

Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

Site Recording Form



Site Name: The Vicarage, St Andrew's Street, St Ives, Cornwall	Planning Ref: PA18/06557
Grid Ref (10-Fig): SW 51805 40459	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: St Ives	OASIS ID: southwes1-389553
Site Type: Driveway / Garden	
Period: Post Medieval	Form: Archaeological Recording Event
<p>Description: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (The Client) as part of exploratory geo-technical works associated with a building extension at The Vicarage, St Andrew's Street, St Ives, Cornwall. The work was carried out by S. Stevens on 23rd March 2020 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2020) supplied to Cornwall Council prior to works commencing on site.</p> <p>The site lies at the eastern end of St Ives, on a gentle east facing slope down to the sea. The site lies at c.13m AOD. The soils are unsurveyed and are likely to be as the surrounding the well-drained fine loamy soils over deeply weathered rock of the Trusham Association (SSEW), overlying the metamorphic metabasalt of the Mylor Slate Formation (BGS).</p> <p>In the early 19th and late 18th century there was a building boom in St Ives centred on High Street and Tregenna Place and Hill. Prior to this development the area was known as 'The Green', possibly indicating earlier use as the town's fair field. By the c1880 Ordnance Survey (OS) town plan the assessment area had become part of the cemetery of the nearby parish church. It is not clear if this had required the clearance of any earlier buildings but it seems likely that it was developed in a relatively open area of ground, perhaps former yards to the rear of houses on St Andrew's Street and Shute Street/Street-an-Pol. The cemetery had been developed as the burial ground surrounding the church had become overcrowded, possibly due to the rapid expansion of the town's population in the 1800s, but is shown as disused by 1908 (Dudley 2016).</p> <p>An initial excavation in the driveway area was conducted to calculate the risk of coming into contact with modern services at the front of the house, after which a 0.41mx0.26mx1.43m deep irregular pit (Pit 1) was hand-excavated at the east side of the house, between the porch and shed. This was to investigate the soil and depth of any potential solid ground for foundations to the side of the house, as this area was raised c.1m above the height of the driveway. Trench 1 was excavated by machine, with a toothed bucket, at the front of the house (north side); this was located in front of the entrance to the driveway approximately 2.8m north of the conservatory and measured 0.35mx1.5mx2.2m deep. And finally, Pit 2 was excavated around the back of the house (south side) on the south-east corner of the building, this measured 0.30mx0.30mx1.2m deep and was also irregularly shaped.</p> <p>The observed stratigraphy of the site below the modern surface treatments, comprised a thick soil based made ground (100)/(200)/(300) a dark-mid grey-red-brown friable silt-soil, with fragmented concrete and brick inclusions and varied from c.1.4m in Pit 1 to at least 2m in depth in Trench 1. This made ground directly overlay natural (101), a light-mid yellow-brown silt-clay, with frequent small stone inclusions. Natural (101) was only observed in Pit 1, at a depth of c.2.15m below the present ground surface. No archaeological features were identified, although a modern service pipe was visible approximately 0.75m below the present ground surface in Pit 1. Given the limited width of the investigations the presence of grave cuts cannot be discounted.</p> <p>Human skeletal remains were discovered in Trench 1 at a depth of c.2m, close to the base of the made ground deposit. These were seemingly disarticulated and not within any discernible grave cuts, although the limited width of the investigations means that this can be said with certainty. The remains included 1 largely intact skull, 4 probable forearm bone fragments, 4 rib fragments, 1 possible scapula fragment; and 6 unidentified fragments. These remains were carefully and respectfully re-buried after being photographed.</p> <p>Find: 5 pottery sherds were recovered from soil layer (200), these included 4x sherds of White Refined Earthenwares (14g) and 1x sherd (6g) of a post-medieval (18th-19th century) local coarseware. These were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusion: Due to the sites location on a former cemetery and the presence of the Old Vicarage to the south, it can be said that the chances of finding more skeletal remains are high. However, the apparent depth of these skeletal remains and of the solid ground on the site would mean that the need for any further archaeological investigations is dependent upon the proposed build strategy.</p> <p>Bibliography: Boyd, N. 2020: <i>The Vicarage, St Andrew's Street, St Ives, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH Report No. SIV20WSIv1. Dudley, P. 2016: <i>The Old Vicarage, St. Ives, Cornwall: Heritage Impact Assessment</i>; CAU Report No: 2016R040 British Geological Survey 2017: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Settlement	Land Use (Site): Residential
Date of Site Visit: 23 rd March 2020	
Recorder's Name, Address, and Telephone Number:	
S. Stevens	South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH 01769 573 555



FIGURE 1: SITE AND LOCATION PLAN.



FIGURE 2: SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF TRENCH 1 (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: SKELETAL REMAINS RECOVERED FROM TRENCH 1 (1M SCALE)