

**ST JUST SMITHY,
ST JUST IN ROSELAND,
TRURO,
CORNWALL.**

NGR: SW 8520 3564

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

September 2014
Report No. 998



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

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

HER

Historic Environment Record.

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.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

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

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-Medieval

Refers to the period from c. AD 1500 to AD 1900.

Prehistoric

In Britain this term is generally used for any of the traditionally defined periods such as Palaeolithic (c. 480,000-12,000 BC), Mesolithic (c. 12,000-4000 BC), Neolithic (c. 4,000-2,500), Bronze Age (c. 2500-600 BC) and Iron Age (c. 800 BC - AD 43).

Romano-British

Term used to describe the fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions with the invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated between AD 43 and AD 410.

Saxon

Term used to describe the period between the end of Roman Britain c. AD 410 and the Norman Conquest (AD 1066).

SUMMARY

On the 15th September 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at St. Just Smithy, St. Just in Roseland, Truro, Cornwall (Figures 1 and 2).

It would appear that the natural substrates across the site had been reduced prior to the construction of the concrete floor of The Smithy. Footings for the new build were subsequently excavated into the natural substrate to a uniform depth, in accordance with the dimensions given above and shown on Figure 2.

Due to the reduction of the site area prior to the construction of The Smithy the only intact stratigraphic sequence was present at the western edge of the site area.

No artefactual or structural evidence relating to either the Medieval chapel or the Post-Medieval Smithy was present within the watched area. It is anticipated that any burials which might have been present within the site area would have survived the site reduction works and would have been identified and recorded during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 15th September 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at St. Just Smithy, St. Just In Roseland, Truro, Cornwall at NGR: SW 8520 3564 (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The brief was to observe the mechanical excavation of the footings for a new domestic building in the grounds of St. Just Smithy, St. Just in Roseland, Truro, Cornwall. These works were commissioned by Mr M. Whittal on behalf of Mr. R. German.
- 1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with an approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2012). The WSI conformed to the principles of NPPF (2012), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and the *Brief* issued by Cornwall County Council (2014).
- 1.4 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and it complies with the specification set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning application (Ref: PA12/04208) has been granted, subject to conditions, for the demolition of the existing building known as 'The Smithy' and replacement with a new two storey dwelling. In accordance with NPPF National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and Cornwall Council's Condition 2 a requirement to record and advance understanding of the heritage asset was included as a standard condition. The permission included a condition that required a programme of archaeological watching brief.
- 2.2 The site is situated in the village of St Just in Roseland at NGR: SW 8520 3564. The plot of land is bounded by St Just Lane to the east, by Chapel Close to the west, by Lobbs Cottage and its curtilage to the south and by No.1 St Just Lane and its curtilage to the north. Part of the land belonging to No. 1 St Just Lane forms part of the new development plot
- 2.3 The site's underlying geology is given by the British Geology Viewer as *Portscatho Formation - Sandstone And [subequal/subordinate] Argillaceous Rocks, Interbedded* (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.4 The proposed development area was in an archaeologically sensitive area, since it was located within the site of recorded HER monument 41618 'ST JUST IN ROSELAND - Post Medieval blacksmiths workshop' and is situated in proximity to HER record 22712 "ST JUST LANE - Medieval chapel" (NGR: SW 8521 3563). The site is recorded on 19th century OS mapping and by 19th century antiquarians as the chapel of either St Nicholas or St Margaret. According to 19th century sources it was recorded in 1391 by a license held by the rector of the parish. Records in Lakes' Parochial History of 1867 state that human bones were found on the site, indicating that the chapel had an associated burial ground.
- 2.5 The archaeological potential of the site was therefore be perceived as high for the presence of human remains and deposits and features of both Medieval and

Post-Medieval date. This did not prejudice the watching brief against the recovery of finds or features 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.

3.2 These aims were achieved through the pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
- ii) To attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
- iii) To recover a well-dated stratigraphic sequence to attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefactual, ecofactual and environmental samples where required;
- iv) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence was present.

3.3 Specific aims of both elements of the project are:

Identification and analysis of evidence of smithing activity;
Identification of any Medieval finds;
Formulation of a strategy for further research of any significant remains.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 All intrusive groundworks were monitored and recorded in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits. The groundworks were machine excavated by a mini-digger using a toothless grading bucket and were carried out under the constant direction of the archaeologist.

4.2 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Prior to the excavation of the footing trenches, a vernacular buildings of late Post-medieval date known as The Smithy was recorded and demolished (See HBR report 864 dated January 2013, compiled by D. King). The ground covering the site had already been reduced, to a level 0.225m below that of the concrete floor of the original building, before the commencement of the watching brief and all deposits had been removed from site. Notes referring to stratigraphic deposits were taken for observations made at the edge of the excavated area.

- 5.2 Footings for the new domicile were excavated to a width of between 0.45m-0.60m and a uniform depth of 400mm below the reduced level. The position of the footings is shown in Figure 2.
- 5.3 The earliest deposit observed, context (1004), was a clean yellow-beige, compact sandy clay natural, mottled in places with shale and other inclusions associated with coastal areas. This was present across the extent of the proposed footings. Across the majority of the site the natural deposits appeared to have been directly sealed by concrete floor layer (1001), which had been removed prior to the arrival of the archaeologist.
- 5.4 The only stratigraphic sequence present on site was present on the western extent of the study area, approximately 1m west of the footing trenches. Here the natural substrate (1004) was visible for up to 0.25m from the limit of excavation (L.O.E).
- 5.5 At the western edge of the study area, natural (1004) was sealed by a dark grey brown plastic, clay-silt subsoil (1003), which contained occasional to frequent small to medium, stone, flint and gravel inclusions. The deposit varied in thickness between 0.15m to 0.30m and did not contain any charcoal or artefactual evidence.
- 5.6 Context (1003) was overlaid by black fine grained soot (1002). This deposit varied in thickness between 0.25m and 0.40m and was visible for a width of approximately 2 metres. The deposit contained frequent fragments of metallic residue and other inclusions related to metal work. As this deposit was located at the boundary of an adjoining property, it was not possible to obtain a sample of this material.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 It would appear that the natural substrates across the site had been reduced prior to the construction of the concrete floor of The Smithy. Footings for the new build were subsequently excavated into the natural substrate to a uniform depth, in accordance with the dimensions given above and shown on Figure 2.
- 6.2 Due to the reduction of the site area prior to the construction of The Smithy the only intact stratigraphic sequence was present at the western edge of the site.
- 6.3 No artefactual or structural evidence relating to either the Medieval chapel or the Post-Medieval Smithy was present within the watched area. It is anticipated that any burials which might have been present within the site area would have survived the site reduction works and would have been identified and recorded during the watching brief.
- 6.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, the Royal Cornwall Museum is not currently accessioning new archives but the site archive will be deposited in due course with the appropriate repository. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 REFERENCES

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*.

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Mr M. Whittal, Mr R. German and Cornwall County Council Archaeology Service for their assistance during the course of this project.



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Site Code: TSS14

Accession Code:

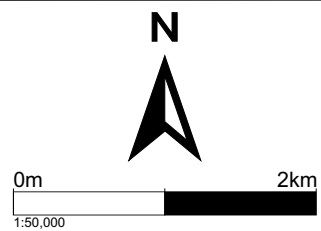






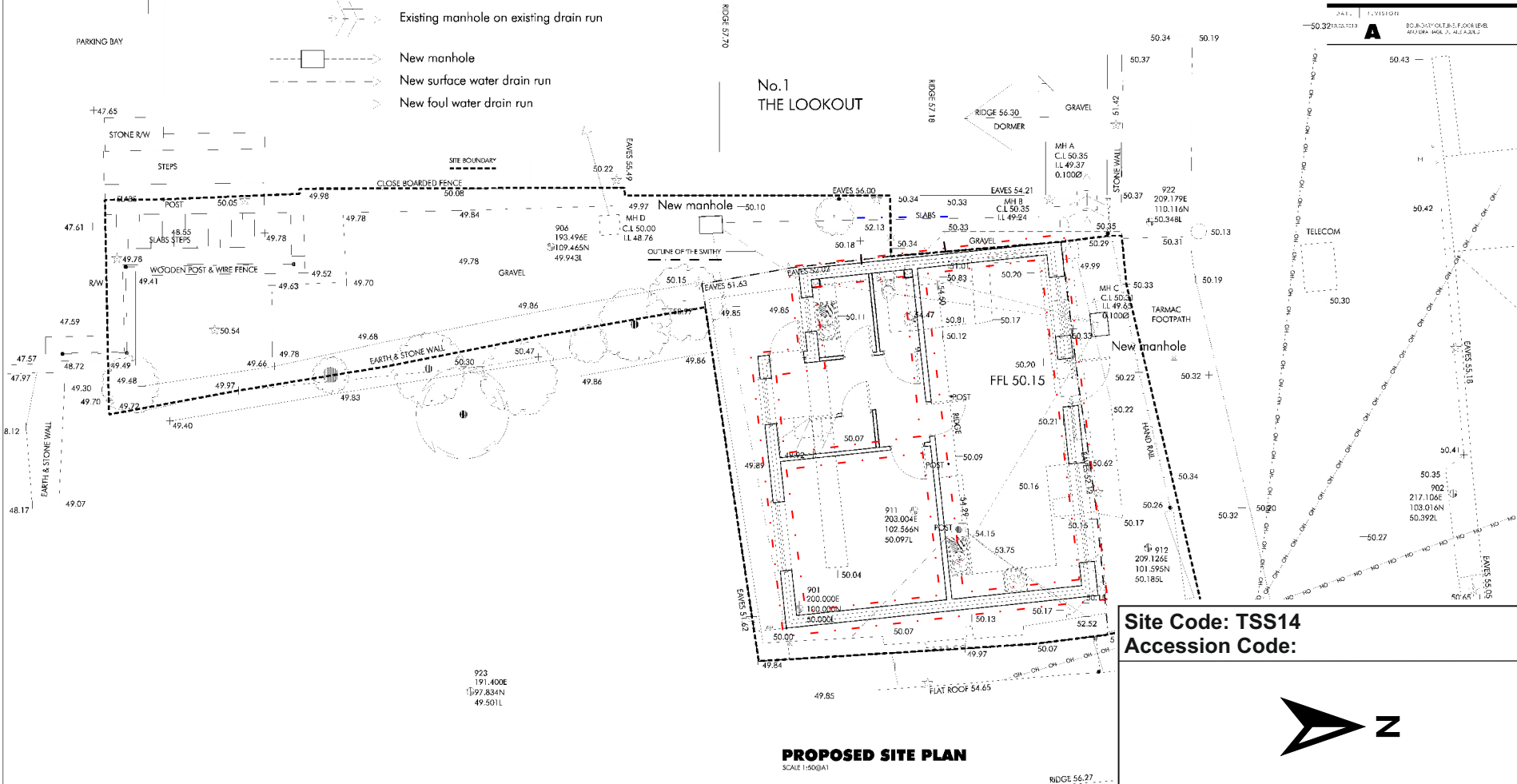
FIGURE 1: Site Location

DRAINAGE LEGEND

-  Existing manhole on existing drain run
-  New manhole
-  New surface water drain run
-  New foul water drain run

CONTRACTOR MUST CHECK ALL TOP OF SOLE
DIMENSIONS FOR LOCAL VARIATIONS IN
ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS. NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT OR
ENGINEER IMMEDIATELY IF IN DOUBT - ASK



DATE: 11/15/2018
A DESIGN OF UTILITY FLOOR LEVEL
REVISION: 001 - 01/25/2018

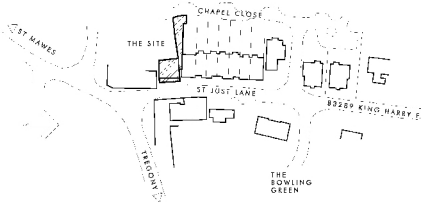
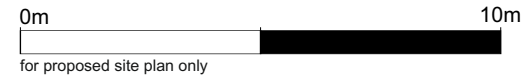


923
191.400E
1097.834N
49.501L

Site Code: TSS14
Accession Code:



-  Watched Area
-  Observed Stratigraphy



1:1250 SITE LOCATION PLAN

PROPOSED SITE PLAN
SCALE 1:500(A)

FIGURE 2: Watched Areas