



making sense of heritage

Trevone, Cornwall Sea Wall Replacement

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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January 2015



Sea Wall Replacement Trevone, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Sea Wall Replacement Trevone, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bam Nuttall Mott MacDonald Joint Venture (BMMJV), on behalf of The Environment Agency (EA), to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Trevone, Cornwall, during construction and reconsolidation works to the sea wall. The monitoring of contractor's groundwork took place from 19th to 21st November and 10th to 12th December 2014.

No archaeological features, finds, or deposits were uncovered in any part of the Site.



Sea Wall Replacement Trevone, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Bam Nuttall Mott MacDonald Joint Venture for commissioning the archaeological work and The Environment Agency for funding the work. In particular, our gratitude is extended to Paul Riccoboni and Andrew Whetter for their assistance throughout the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Raymond Ducker. This report was written and compiled by Luke Jarvis. The illustrations were produced by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed by Andy King.



Sea Wall Replacement Trevone, Cornwall Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Bam Nuttall Mott MacDonald Joint Venture to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Trevone, Cornwall, during reconstruction and reconsolidation works to the sea wall (**Plate 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SW 88933 75847 (hereafter 'the Site'; **Figure 1**). The watching brief took place from the 19th to 21st November and 10th to 12th December 2014. The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed within the development site.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The area of the watching brief lies to the north west of the town of Trevone and to the south of Pentonwarra Point. The site is bounded to the north by the Atlantic Ocean and to the south by the coastal pathway. Two areas of excavation were monitored, a stretch above the damaged sea wall (**Plate 2**) and a shallow footpath diversion to the south (**Plate 3**).

1.2.2 Ground level varied between 12.90m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east and 14.59m aOD in the west.

1.2.3 The underlying geology is Trevoise Slate Formation and Rosenum Formation slate and siltstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed in the Devonian Period. (British Geological Survey 2014).

1.3 Archaeological background

Introduction

1.3.1 The following is summarised from the approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by BMMJV (2014) and taken from the Cornwall Historic Environment Record accessed via the Cornwall Council interactive mapping facility¹, which provided an outline assessment of the recorded heritage assets in the local area:

Prehistoric

1.3.2 A collection of Mesolithic flints from Trevone bay (Cornwall and Scilly HER - 21728.10) were found 370m to the north of the proposed works area. Mesolithic flints were also found at the nearby Newtrain Bay (21728.30). The remains of a Mesolithic submerged forest (21751) was recorded 240m to the northeast of the works.

1.3.3 Two early Bronze Age slate cairns (21743 and 21744) excavated in 1972 are located approximately 235m to the southwest of the works area.

1.3.4 An Iron Age cist (21701.10) was found in 1954 located less than 100m to the north east of the works area, and testifies to the strong presence of human remains within the area.

¹ <http://mapping.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/>



Romano-British

- 1.3.5 A Romano-British cemetery (21701.20) was excavated in 1848 and is located adjacent and to the immediate south of the works area. A possible Iron Age/ Romano-British settlement is postulated to exist within the local area (50293), indicated by cropmark evidence.

Medieval

- 1.3.6 Trevone is not mentioned in the Domesday survey but the area did lie within the Anglo-Saxon administrative hundred of Rialton; the nearest settlements of Padstow and Halwyn are documented. The settlement of Trevone is first recorded in 1323 (Gover 1948). The remains of a medieval field system (50294) consisting of straight, narrow ridge and furrow and appearing as low earth banks on air photographs, are documented 450m to the northeast of the works area.
- 1.3.7 Cartographic evidence (1881 and 1901 OS maps) indicates that the current village of Trevone started to develop after 1881.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and objectives

- 2.1.1 With due regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), the aims of the watching brief were to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains on the Site, and to record them prior to their destruction.

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (BBMJV 2014), a brief summary of which is presented below.
- 2.2.2 All excavations, including ground reduction and service trenching were monitored by an experienced WA archaeologist. The exposed deposits were assigned a unique context number and recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets.
- 2.2.3 A photographic record was created using digital cameras. Particular attention was taken to record all trench locations to provide a full record of both the original and final condition of the trenches excavated.
- 2.2.4 Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS 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.
- 2.2.5 For health and safety reasons, monitoring of the excavations was done at a safe distance, therefore cleaning of surfaces and or sections was not possible, and photographs taken were of the ground conditions as exposed.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Detailed descriptions of the exposed deposits are presented in Appendix 1; a summary of the results is provided below.



3.2 Stratigraphy

- 3.2.1 The geology of the Site comprised red brown (108) and greenish brown (109) clay overlying dark grey slate bedrock (111). The service trench cut through various deposits of natural or manmade origin including a compacted footpath surface (106), topsoil (101 and 110) and subsoil (103).
- 3.2.2 No archaeological features, finds, or deposits were uncovered in any part of the Site.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 Despite the location of the Site in an area of known archaeological activity there is no evidence of any such findings within the limited area of these works.

5 STORAGE AND CURATION

5.1 Museum

- 5.1.1 Cornwall record office is not currently accepting documentary archives. Prior to deposition the archive will be temporarily stored at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury under Site Code 106460.

5.2 Preparation of Archive

- 5.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Cornwall record office, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

5.3 OASIS

- 5.3.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the evaluation has been entered under OASIS ID wessexar1-201049. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

5.4 Discard policy

- 5.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

5.5 Security Copy

- 5.5.1 In line with current best practice (Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

5.6 Copyright

- 5.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all



rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

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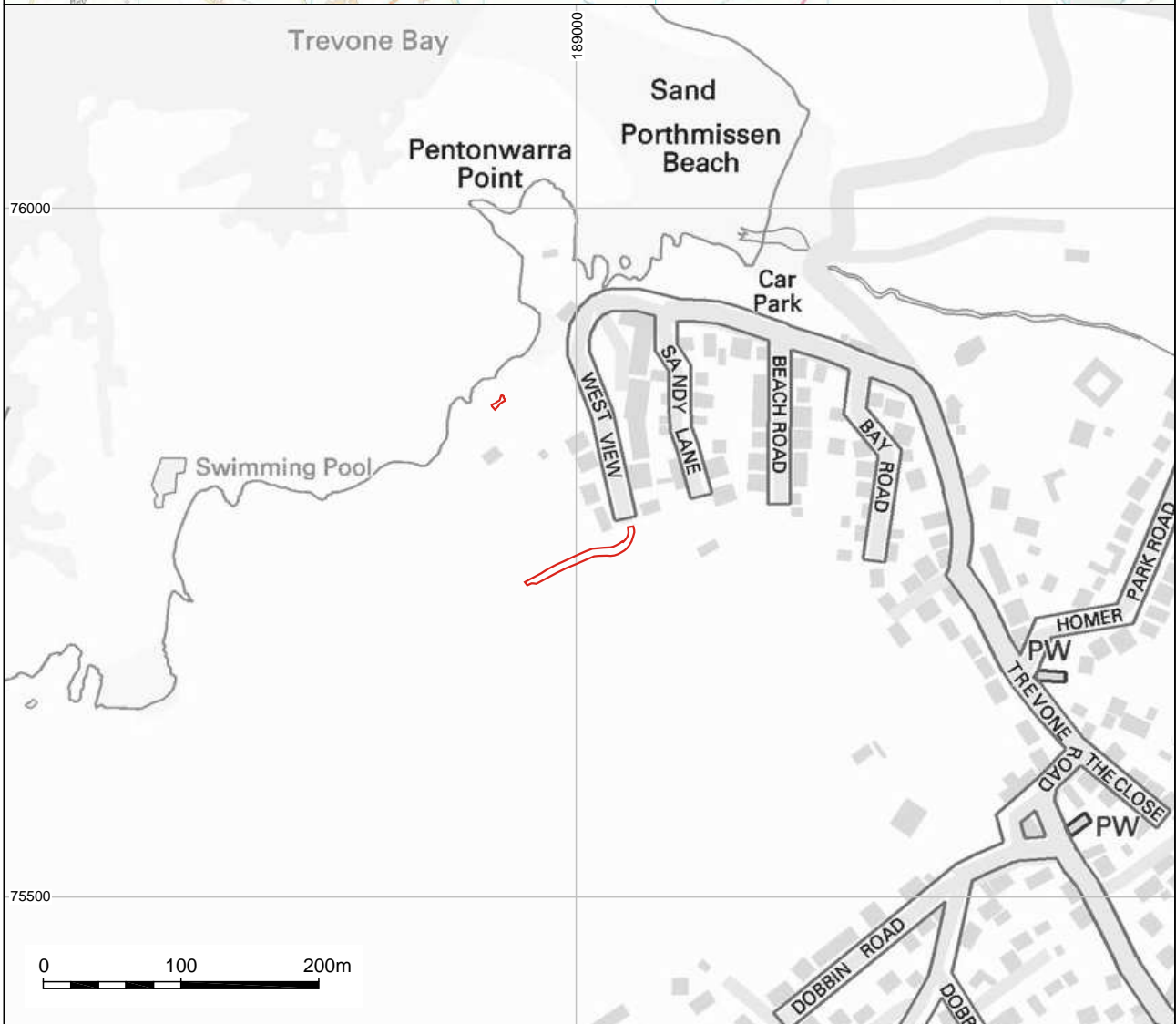
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7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Context summary

Footpath diversion and Sea wall replacement			
Context	Description		Depth of deposit (m)
101	Topsoil	Mid brown to pale greyish brown firm sandy silt loam.	0.30
102	Hardcore surface	Modern hardcore track surface.	0.2
103	Subsoil	Brown to orange brown silty clay.	-
104	Cut	Modern service trench cut.	0.30
105	Fill of 104	Mid brown sandy silt loam and sandy clay.	0.30+
106	Footpath surface	Grey to brownish grey compact crushed stone gravel and sand.	1.00
107	Natural	Golden brown sand.	0.40+
108	Natural	Red brown fine sandy clay.	0.50+
109	Natural	Pale greenish grey clay.	0.20+
110	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam.	0.25
111	Natural	Dark grey slate bedrock	1.00+



 Areas of monitored excavation



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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trevone sea wall pre excavation from North West



Plate 2: General view of the sea wall excavation from West



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Plate 3: General view of the footpath diversion trench from South West

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