

Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

Site Recording Form



Site Name: The Guildhall, Street-An-Pol, St Ives, Cornwall	Planning Ref: Pre-Application
Grid Ref: (10-Fig): SW 51782 40420	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: St Ives	OASIS ID: southwes1-409689
Site Type: Future Extension to the Building	
Period: Undated / Modern	Form: Archaeological Recording Event
<p>Description:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of St Ives Town Council (The Client) during the excavation of trial pits to the rear of The Guildhall, Street-An-Pol, St Ives, Cornwall. The work was carried out by S. Walls in January 2021 in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with Cornwall Council. The site lies at c.13m AOD to the eastern side of the town. 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 1983), overlying the metamorphic metabasalt of the Mylor Slate Formation (BGS 2021).</p> <p>The site is located within the former boundaries of a former cemetery, likely establishing in the early 19th century when the towns population was rapidly expanding and as the churchyard to the Parish Church of St Ia's was full (Dudley 2016). The site is located to the rear (north) of the Old Vicarage, built c.1840, but the site is now within the boundaries of the Guildhall built in c.1939, and was likely annexed from the former graveyard at this time, presumably to function as a small service yard/garden. The site at the time of visiting consisted of a concrete patio area, with concrete access paths to the west and south. The patio area is bounded by concrete block walls to the north and west, open to the building to the south and with a timber fenced boundary to the property to the east (The Old Vicarage, now Community Centre).</p> <p>Three test-pits were excavated by hand within this small yard area, test-pits 1 and 2 were likely within the former graveyard/garden to the Old Vicarage, whilst Test Pit 3 was within the historic footprint of the Guildhall plot.</p> <p>Test Pit 1 was circular in plan (c.0.5m diameter) to the south of the site and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The upper 0.15m was comprised of a concrete slab with clean grey sand bedding (100). The modern surface (100) overlay a 0.45m thick dark to mid grey-brown silt-clay topsoil (101), with rare sub-angular stone fragments and oyster shell. The topsoil layer (101) overlay a 0.6m(+) slightly moist yellow-grey silt-clay (102) containing some clear lenses of redeposited natural (a reddish-yellow sandy-clay). The Natural was not reached in the test-pit.</p> <p>Test Pit 2 was rectangular in plan (0.5m x 0.32m) against the eastern boundary of the site and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. The upper 0.06m was a concrete slab with no evident bedding (200). The modern surface (200) overlay a 0.2m thick dark to mid grey-brown silt-clay topsoil (201), with rare sub-angular stone fragments. The topsoil layer (201) overlay a 0.4m thick slightly moist yellow-grey silt-clay. Layer (202) overlay the Natural (203) a slightly firm reddish-yellow sandy-clay. The natural was located 0.66m below the modern ground surface in this location.</p> <p>Test Pit 3 was located against the foundations to the Guildhall and was roughly circular in plan (c.0.5m diameter) and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m. The upper layer consisted of the concrete path (300), which was 0.08m and directly overlay the natural (301) a reddish yellow slightly sandy clay which in this location contained projecting stone (elvan?) boulders.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>A very small assemblage of finds were recovered from the site consisting of two shards of clear bottle glass and two sherds of white refined earthenware, these were all 19th-20th century in date and were subsequently discarded. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, although given the depth of the soil layers within Test-Pit 1, it appears likely that this test-pit may have been positioned within a deep archaeological feature (potentially a grave cut?).</p> <p>Bibliography:</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2020: <i>The Guildhall (The Old Vicarage), Street-An-Pol, St. Ives, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation - Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i> SWARCH WSI No. SIG20WSIv1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2021: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer.</i> http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</p> <p>Dudley, P. 2016: <i>The Old Vicarage, St Ives, Cornwall - Heritage Impact Assessment.</i> Cornwall Archaeological Unit report 2016R040</p> <p>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): Garden / Waste	Land Use (Site): Civic Uses
Date of Site Visit: 05 th January 2021	
Recorder's Name, Address, and Phone Number:	
S. Walls	South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH
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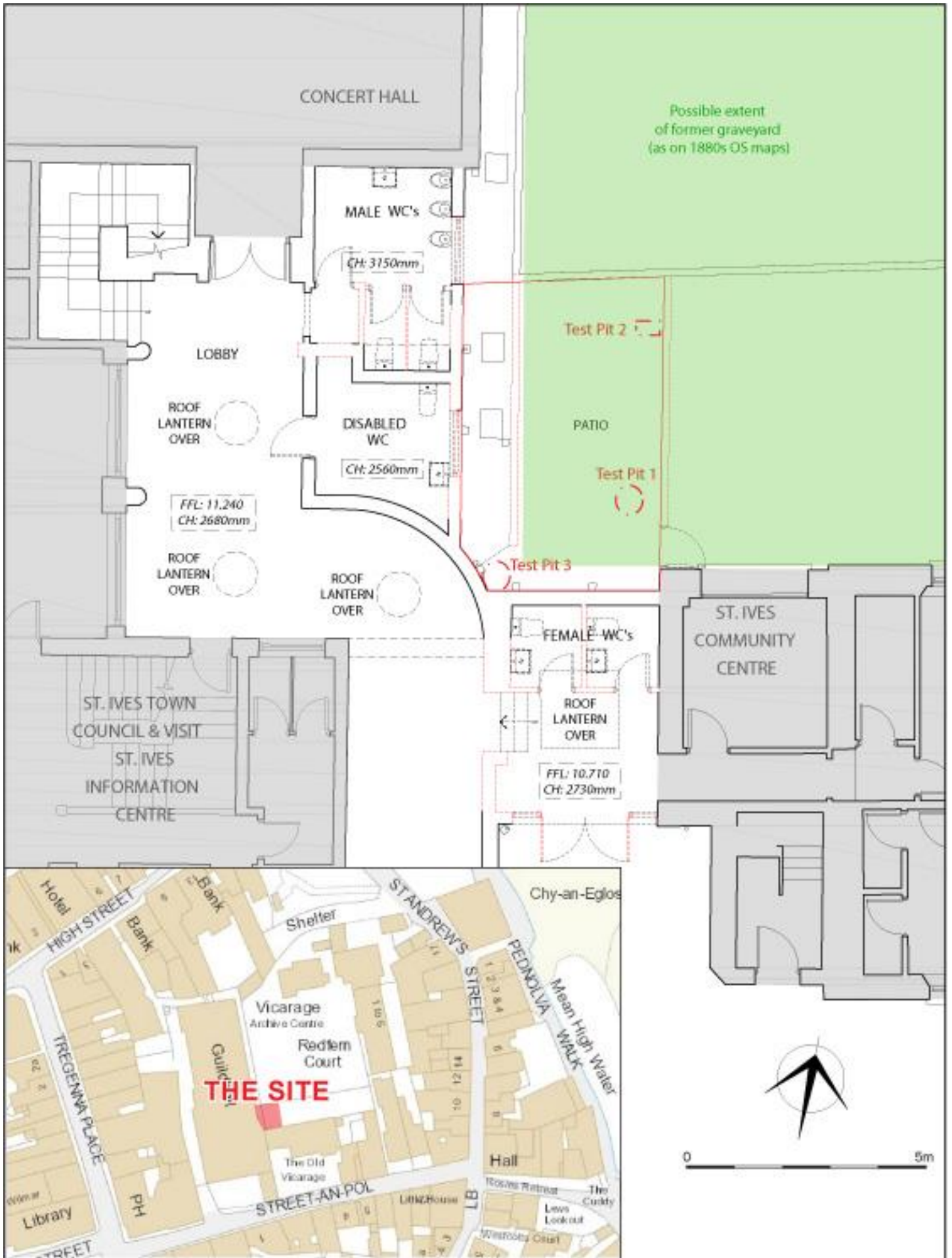


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND PLAN OF EXCAVATED AREA, BASED ON ARCHITECTS PLANS.