# Wessex Archaeology



# Tregavethan Manor, Tregavethan, Truro, Cornwall

**Trial Trench Evaluation Report** 











# **Trial Trench Evaluation Report**

Prepared for:

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On behalf of

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by

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August 2012

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#### **Trial Trench Evaluation Report**

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#### **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

SITE CODE	86200	ACCESSION CODE	CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	PA11/04907	NGR	178096 47231	

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
01	E	AIM	REG	REG	17 <sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2012	X:\PROJECTS\86200\REPORT\TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION TREGAVETHAN 86200 AIM.DOC

I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL



# **Trial Trench Evaluation Report**

#### Contents

	Summaryi	
1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
3	EVALUATION STRATEGY	3
4	RESULTS  4.1 Introduction  4.2 Evaluation trenches  4.3 Stratigraphic sequence and results  4.4 Stone fragments	4
5	FINDS	Ę
6	CONCLUSIONS	5
7	ARCHIVE	5
8	REFERENCES	5
APPE	ENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES	7
	ENDIX 2: OASIS FORMOASIS ID: wessexar1-132328	8
<b>Figu</b> i Figur		

Figure 2: Plate 1: Location of the tracery window fragment

Plate 2: Location of the fireplace

Figure 3: A: Top of tracery window

B:: Interior fireplace

Front cover: Opening Trench 4 Back cover: View of Trench 1



#### **Trial Trench Evaluation Report**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by A-Tech Design on behalf of the Client, Mr and Mrs Hastings to undertake an archaeological evaluation adjacent to an existing cottage and store/garage at Tregavethan Manor Farm, Tregavethan, Truro, Cornwall, TR4.9EL.

The buildings lie within a site documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as being that of an early medieval manor and settlement and is therefore of high archaeological potential. Although the current buildings are thought to be of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date, a recent observation also noted a number of worked stone fragments, which appeared to have been incorporated into one of the buildings and which are likely to predate the building.

The trial trenching comprised the excavation of four machine dug trenches, each 4m x 1.3m within the footprint of the proposed new building. No archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation. However, a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval finds was recovered from the trenches.

In addition, recording was undertaken of four previously noted fragments of worked stone forming a fireplace within the current garage/store and a fifth fragment (the remains of window tracery) which was built into the exterior wall of the same building. The window fragment probably dates to the  $15^{th}-17^{th}$  centuries, although no evidence was found to indicate an earlier structure.

The fieldwork was conducted between 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012.



#### **Trial Trench Evaluation Report**

#### **Acknowledgments**

This project was commissioned by A-Tech Design on behalf of the Client, Mr and Mrs Hastings and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Daren Thomas (A-Tech Design) and Mrs Tomasine Hastings for their help and assistance during the course of the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Dan Ratcliffe of the Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service, who monitored the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Piotr Orczewski, who also prepared this report. The illustrations were prepared by SE James and the finds assessed by Lorraine Mepham. The project was managed by Andy Manning on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



#### **Trial Trench Evaluation Report**

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by A-Tech Design on behalf of the Client, Mr and Mrs Hastings to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Tregavethan Manor Farm, Tregavethan, Truro, Cornwall, TR4.9EL, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 178096 47231 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The development area lies within a site documented as an early medieval manor and settlement and is of high archaeological potential. Although the current buildings are thought to be of 18th or 19th century date, a number of worked stone fragments appear to have been incorporated into the garage/store.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development includes the demolition of the existing buildings and the subsequent construction of a new winged single dwelling, approximately 72m long and 11m in width occupying the western, southern and northern sides of the courtyard. It is also proposed to construct a new swimming pool (approximately 8m by 4m) within the northern garden (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.4 A planning application (Cornwall Council Planning Application Ref: PA11/04907) was submitted in June 2011 and approved with the following archaeological condition (Condition 2):

No development shall commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing in consultation with the HES advice team. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).
- C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: In order to secure a programme of archaeological works in advance of development in order to advance understanding of the archaeological potential of



the site and secure its proper dissemination in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 policy HE12.

- 1.1.5 The fieldwork and reporting were undertaken in compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the strategy and methodology that was to be employed with regard to the archaeological works. In format and content, the report conforms with current best practice and with the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (as amended 2008).
- 1.1.6 The WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2012) was submitted to, and recommended for approval by, the Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service before the commencement of the fieldwork.
- 1.1.7 The fieldwork was conducted between 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The development area comprise two buildings a dwelling and a garage/store which occupy the southern and western sides of a small gravel courtyard with gardens immediately to the north and south and access to the main Tregavethan farm via a gate to the east. The buildings, courtyard and northern garden cover an area of approximately 0.2ha.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies at an average height of approximately 53m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology within the Site comprises the Mudstone and Sandstone (Porthtowan Formation) sedimentary bedrock (BGS online viewer).

#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Site at Tregavethan farm forms one of a number of scattered farms and small settlements, largely thought to be of medieval origin to the north-west of Truro. Although the existing buildings within the Site are thought to be of mainly 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century origin, an inspection noted that some elements are potentially of an earlier date.
- 2.1.2 This would bear out known documentary and site information which is held on the Cornwall Historic Environment Record (HER), which lists a number of known medieval, if not earlier, sites within 500m of the Site.
- 2.1.3 This includes documentary evidence for an existing settlement and manor 'Treganmedan' in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Cornwall HER 19273), St. Mary's Chapel (Cornwall HER 19221) which was constructed in the 1400s but is no longer extant, medieval and post-medieval field systems, evident as cropmarks (Cornwall HER 55078) and a still surviving post-medieval corn mill (Cornwall HER41106) (Figure 1).



#### 3 EVALUATION STRATEGY

### 3.1 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains on the site that may be impacted by the proposed development.
- 3.1.2 To carry out sufficient investigation and recording of any features to inform any subsequent decision as to the nature and extent of any subsequent archaeological mitigation (ie watching brief, excavation or preservation *in situ*) that might be required.

# 3.2 Evaluation Strategy

- 3.2.1 The trenches in this evaluation were targeted around the existing dwelling and garage/store, within the footprint of the new proposed building and adjacent swimming pool.
- 3.2.2 The trial trenching comprised the excavation of four machine-dug trenches, each 4m x 1.6m (layout of which is shown on **Figure 1**) comprising an approximate 5% sample by area of the area proposed to be impacted by the development.
- 3.2.3 During the course of the monitoring visit by the Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service Officer, it was requested that a rapid drawn and photographic record and dating assessment was made of the reused stone fragments to aid and inform any subsequent decisions regarding potential mitigation.
- 3.2.4 Prior to machine excavation, the trench locations were scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a cable tracing device.
- 3.2.5 The trial trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.2.6 Once the level of archaeological deposits was exposed by machine, cleaning of the trench base was undertaken by hand.

#### Recording

- 3.2.7 Archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Sections of archaeological deposits were hand-drawn at 1:10; these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) heights of all principal levels were calculated and this information is included on the sections. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.
- 3.2.8 The re-used stone fragments were drawn to scale and photographed accordingly.
- 3.2.9 A photographic record was kept utilising digital images. The record illustrates both the location of trenches and deposits uncovered.



- 3.2.10 The survey was carried out with a Leica VIVA series GPS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.2.11 Following all investigation and recording, the trenches were backfilled.

#### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1.** 

#### 4.2 Evaluation trenches

4.2.1 Four trenches were excavated each measuring approx. 4.0m by 1.6m. The position of Trench 2 had to be readjusted due to local constraints. Trench 3 had to be moved approx. 2m to the north due to uncovered ceramic drain pipe and stone slabs restraining the area.

#### 4.3 Stratigraphic sequence and results

- 4.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence in all four trenches was relatively simple. Within the trench located within the swimming pool (Trench 1) the thin topsoil (**101**), approximately 0.20m in depth, directly overlaid the natural (**102**).
- 4.3.2 In the remain three trenches (Trenches 2-4), located in close proximity to the existing buildings, the topsoil overlaid a likely made ground deposit, between 0.20 to 0.35m in depth. This deposit (202, 302 and 402) contained mixed topsoil and natural and in Trench 2 a small quantity of modern pottery and glass (context 202).
- 4.3.3 No archaeological features were uncovered in any of the four trenches. A small number of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered during the removal of topsoil in Trench 3 (301).

#### 4.4 Stone fragments

- 4.4.1 Five fragments of stonework that had been re-used in the construction of the garage/storage building were recorded.
- 4.4.2 One fragment forming the top of a carved granite tracery window was found within the center of the eastern wall (Figure 1, Figure 2 Plate 1 and Figure 3 A). The fragment measured 1.18m in length and 0.25m in height with carved spandrels.
- 4.4.3 Four large fragments had been used to construct a north-facing fireplace within the southern partition wall in the central room (Figure 1, Figure 2 Plate 2 and Figure 3 B). The fireplace comprised a simple structure measuring 1.5m in width and 1.1m in height partially constructed from dressed granite blocks formed of metamorphic stone (likely Killas stone) (0.15m in thickness) forming the jambs with a modest wooden lintel (0.04m in thickness). The fire opening is slightly splayed and measures 0.4m in depth. The fireplace is set within a wall of uncoursed random rubble Killas stone with hard cementitious mortar. The granite blocks appear to be reused, probably from an earlier building on the site. The upper left-hand stone



features what appears to be an empty socket, perhaps for an iron fitting which, following exposure to moisture, has subsequently swelled and cracked the surrounding stone. It is not possible to tell with any certainty what structure these dressed blocks originally came from.

#### 5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 The only finds recovered during the evaluation were four sherds of pottery from topsoil in Trench 3 (**301**), and four sherds of pottery and two joining pieces of bottle glass from made ground in Trench 2 (**202**).
- 5.1.2 The pottery from (**301**) includes two sherds in a course micaceous sandy fabric of medieval date, together with two sherds of post-medieval coarse redware. The pottery and glass from (**202**) is all of modern (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century) date.

#### 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded in the trial trenches, however finds collected from topsoil in Trench 3 as well as recorded stonework incorporated in the garage/storage building pre date the construction of existing buildings.
- 6.1.2 Pottery sherds retrieved from Trench 3 are of medieval date and although the fireplace work stone can not be closely dated, the fragment of tracery window is likely to have come from a reasonably high status house and would once have formed the lintel of two arched windows, which probably date from the 15<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 6.1.3 While this material may be associated with the known manor or a similarly high status building, no evidence was found within the footprint of the new proposed building that would indicated that earlier structures are located below, or immediately adjacent to, the existing 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage and garage/store. However, the potential for earlier structures can not be discounted in the wider farm area.

#### 7 ARCHIVE

7.1.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2006) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990). The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code **86200**. In due course the complete archive will be deposited with the Cornwall Museum Services under the accession code **TRURI:2012.20**.

#### 8 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (England and Wales), Online viewer: <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a>
IfA, 2008, Standards and guidance: for an archaeological evaluation Walker, K., 1990, Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage, UKIC Archaeology Section



Wessex Archaeology, 2012, Tregavethan Manor, Tregavethan, Truro, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trench Evaluation Report Reference 86200.01



### **APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES**

bgl = below ground level

Trench 1			Co ordinates		
Dimensions: 4.0m by 1.6m Max Depth: 0.2m			Ground		
			Surface		
Context	Description			Depth	
	_				bgl
101	Topsoil Mid pale gray silty loam with common angular stone inclusions			0-0.02m	
	and heavy grass root bioturbation.				
102	Natural Light pale brownish yellow silt with very common angular			0.2m +	
		stone inclusions (1-20cm)			

Trench 2			Co ordinates		
Dimensions: 4.5m by 1.6m		Max Depth: 0.56m	Ground		
	•		Surface		
Context	Description				Depth
	-				bgl
201	Topsoil	Mid gray brown silty loam, no inclusions.			0-0.15m
202	Made ground Mid to dark silty loam with common stone inclusions. Included			0.15-	
	modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> cent.) material: pottery, broken glass and			0.5m	
		iron fragments.			
203	Natural	Natural Light pale brownish yellow silt with very common angular 0.5m - stone inclusions.			0.5m +

Trench 3			Co ordinates		
Dimensions: 4.0m by 1.6m Max Depth: 0.53m			Ground		
			Surface		
Context	Context Description			Depth	
				bgl	
301	Topsoil Dark brown gray silty loam with no inclusions. 0-			0-0.15m	
302	Layer Dark brown gray silty clay loam with common stone inclusions.			0.15-	
	Possible made ground mixed with subsoil and topsoil.			0.35m	
303	Natural Mid brown gray with slight blue tinge with moderate, large C			0.35m +	
	stone inclusions (2-30cm).				

Trench 4			Co ordinates		
Dimension	<b>s:</b> 4.3m by 1.6 m	Max Depth: 0.42m	Ground		
			Surface		
Context	Description			Depth	
	bgi				
401	Topsoil Mid gray brown silty loam with heavy ivy and grass root 0-0.1m				0-0.1m
	bioturbation.				
402	Layer Mid gray brown silty loam with common stone inclusions (2-   0.1-0.4m				
	5cm). Possible made ground mixed with subsoil and topsoil.				
403	Natural Mid reddish brown silty clay with common stone inclusions. 0.4 +				

undertake

to



#### APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-132328

Project details

Project name Tregavethan Manor, Truro, Cornwall

Archaeology

Short description of Wessex

the project

archaeological evaluation adjacent to an existing cottage and store/garage at Tregavethan Manor Farm, Tregavethan, Truro, Cornwall, TR4.9EL. The buildings lie within a site documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as being that of an early medieval manor and settlement and is therefore of high archaeological potential. No archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation. However, a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval finds was recovered from the trenches. In addition, recording was undertaken of four previously noted fragments of worked stone forming a fireplace within the current garage/store and a fifth fragment (the remains of window tracery) which was build into the exterior wall of the same building. The window fragment probably dates to the 15th - 17th centuries.

commissioned

was

Project dates Start: 31-07-2012 End: 01-08-2012

Previous/future

No / No

work

Any

associated 86200 - Contracting Unit No.

project reference

codes

Any associated TRURI:2012.20 - Museum accession ID

project reference

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Residential 1 - General Residential Current Land use

Monument type NONE Medieval Significant Finds **POTTERY Medieval** 

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds WORKED STONE Post Medieval

Methods

techniques

& "'Targeted Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

**Project location** 

Country **England** 

Site location CORNWALL CARRICK TRURO Tregavethan Manor

Postcode TR49EL Study area 0 Hectares



Site coordinates SW 782 471 50 -5 50 16 53 N 005 06 49 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 53.00m Max: 53.00m

**Project creators** 

Project brief City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist

originator

Project design Wessex Archaeology

originator

Project Andrew Manning

director/manager

Project supervisor Piotr Orczewski

Type of Landowner

sponsor/funding

body

Name of Mrs Hastings

sponsor/funding

body

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive Cornwall museum service

recipient

Physical Archive ID TRURI:2012.20

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive Cornwall museum service

recipient

Digital Archive ID TRURI:2012.20

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

available

Paper Archive Cornwall museum service

recipient

Paper Archive ID TRURI:2012.20

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research','

available General Notes", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Orczewski, P and Manning, A

Other bibliographic 86200.03

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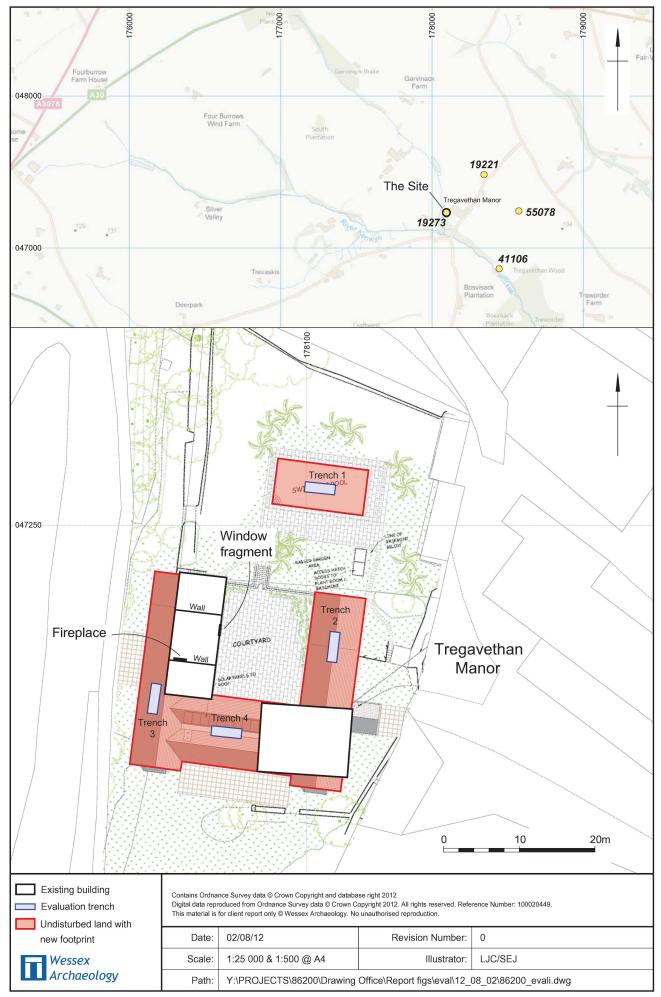
publication



Description A4 soft back standard eval report

Entered by Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 16 August 2012



Site location plan Figure 1



Plate 1: Location of the tracery window fragment

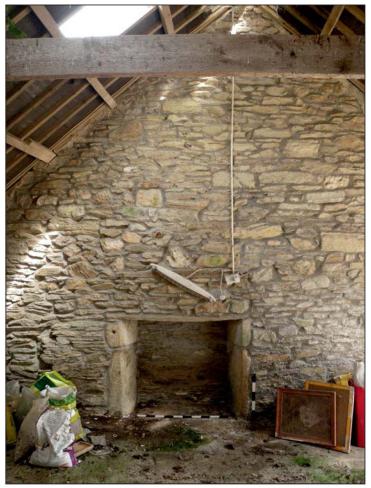


Plate 2: Location of the fireplace

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Wessex	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	SEJ
Archaeology	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\86200\Drawing Office\Report figs\Eval\12_08_03\Fig02_PLATES.cdr		

Plates 1 & 2 Figure 2

