

**ST. KITTS HERBERY,
STARAPARK
CORNWALL**

NGR: SX 1326 8625

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



January 2013

Report No. 858

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

Author: R. King

Date: 03/01/2013

Approved: A. Hood

QA Checked: D. King

This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

Summary

Glossary

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION
- 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Site Plan

Figures 3-6: Plates

Site name: St. Kitts Herbery, Starapark.
Site code: SKH12
NGR: SX 1326 8625
Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief
Date and duration: 9th March 2012; 1 day on site
Location of archive: Cornwall Record Office

SUMMARY

In March 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological investigation at St. Kitts Herbery, Starapark, Cornwall. The work was commissioned by Mr P. Johnson.

The monitored groundworks comprised the reduction to natural deposits within the entire footprints of the proposed sewage treatment plant and the proposed garage. A trench, measuring 2.7m wide and covering approximately half of the width of the proposed staff room, workshop, kitchen and café area (with a break over the area of the 'Implements Store/Yard'), as well as the area of the sitting room within the proposed new dwelling, was also excavated.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the monitored area.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from Prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case comprising *Cretaceous Chalk*, forming part of the extensive *Southern England Chalk Formation*.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into: *Palaeolithic* – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; *Iron Age* – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring at St. Kitts Herbery, Starapark, Cornwall (NGR: SX 1326 8625). The work was commissioned by Mr P. Johnson.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) issued by Foundations Archaeology (2012). The WSI conformed to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999, revised 2008) and the brief issued by Cornwall Council (2012).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (PA10/05422) has been granted for the construction of a horticultural building, poly-tunnels and covered walkway, workshop, kitchens, tea room, comfort facilities, staff rest room and parking at the site, which is located on rising ground at the 305m contour level between the A39 trunk road ('Atlantic Highway') and an old alignment of that road, 2.3km west of Davidstow and 3.5km east of Camelford. The permission included a condition stating "*No development shall take place within the area to be developed until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording based on a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority*".
- 2.2 The development area is recorded on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) as lying within land characterised as 'Farmland: 20th century', which might indicate a generally low potential for survival of buried archaeology.
- 2.3 There are no known historic assets within the site, but there are at least twelve Bronze Age barrows, six of which are Scheduled Monuments, including three within 20-30m of the development area, in the near vicinity. In addition a number of other historic assets, including an Iron Age/Romano British enclosure or 'Round' are known from nearby.
- 2.4 The brief notes that the Ordnance Survey maps of 1880 and 1907 show "a 'finger' of uncultivated rough ground and small enclosure fields (including the development area) laid out beside the old road alignment, which are different in character from the surrounding larger field enclosure patterns. This suggests a different (and probably earlier) agricultural enclosure regime which may indicate a higher potential for survival of buried archaeological features within the development area".

- 2.5 A geophysical survey was subsequently undertaken in March 2011 by West Yorkshire Archaeological Services, which identified a circular anomaly, approximately 6m in diameter, located towards the northern edge of the survey. This feature is significantly smaller than the surviving barrows in the vicinity of the site, but an archaeological origin cannot be discounted. The survey identified little else of archaeological merit within the development area, although a number of features consisting of linear anomalies - probably due to post-medieval ploughing and a former field boundary were also present.
- 2.6 In light of the close proximity of four Scheduled barrows, plus five others within 270m of the site, a condition requiring the implementation of a watching brief was included with the planning permission.
- 2.7 The study area therefore contained the potential for archaeological finds predominantly dating to the Prehistoric period. This did not prejudice the watching brief against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains, as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary; this was intended to allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.
- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible.
 - iii) To attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site.
 - iv) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.
 - v) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The monitored groundworks comprised the reduction to natural deposits within the entire footprints of the proposed sewage treatment plant and the proposed garage. A trench, measuring 2.7m wide and covering approximately half of the width of the proposed staff room, workshop, kitchen and café area (with a break over the area of the ‘Implements Store/Yard’), as well as the area of the sitting room within the proposed new dwelling, as shown on Figure 2, was also excavated.
- 4.2 The excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All excavation was carried out under constant archaeological observation. Potential archaeological deposits were manually investigated, and where appropriate, hand excavated and recorded. Spoil heaps were visually scanned for finds.

5 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Natural ground in the form of light blue-grey slate and shillet with occasional sand patches, was exposed in each of the excavation areas. Two modern drains, aligned northwest-southeast and cutting the natural, crossed the trench (marked on Figure 2); these comprised the only evidence for disturbance/truncation of deposits. The natural was sealed beneath a light brown subsoil (102) with frequent stone inclusions, which averaged approximately 0.40m thick. The subsoil was itself overlain by a mid brown sandy silt topsoil averaging 0.28m thick.
- 5.2 No archaeological finds or features were present within the monitored areas.
- 5.3 Further archaeological monitoring works may be required should further development take place at the site.
- 5.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Cornwall Record Office. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Services WYAS, 2011 *St. Kitts Herbery, Starapark Cornwall: Geophysical Survey*

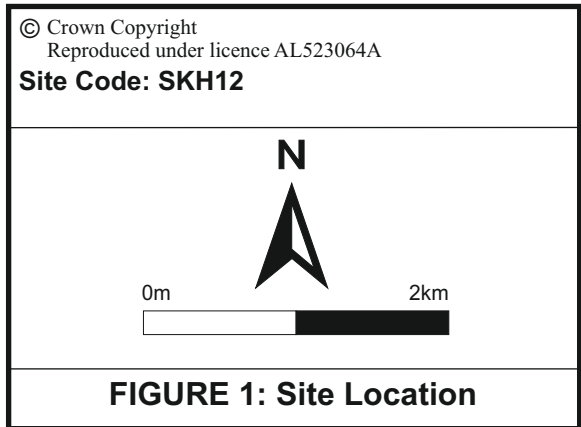
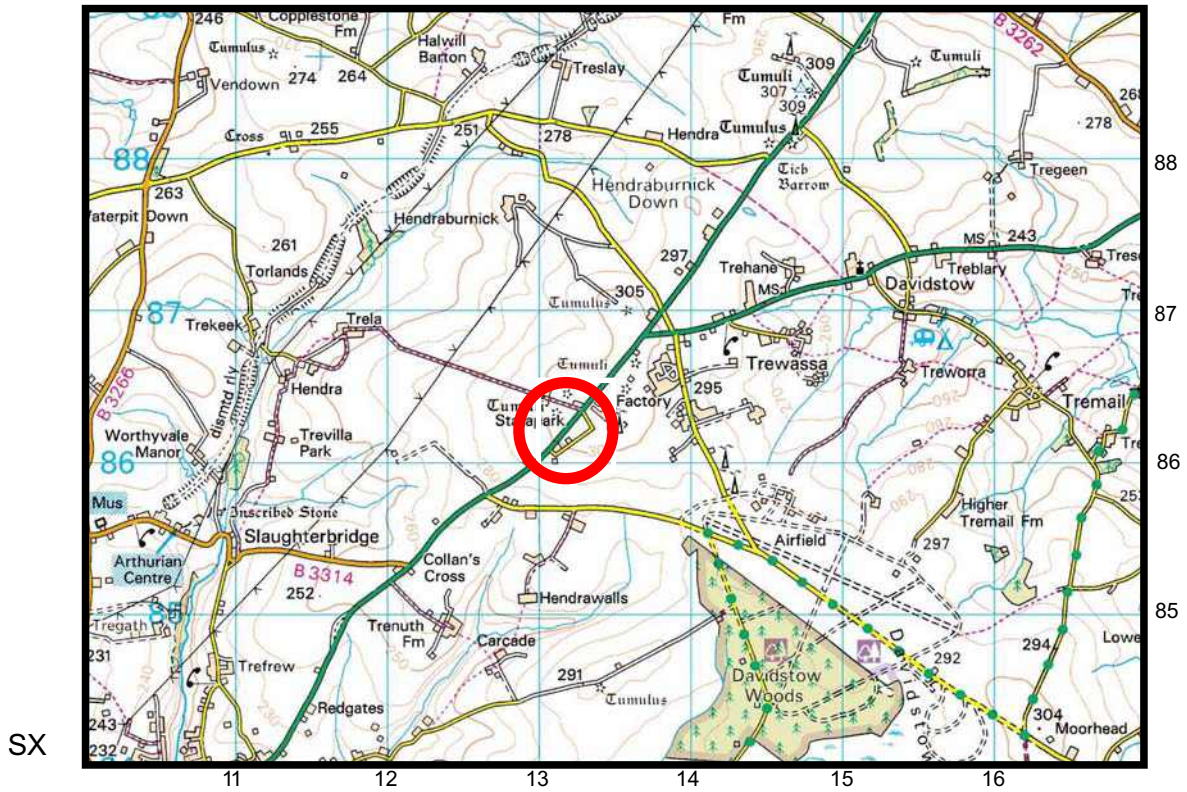
Copleston, P 2012, *St. Kitts Herbery, Starapark: Brief for Archaeological Recording (Watching Brief)*.

Foundations Archaeology, 2012 *St. Kitts Herbery, Starapark, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

IfA. 1999 (revised 2008). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.*

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Phil Copleston of Cornwall Council and Mr P. Johnson of St. Kitts Herbery, for their help during the course of this project.



Site Code: SKH12

© Crown Copyright
Reproduced under licence AL523064A

N

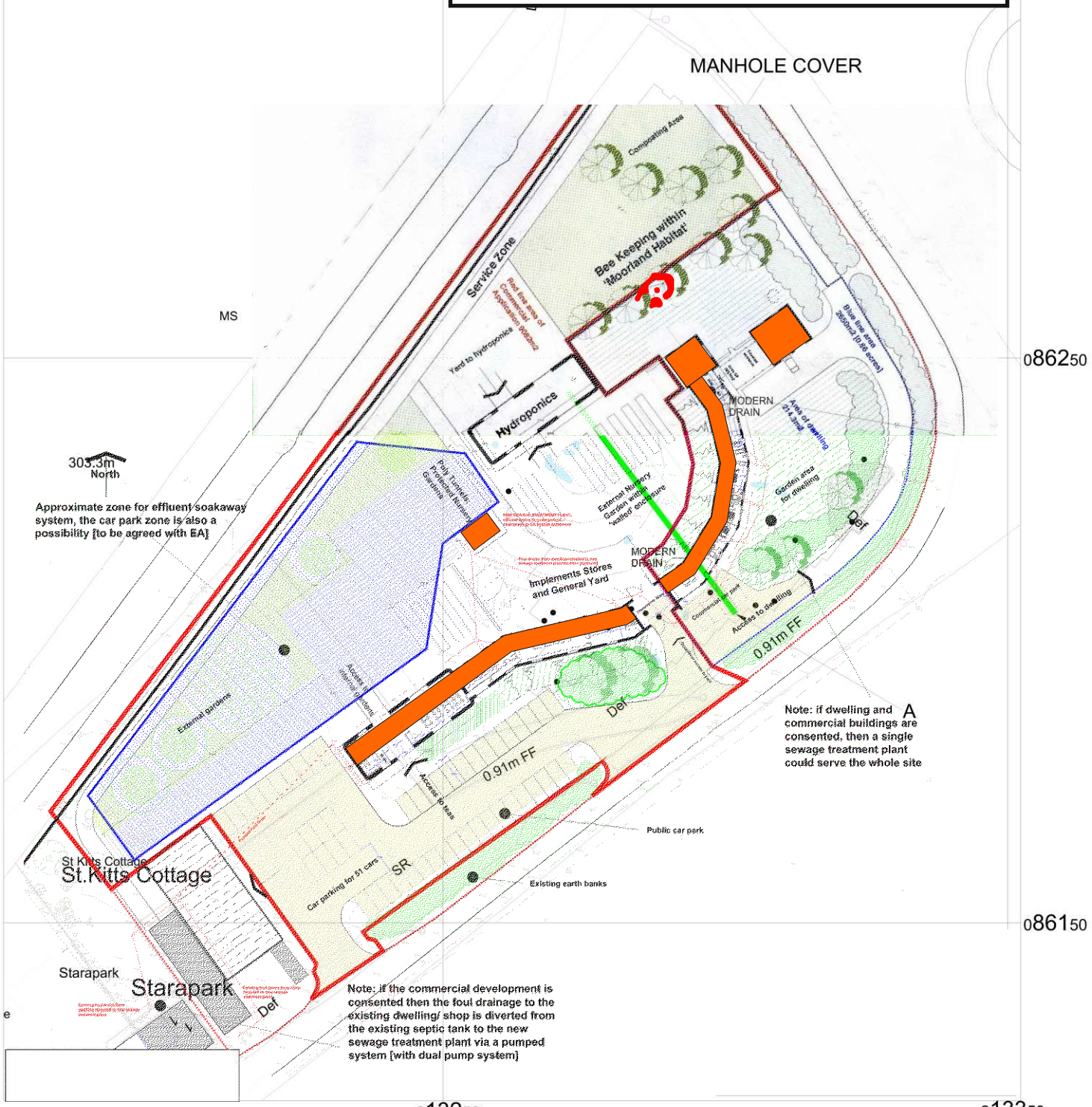


AREAS MONITORED



FIGURE 2: St. Kitts Herbery

MANHOLE COVER



MS

086350

086250

086150

305.3m
North

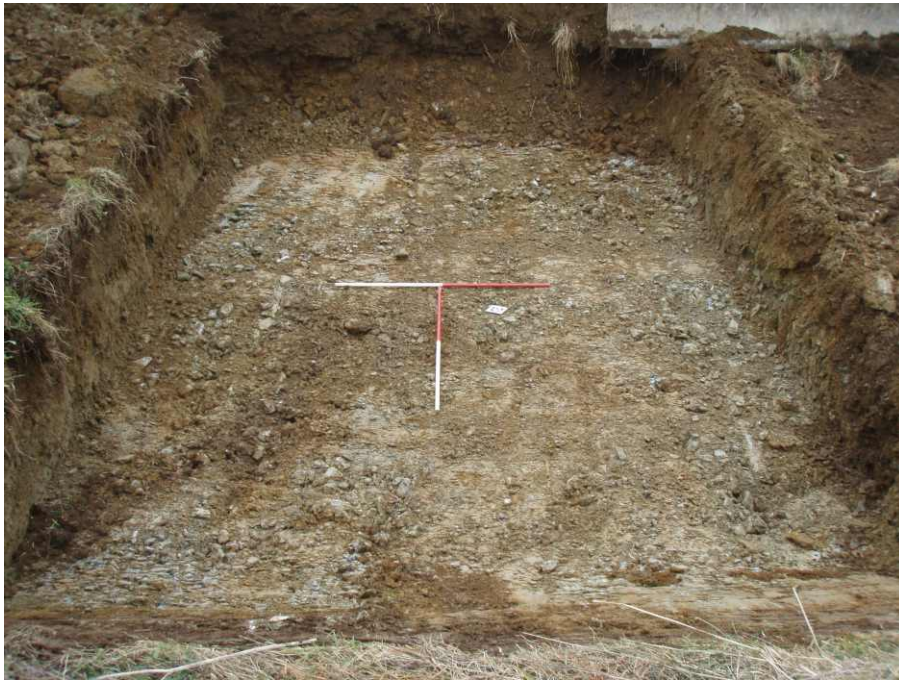
Approximate zone for effluent soakaway system, the car park zone is also a possibility [to be agreed with EA]

Note: if dwelling and commercial buildings are consented, then a single sewage treatment plant could serve the whole site

Note: if the commercial development is consented then the foul drainage to the existing dwelling/shop is diverted from the existing septic tank to the new sewage treatment plant via a pumped system [with dual pump system]

213250

213350



**FIGURE 2.1: SE facing shot of NE half of excavated Garage footprint
Scales 2x1m**



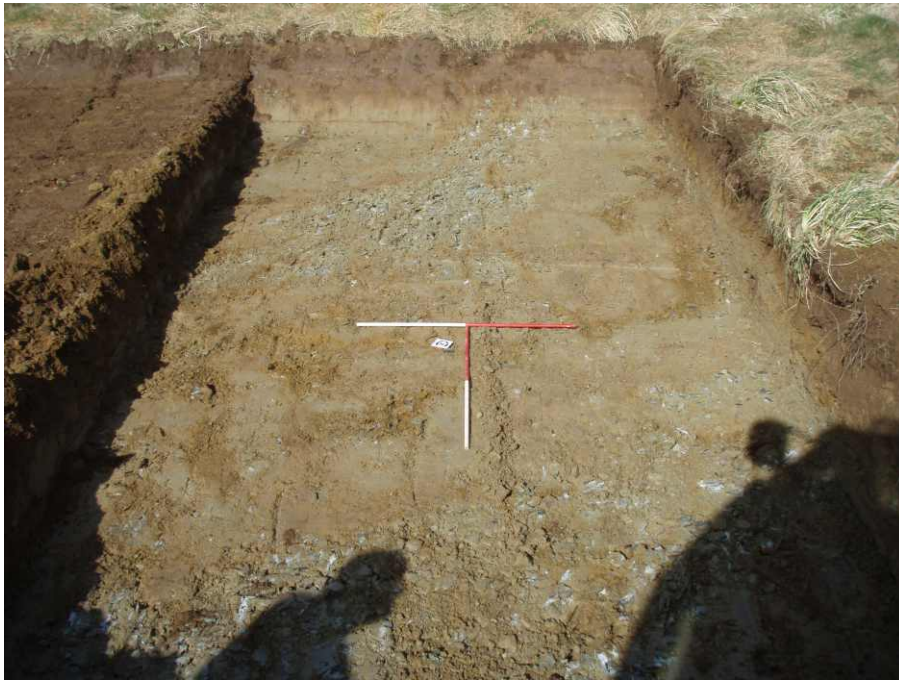
**FIGURE 2.2: SE facing shot of SW half of excavated Garage footprint
Scales 2x1m**

Site Code: SKH12

FIGURE 3: Site Visit 9/3/2012: Photographs



**FIGURE 3.1: NW facing shot of SW half of excavated Sitting Room footprint
Scales 2x1m**



**FIGURE 3.2: NW facing shot of NE half of excavated Sitting Room footprint
Scales 2x1m**

Site Code: SKH12

FIGURE 4: Site Visit 9/3/2012: Photographs



**FIGURE 4.1: NE facing shot of excavated Dwelling footprint
Scales: 2x1m**



**FIGURE 2.2: SSE facing shot excavated Dwelling footprint
Scales 2x1m**

Site Code: SKH12
FIGURE 5: Site Visit 9/3/2012: Photographs



**FIGURE 5.1: ENE facing shot of excavated Commercial section footprint
Scales 2x1m**



**FIGURE 5.2: SE facing shot of excavated Sewage Treatment Plant footprint
Scales 2x1m**

Site Code: SKH12

FIGURE 6: Site Visit 9/3/2012: Photographs