.

Report Author

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Event Type

Recording following rhododendron hand cutting, clearance and burning

Watching brief following mechanical leaf litter clearance and stump pulling

Client Organisation

The Bolitho Estate

Client Contact

Colonel Edward Bolitho

Monuments (MonUID)

PRN 30536 / SM no.CO490

PRN 52957

PRN 30531

Fieldwork dates (From)

2010

(To)

2011

(Created By)

Anna Lawson-Jones

(Create Date)

November 2011

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

West Penwith, north of Penzance, just west of Madron village, within Madron parish.

(Town - for urban sites)

-

(Postcode)

-

(Easting) X co-ord

Trengwainton Carn SW43969

(Northing) Y co-ord

32325

Trengwainton Hill SW44026

32599

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Project background

Introduction to the site

Trengwainton Carn, centred at SW 43969 32325 and rising to a maximum height of 180m is a granite outcrop overlooking Mounts Bay. It is part of the Trengwainton Estate, the core of which lies immediately to the south, and is itself part of the Bolitho Estate. Prominent carns and hills have always attracted human attention from the prehistoric period through to the modern day. A number of prehistoric enclosures are noted in the immediate vicinity but outside the area of study, as are a wide range of medieval sites.

The project area has been managed by the Bolitho family as part of the Trengwainton Estate since the 1860s. The 1st Edition of the OS 1:2500 mapping shows the Carn to have been predominantly open scrubby heathland at the end of the 19th century (see front cover photograph showing the Trengwainton estate 'earthstopper' and his dog at the foot of the carn (Tregarthen 1922)). During the following years it developed a dense cover of *Rhododendron ponticum*. A war time aerial photograph (see fig 2) shows that much of the main north-western part of the site was still clear of rhododendron in 1946.

Project Background

The *Rhododendron ponticum* which covers a substantial part of Trengwainton Carn has been found to be very significantly infected with *Phytophthora sp.* and has been targeted by a DEFRA HLS related project for the treatment of all infected plant material by cutting, spraying, burning and burying, followed by the reinstatement of heathland. The initial phase of work was undertaken during 2009 and work has continued through 2010, 2011 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012.

Previous archaeological work

All accessible sections of the Project Area were assessed during 2009 by HE Projects (Lawson-Jones 2010) and a report produced summarising the results of a desk-based assessment, a walkover survey and the results of the watching briefs carried out in 2010 in Areas A1, A2 and D following rhododendron clearance and burning.

The results of the 2009-2010 assessment and watching brief confirmed the results of aerial photograph mapping carried out as part of the National Mapping Programme, which showed that a number of former field boundaries survived on the site (PRN's 30528, 52957). These are medieval in origin but there is a suggestion of more than one phase of enclosure on the site, with field system PRN30531 probably having a prehistoric origin. An area of possible medieval ridge and furrow was also identified from aerial photographs (PRN 52958), as was a curvilinear enclosure of uncertain date and function (PRN 30527). The survival of a possible hull (underground storage chamber) was also recorded (PRN 30537). A Scheduled and Listed cross (PRN 30536) is located close to the main trackway onto the site and is likely to have been a wayside cross on a traditional route across the moors. The south-western part of the site is bordered by the Grade II* registered Park and Garden of Trengwainton. An orthostatic stone boundary running up the south-eastern side of the site is thought to be of possible late prehistoric date, associated with a now ploughed down late prehistoric roundhouse settlement in the fields immediately to its east (outside of the project area).

Project extent

Overall, it is proposed to treat an area of 61.158 hectares on Trengwainton Carn and Hill. The site has been divided into a series of areas; Areas A1, A2, A3, D, E, F1, F2 and G to the west of the Madron-Morvah road, and Areas B and C to the east. All are marked on figure 1.

Aims and objectives

The aims of the assessment follow those outlined in the Natural England brief, and are as follows:

- To ensure damage to the historic environment is minimised whilst rhododendron clearance and heathland restoration works progress
- to investigate, describe and understand the archaeological and historic environment resource within the study area through fieldwork and add to the information already collated in 2009-10
- to locate on a map the extent and nature of identified archaeological sites, adding to the map produced in the 2010 report
- to outline, with justification, any further archaeological recording envisaged if different to that identified in the 2010 report
- to produce 'lessons learnt' and best practice guidance for similar projects in the future in 2012.

NOTE: This report is an interim statement summarising the results so far for areas cleared of rhododendron growth and for areas which have additionally undergone leaf litter and stump pulling clearance. Fuller description and detail will be presented in tables, along with more detailed plans and photographs in the final report, which will record information for all areas, as well as any recommendations for further recording, and an assessment of the methodology used and its impact on the historic environment. At the time of writing (December 2011) works on the final two areas to be cleared (Areas F1 and F2) have been started.

Working methods

All recording work has been undertaken according to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. The *IfA Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology* has been followed. The Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

Leaf litter watching brief in Trengwainton Carn Areas A1, A2 and D.

The site archaeologist has liaised with the client, contractors and land managers prior to and during operations to remove leaf litter from Areas A1, A2 and D, following rhododendron clearance in 2009/2010 (Lawson-Jones 2010).

Note: Area A3 was cleared of rhododendron in 2009/2010 and will be left as a natural regeneration area.

The results of the archaeological watching brief during leaf litter removal from Areas A1, A2 and D were recorded using site notes, additions to composite base maps produced as a result of the first phase of works, and by digital photography. Finds were collected when seen.

Leaf litter watching brief following rhododendron clearance from Areas B, C and E (2010-11)

An area of approximately 15.41Ha has been cleared of *R. ponticum* during the autumn and winter of 2010-11 (Areas B, C and E) and an area of 11.36Ha (Area F1 and F2) will be cleared during the winter of 2011-12.

The site archaeologist has liaised with the contractors to explain the archaeological implications of their work, and to work with them to devise a clearance plan and methodology suitable to the sensitivities of the archaeology of the Carn and Hill. Maps of known archaeological sites and potential sensitivities have been produced for the contractors in advance of the works.

The site archaeologist has carried out archaeological watching briefs during the clearance of *R. ponticum* from Areas B, C and E. Sites revealed during the works have been recorded and, where required, further advice and guidance given to the contracting teams, including the fencing off of an area identified as likely to contain complex remains following clearance but, prior to, mechanical leaf litter clearance. The watching brief comprised:

- The checking of cleared areas for previously unrecorded archaeological features, or for those which have been concealed by dense vegetation. These have been added to the assessment survey base map, as have previously unrecorded sites. Photographs of archaeological features have been taken, as well as general views of the site from key viewpoints.
- The checking of the impacts of the work on archaeological features within those areas which have been cleared. Where avoidable negative impacts were noted, the project officer discussed these with the contractors.
- Biosecurity precautions were undertaken, following the advice provided by the Forestry Commission Phytophthora Team.

Areas F1 and F2 – To be cleared of rhododendron in 2011/2012.

Post-fieldwork/archive report tasks

All desktop survey and fieldwork products will be archived according to HE guidelines.

Note regarding allocated site numbers in this short report

For this report the original archaeological assessment Site and Boundary numbers have been retained (Lawson-Jones 2010). Where new sites have been found during the works the old numbering system has been added to. For example, the 2010 assessment site numbers finished at Site 41, so the newly discovered clearance cairns in Area A2 have been numbered Site 42. No new boundary numbers have been added, with the exception of B32 at the northern edge of Area B. Modern sites/site numbers have been excluded from the text, as have previously individually numbered pits and mounds associated with surface stone extraction. These have been removed because clearance work has confirmed their virtually ubiquitous presence across the project area. The only exception is Site 44 located in Area C.

All Site and boundary (B) numbers have been written in bold in the following sections.

Results

Leaf litter watching brief for areas A1, A2 and D

These areas were cleared of patchy, often dense rhododendron growth during 2009 and 2010 via a programme of cutting and burning, allowing the presence of boundaries identified by the National Mapping Programme (NMP), and cartographic research to be confirmed, and for any additional features of archaeological potential to be identified. Between 2010 and 2011 these areas were mechanically cleared of rhododendron tree stumps, root spread and leaf litter. This second programme of work was designed to remove the potential for rhododendron re-growth, remove the dense 0.1 to 0.5m deep blanket of rhododendron leaf litter, and reveal the underlying (pre-rhododendron) old land surface, which it was hoped might contain a dormant heathland seed bed. During this phase of works any surviving patches of heathland vegetation were to be identified and then protected, and all archaeological features were to be identified, rapidly recorded and mechanical disturbance avoided. Where mechanical removal of stumps has not taken place, for example along boundaries, rhododendron re-growth is to be managed by a programme of spraying.

The stump and leaf litter clearance generated a substantial amount of diseased rhododendron matter which could not be physically removed from the site, partly due to the scale of the material, but also due to the danger of spreading disease spores beyond the confines of the site. In addition this material was not suitable for on-site chipping and burning, again because of the volume of material, but also because of its soil/moisture content. As a result it was decided that permanent dumps had to be found for the material on site. These dumps were to consist of leaf litter placed on top of low-lying spreads of mechanically dumped stumps, overlying *in-situ* stumps and litter. These on-site stores were largely agreed on site, and designed to avoid archaeological features, *in-situ* heathland plants and to minimise significant changes in the appearance and

topography of the site. They varied in size and with settling and decay of the litter and stumps should merge almost imperceptibly into the surrounding terrain.

NOTE: The following features were identified in Areas A1, A2 and D and are all shown on figure 1. Currently mapped boundaries have been given boundary (B) numbers, confirmed NMP identified sites have been shown in blue – as have other identified sites numbered in blue. NMP sites which have not been categorically confirmed in the field are shown in red.

Area A1

This area is defined by the Madron-Morvah road and boundary **B7** to the east, the northern half of boundary **B12** in the west and track/path **Site 2** to the south. The rhododendron cover in Area A1 was fairly patchy, but occasionally quite dense. At the time of the initial archaeological survey not all of the boundaries recorded via NMP and other map work were identifiable. Boundaries here relate to remnant medieval field system **Site 14**/PRN 52957. Identified boundaries were avoided during machine work, leaving un-disturbed ribbons of earth and stone banks, granite grounders, sometimes shallow flanking ditches, and cut but largely undisturbed vegetation. The two main boundaries in Area A1 follow a largely curvilinear course from north-west to south-east. The western one was visible for the majority of its mapped length (extending down in to Area A2); the eastern one was much more ephemeral and patchy, and not visible at all for much of its length. This may well be the result of mechanical clearance in the recent past, resulting in the movement of a series of very large granite stones (several of which have drill marks) to the eastern edge of the area containing **Site 32** (to the north of the access gate to the road). A linking north-east to south-west aligned boundary was not seen. Neither was a short east to west boundary, which NMP mapping identified as running across the northernmost part of the area.

Interspersed within this area were set one or two small shallow, landscaped stump and leaf litter dumps. The largest ran along the western edge of the area on the immediate eastern edge of **B12** with its associated meandering path running down its immediate western edge used for machine access. All remaining material was stored in Area D.

Area A2

This is a relatively large area running broadly north to south along the eastern side of the carn, defined by **B1** to the east, likely medieval track/church path **Site 2** to the north, boundary **B3** in the extreme south and a much more recent, amorphous vegetation defined western edge close to the foot of the carn. Area A2 contains the site's only scheduled monument – medieval wayside cross **Site 1**/PRN30536/SM no.CO490. The southern end of this area contained what appears to be a potentially early (late prehistoric/Romano-British) orthostatic boundary **Site 5** (shown on all historic maps consulted), which may reflect part of a peripheral, radiating field system associated with the closest of three late prehistoric Romano-British rounds located just beyond the immediate eastern edge of the site (note the broad curve approximately half way along its length – see Fig 1). The construction of this boundary is unlike any of the other boundaries. There is no earth and/or stone bank or clearly contemporary ditch. Instead it is constructed of a long curvilinear line of upright, naturally shaped stone slabs, forming a highly distinctive orthostatic boundary (Fig 4). Kirkham (2011, p45) refers to upright stones forming probable stone faced boundaries associated with '*roundhouse settlements, rounds and courtyard houses in west Cornwall*'. It may be that **Site 5** represents a variation of this. A distinct kink and apparent terminal at its northern end may mark the position of a Romano-British circular structure, perhaps contemporary with the adjacent rounds. At the southern end of **Site 5**, a change of alignment, (mirroring a field extending east beyond the project area) may suggest re-alignment. It terminates on boundary **B3** in the south.

No other archaeologically significant features were identified within Area A2 during rhododendron clearance, with the exception of the carn itself **Site 40**, which with its dramatic appearance, steep, exposed sides and wide spanning views out across Mounts Bay and the surrounding landscape, is likely to have attracted a variety of activities throughout the prehistoric period right up to the present day.

With the start of mechanical stump pulling and leaf litter clearance a permanent storage dump was agreed for the angular easternmost part of this area, defined by boundary **B1** and **Site 2**, 20m to the north of **Site 5**. This dump has absorbed the bulk of material generated from Area A2 and should visually settle well in to the local topography. It lies in an already disturbed area of animal watering and other services. It has not impinged on **Site 5** and does not affect the setting of **Site 1**. In addition to this main dump a small number of discrete dumps were also created. These are closer to the carn, have been designed to mix with the retained bushy scrub and have been landscaped into the surrounding topography in order to avoid any potential dwarfing effect either on the carn or on the archaeology of this area.

During the mechanical works it became apparent that a small number of poorly preserved stone clearance cairns **Site 42** existed below the leaf litter on or within the old land surface. Three were noted, the most ephemeral example appearing to tip off the edge of a flat submerged grounder. They were recorded as 1m to 1.3m wide patches of weathered granite stones, which ranged in size from 0.1 to 0.2m in diameter. Each patch had been further spread during machining. Their presence indicates likely medieval clearance of the land in advance of cultivation. No clearly associated or obviously contemporary boundaries were found in the immediate vicinity. Kirkham (2011, p45 and 49) discusses the presence, appearance and date of clearance cairns on west Cornwall's rough ground. The Trengwainton examples appear to fit well within the range, but as yet differ in their apparent lack of field system. They may represent prehistoric clearance of stones during a period of small-scale cultivation. Their relative proximity to **Site 5** might suggest contemporaneity.

Following leaf litter clearance and the re-exposure of the old land surface a single Neolithic cutting flake (or un-modified knife) was recovered, along with a handful of small pebbles (ideal for use as slingshot). Both the flint and the pebbles have been introduced to the site from a beach source, and all were located within a 100m range of the south-east of the carn.

Area D

Area D was deemed suitable for the long-term storage of stumps and leaf litter generated in Area A1 because of the lack of archaeological features or heathland plants, and the already significantly disturbed nature of the ground (water pipes, tanks and other services etc). In addition the area is poorly visible from elsewhere, minimising its visual effect on the landscape.

Defining the northern edge of Area D is the deeply cut Madron-Morvah road and bank boundary **B7**, along the southern side of which runs a c2m wide, shallow post-medieval track way **Site 43**. The eastern side of Area D is marked by **B6**, with its central gate entrance. This boundary retains a very dense mass of rhododendron still awaiting removal (Area G). The south-south-west edge of Area D lies close to the approximate position of the largely missing easternmost boundary (part of) **Site 14** (referred to in Area A1). Although not clearly identified here, the area has been protected from machining and dumping and broadly lies within a patch of retained gorse.

Rhododendron clearance and leaf litter watching brief for Areas B, C and E

Area B

Area B is located on the top of Trengwainton Hill. It has a quite different feel to adjacent Areas A1 and C, feeling exposed and high, with wide ranging views out to the east and south-east (other views are shielded from view by retained, often gnarled wind swept trees, some of which form a small plantation on the southern leeward side). The area is defined by **B32** to the north and **B22** to the east. The number of sites of archaeological significance here is minimal. Rhododendron clearance across the area did not reveal mapped boundary **Site 39**, but it did identify a clearly defined carn-like summit to Trengwainton Hill which marks what would have been the southern end of **Site 39**. Rhododendron clearance has also revealed the full extent of orthostatic post-medieval boundary **Site 24** (Fig 4). This is composed of free-standing, long, thin and often drill-hole marked granite uprights. Regular gaps occur between each stone. This boundary is

the second orthostatic boundary within the project area, but is of a quite different character and appearance to the other (**Site 5** in area A2).

Separating Areas B and C is a long, north to south aligned double, and sometimes triple boundary-defined route way **Site 38**, defined on the west by **B22** and on the east by **B23** (Fig 5). **Site 38** is most likely to relate to the past (probable medieval) regular movement of animal livestock up onto the hill. Its flanking boundaries show clear evidence for the prolonged need for repairs, with different patterns of stone facing including occasional upright stones, massive grounders and heaped or deliberately deposited clearance material. In some cases ditches can be seen and definite built breaks/stiles allow for access onto either the upper slopes of Area C or the top of the hill in Area B. This feature is shown on all mapping of the area. The internal strip of land or route itself is markedly uneven and appears to follow the largest grounders in the area. A number of them show later drill marks in addition to pits left from surface stone removal or shallow quarrying.

Machine access into Area B was via a newly-cleared access way running up the western edge of **B22** from the parking area near the road. The southern end of this had already seen past disturbance and partial clearance. The new access way has had all boulders pushed to the west, forming a low and poorly defined line of redeposited, large stones. No archaeology was disturbed.

Machining (as with the upper westernmost parts of Area C) has been hampered by a combination of slope and the massive amount of surface stone. Some of the stone grounders are huge, as are some of those located along the north-western fringes of Area C. Many show clear signs of post-medieval and modern surface stone working and removal, leaving tell-tale drill marks and an uneven, pitted ground surface, which were far too frequent and widely spread to individually record.

The only artefact found following leaf litter clearance was a single, markedly heavy flattened ball of greenstone. It is circular in shape (6cm diameter and 4cm thick), and has been carefully worked down to form a 'fancy' pounder, with a flattened working surface. The outer surface is degraded, but faint peripheral hollows appear to represent finger grips. It was located 2.0m to the west of **B22**, centrally along its length within Area B, and dates to the prehistoric period.

Area C

This area forms the largest parcel of land on the eastern side of the Madron-Morvah road, and is largely focussed around the southern and eastern slopes of Trengwainton Hill. The northern part of the area was known from the archaeological assessment to include a number of early boundaries, which form part of a partially preserved field system **Site 22**/PRN30531 of later prehistoric origin. This is shown on Fig. 1 as a combination of red (NMP), blue and black confirmed boundaries. Boundary sites **B15**, the northern part of **B16, B17-18, 23?, 25 and 27-31** were identified as component late prehistoric/medieval elements, and have all been confirmed as largely extant, revealed after clearance of the very dense rhododendron cover. A small, probably late post-medieval enclosure **Site 47** located in the extreme north-eastern corner of Area C was recorded after vegetation clearance and fencing. This had intact stone facing and was taller and narrower than the other **Site 22** linked boundary features.

Site 22 boundaries all incorporate large granite grounders, large loose stones and smaller stone rubble cleared from the fields, creating small field enclosures (Fig 5). There is evidence for the long-term use and maintenance of these fields via occasional repairs and slight differences in build, reflecting the blend of prehistoric (potentially extending back to the Bronze Age, c.1000BC), medieval and post-medieval periods of use. These stone boundaries have over time come to incorporate a substantial quantity of soil through a mix of vegetation growth, weed disposal, and animals etc, resulting in earth and stone banks of varied height 0.2-1.4m and width 0.8m-2.0m. A number of the north to south aligned boundaries have become slightly lynched, reflecting both the naturally sloping topography and their length of use. Known peat cutting (**Site 36**), identified from the 1840s Tithe Map for this area, in conjunction with some stone removal and surface quarrying has in some places distorted the appearance and layout of these little fields. As a result more boundaries were recorded than are shown on

current mapping (see the dashed blue lines on figure 1), but not as many as those identified by cartographic and NMP work (shown as red). None of the extant boundaries have been disturbed by machining, but most include a significant number of rhododendron stumps which will require an ongoing programme of spraying to control re-growth. All the boundaries have seen physical damage through rhododendron root growth and tree collapse, but ironically have probably only survived because of the density of impenetrable rhododendron growth in the last fifty to sixty years.

The northernmost swathe of **Site 22** fields are covered by dense bracken overgrowth, making identification of the more ephemeral boundaries difficult to confirm. Boundary **B25** has, however been confirmed as extant, and as being on the line of a slight lynchet approximately 0.3m high. On the lower eastern slopes, long grass amidst relatively recent, mechanically planted trees has resulted in the probable loss of former boundaries to the north of **B28** and west of **B17**. In addition occasional deeply cut footpaths transverse the area, and there is a large badger sett in the vicinity.

Located to the immediate north of Area C, and forming its northern edge is a deeply cut medieval, and possibly earlier lane/footpath **Site 24**, which is up to 2.5m deep. This may have been the main access point into the field system (possibly working in conjunction with **Site 38**), and forming part of a network of interconnected lanes and paths of early origin.

On the southern edge of this field system are what appear to be the remains of a series of hut circles **Site 45**, built in to the main north to south running boundary **B15** (see Fig 1). Visible as a focussed series of 'wobbles' along the course of the boundary they represent an exciting adjunct to the field system and are potentially of late prehistoric, possible Bronze Age origin. These boundary kinks are depicted on historic mapping. Although only loosely definable in the field, they appear to form the basal-most remains of three possibly four, 9-12m diameter grounder-based structures, with occasional placed stones filling the intervening gaps. These grounders represent the lowermost foundations of drystone walling. They are indistinct, and do not survive well as extant features. Despite stone robbing and no-doubt periodic post-occupation repairs to component boundary **B15**, these possible structures may retain floor deposits. Because of this potential for vulnerable interior archaeological deposits an approximate 100m by 20-40m area was cordoned off during stump pulling/leaf litter clearance works.

NOTE:- It became apparent during the works that because of the amount of post-medieval stone removal and drilling in the area, any similar structures would be most unlikely to be identified unless their shape had become fossilised within an extant boundary.

Two particularly large pits with surrounding soil and stone dumps were noted in the north-eastern part of Area C – **Site 44** (Fig 4). Interpretation of these similar, closely positioned features is uncertain. They are most likely to be related to stone quarrying. They are certainly post-medieval in date given the relative sharpness of both the pit edges and the surviving raised dumps. The northern pit (8.0m by 12m in plan) is surrounded by approximately 1m high soil dumps, while the southern pit (4.0m -5.0m diameter) has a 2.0m high dump adjacent to it. Stone quarry pits have been noted across much of Area C, particularly across the southern and eastern parts, while stone drilling and splitting tends to be concentrated along the northern and western parts of the area, on the higher ground, where the grounders are frequent and massive. However, no other comparable pits and dumps to **Site 44** were located anywhere else within the project area.

Area C was almost completely covered by very densely growing mature rhododendron until this programme of cutting and burning clearance took place. Leaf litter and stump clearance has inevitably produced a massive amount of material which has had to be stored on site. The two larger permanent dumps have been positioned in the south of the area, along with other smaller ones, some of which have been landscaped in to retained willow and bushy scrubland patches. However, in order to avoid the constant tracking over ground and repeated crossing over bridged boundaries within **Site 22**, two small landscaped deposits were agreed. The smallest is located in the narrow north-to south aligned field to the immediate west of **B15** and north of **B28**. The larger, lower dump is to its immediate west and will soon become invisible, the smaller, narrower dump may not blend into the landscape so successfully. Unfortunately these two fields

had the densest, largest rhododendron growth thanks to generations of field improvement and stone clearance.

Following rhododendron clearance and burning, leaf litter removal and stump pulling in the central southern part of Area C revealed two stone clearance cairns **Site 46**. These were very similar to those already described for Area A2. Their presence is probably a reflection of there being fewer boundaries in the vicinity suitable for the easy disposal of cleared stones. The much denser field pattern in the northern part of Area C negated the need for clearance cairns because the boundaries themselves acted as linear depositories.

Leaf litter clearance has in addition revealed two large pebble flint flakes, one of which was heavily burnt (probably as a result of this programme of rhododendron clearance and burning), a flint pebble and two larger smoothed flat cobbles. These were collected as lost finds from the newly revealed old land surface in the southern half of Area C.

Note: Damage caused during fencing

The removal of the remnant, poorly maintained and already severely damaged boundary site **B16** (marking the northern part of the eastern side of Area C), and the breaching of connected boundaries is most unfortunate. This was done during fencing designed to keep in the ponies planned for grazing the area. Boundaries affected include the extreme south-eastern end of **B15**, the south-eastern end of **B17** and the eastern end of **B27** (all of which have had previously small breaches widened mechanically). Boundary **B18**, running along the northern edge of the area has also had an original narrow entrance further breached to give access to medieval track/footpath **Site 24**. The extreme northern end of **B17** and **Site 47** in the north-eastern corner of Area C has been breached at its junction with **B18**, again as a result of fencing works.

Area E

This is a large, north to south orientated area, located along the entire western side of Trengwainton Carn. At the time of the original assessment much of this area was impenetrable due to the density of mature rhododendron. Desk based survey and NMP results revealed only boundary site **B3**, which defines the western edge of Area E, and a coniferous plantation, the remnant burnt trunks of which can be still be seen. The plantation at the time of survey was thought to have been defined by a permanent boundary – named B4 in the 2010 assessment (Lawson-Jones), but this was found not to be the case after clearance. The plantation appears to have been un-enclosed.

Clearance of the rhododendron has not revealed any significant new sites, but has added detail to **B3** and the carn **Site 40**. Cleared of rhododendron, the carn can be seen to have a vertical, craggy western face, topped by a series of 'look-out-like' levels on its top. At the time of writing, only gorse bushes and the ubiquitous presence of bracken (formally harvested for fuel and bedding) can be seen growing on the carn itself. Looking west from the carn the low-lying, water-logged western edge of the project can be seen, and beyond, on the east facing valley slope the clearly visible Trewern round - beautifully fossilised within the fields (Fig 1).

In the case of **B3**, clearance has revealed that it marks a definite break in slope marking a natural geological contour with occasionally huge surface visible grounders, which will have prompted the positioning of this boundary. To the west in particular there is clear evidence for stone removal and splitting which is likely to have further emphasised this slope. Peat cutting (**Site 37**) to the west may have further enhanced this. A shallow ditch flanks parts of the eastern side of **B3**, along the length of the former plantation. This is likely to be an associated feature. At the southern end of **B3** is a well preserved gate entrance with two *in situ* granite gate posts. This field entrance clearly links Area A3 with the extreme southern tip of A2 and the long narrow strip of land enclosed by **Site 5** and **B1**.

A short stretch of ephemeral earth and stone bank with occasional grounders was located in the northern most part of Area E. It appears to represent the south-westernmost surviving part of field system **Site 14** (also found within Areas A1 and A2). This short section was recorded as patchy, but spanning an approximate 30m length, with a south-west to north-easterly alignment.

Wide scale mechanical stump pulling or leaf litter clearance has not taken place in this markedly stony, occasionally steep area, although some patchy mechanical clearance has occurred. The presence of scattered heather in the eastern part of the area, and the survival of mosses, willow and gorse suggested that natural re-generation of heathland might be a suitable approach for this area. Instead a concentrated programme of herbicide spraying has been agreed.

Area A3 – rapid summary

This area was cleared during an earlier 2009-2010 phase of works. A summary of key archaeological features follows (Lawson-Jones 2010).

- A hull or so-called underground storage site, consisting of a massive granite slab, supported by naturally positioned grounders with some stone infilling and an open western side, giving a cave-like appearance from the west, but which is not visible from any other angle – **Site 12**.
- A small and rather enigmatic square enclosure with internal upright granite posts with some drill marks, built into the western side of contour boundary **B3** – **Site 8**.
- The southernmost one of a series of east to west aligned (NMP identified) boundaries was located. The others are not at all clearly visible, but may be marked by grounders (within a stone and grounder rich landscape). Part of **Site 29**.
- The double boundary defined track/footpath described as a Sheep-walk - **Site 6** in the 1840 Tithe Map apportionment, but also probably used as a miners way. Frequent repairs can be seen along its length, and it is in places quite deeply cut down into the surrounding ground level.
- The 1840 Tithe Map identifies this as an area of peat cutting **Site 37**. This is likely to have further emphasised the stony character of the area, and may (like the obvious stone clearance disturbance) have contributed to the loss of the north-east to south-west running boundaries composing **Site 29**.

Concluding comments

The 2009, 2010 and 2011 clearance works so far have allowed largely unhindered access in to a landscape that has been physically and visually impenetrable for well in excess of twenty years. The dramatic topography of both Trengwainton Carn and Trengwainton Hill with its scattering of mini-carns and wide ranging views has now been largely revealed through clearance (with the exceptions, to date, of Areas F1 and F2). This has allowed for the on-site identification and confirmation of a number of archaeological features across Areas A to E including;

- prehistoric and medieval field systems with lynchets and boundaries,
- potential fossilised Bronze Age roundhouses,
- potential late prehistoric/Romano-British orthostatic boundary and terminal structure
- stray finds associated with the old land surface,
- medieval field boundaries and clearance cairns with interconnecting lanes and paths,
- the scheduled medieval granite cross,
- a possible hull/underground storage structure,
- post-medieval boundary additions, alterations and repairs including occasional styles and gateposts etc
- ubiquitous post-medieval and modern stone splitting and surface quarrying features, including frequent drilled granite blocks left on site (some possibly heaped), pits and uneven ground (including two large pits with adjacent dumps),
- a post-1840 orthostatic boundary etc

Many of these sites were identified, or hinted at in the initial archaeological assessment report, but rhododendron and/or leaf litter clearance has revealed details and additional

elements not previously known. The regeneration of heathland plants and the reinstatement of grazing on both the carn and the hill should preserve the previous Anciently Enclosed and Rough Ground character of the site, and will return the archaeological features to their former historic landscape context.

References

Primary sources

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

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Kirkham, G., 2011. Managing the historic environment on west Cornwall's rough ground. Cornwall Council and English Heritage.

Lawson-Jones, A., 2010. *Trengwainton Carn, Cornwall – Archaeological Assessment and Watching Brief*. CC

Tregarthen, J.C., 1922. Wild Life at Lands End.

Websites

www.theheathproject.org.uk

Project archive

The HE project number is **2010093**

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.
2. Digital photographs stored in the directory: R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.Q-T\Trengwainton phase 2
3. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\Historic Environment (Documents)\HE Projects\Sites\Sites T\Trengwainton 2nd Phase 20100930

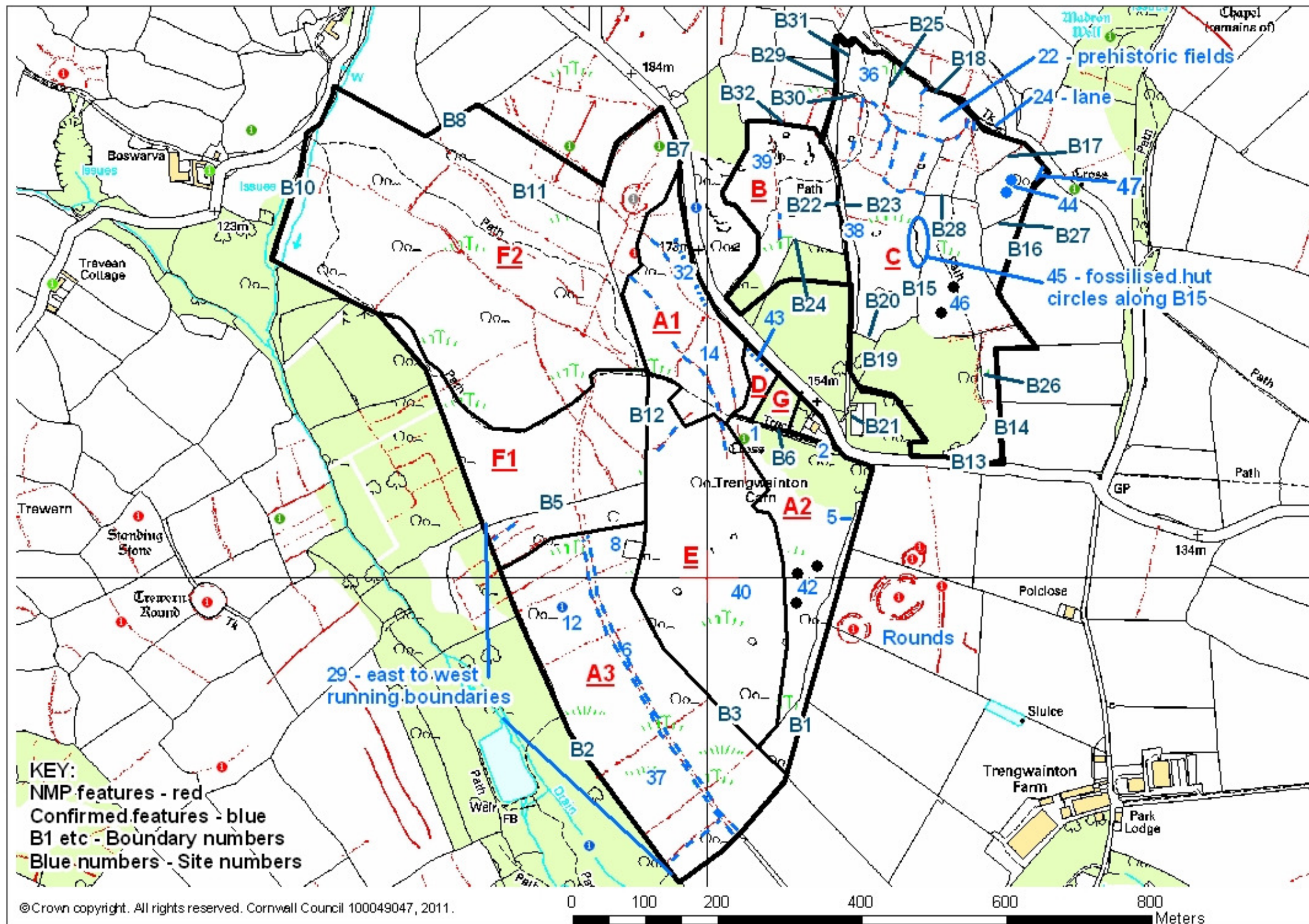


Fig 1 Map showing project area, and area subdivisions A to G, and all sites and boundaries.



Fig 2 Photomontage of 1946 aerial photographs showing the study area at a point when it was largely clear of rhododendron.

The lower section of the composite photograph shows a north-west to south-east aligned swathe of planted conifers (corresponding with the 1880/1907 OS map detail), representing the remnants of Sir Rose Price's c1815 landscaping and establishment of plantations.



Fig 3 Looking west across Area B towards the carn-like top of Trengwainton Hill, showing the leaf litter cleared and seeded ground surface (top), looking north-east from Area A3, showing the western profile of Trengwainton Carn during rhododendron clearance works (middle), looking east across Area C showing pre-leaf litter removal bluebells and gorse within parts of field system Site 22.



Fig 4 Orthostatic boundaries, Area A2 Site 5 (top), Area B B24 (middle), and probable stone quarry pit Area C Site 44 (bottom).



Fig 5 Late prehistoric/medieval field system Site 22 boundary in Area C (top), looking south from the extreme western edge of Area C showing the junction between B23 and B31 (middle), one of the larger leaf litter and stump dumps in southern part of Area C.