



# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record Site Recording Form



<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SV 91441 10454	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological Evaluation Trenching at Land at Ennor Farm, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly		<b>Photo Attached?:</b> Yes
<b>Planning Reference:</b> P/21/002	<b>Recipient Museum:</b> Museum of the Isles of Scilly	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-503322	<b>Museum Accession Number:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's Reference:</b> MEF21	<b>Dates Fieldwork Undertaken:</b> 08.02.22	
<b>Description of Works</b> <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request the Council of the Scilly Isles (the Client) on land North of Ennor Castle, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, Cornwall. The work was undertaken on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with the Historic Environment and Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO) at Cornwall Council (Boyd 2022).</p> <p>The site was a single field under pasture during the site visit, having been recently used to hold livestock. The site at the northern end of the Old Town on St. Marys, c.50m north of the remains of Ennor Castle and &lt;300m from the entrance to St. Mary's Airport. The site has an average height of c.6m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), being lower in the north-west corner of the field. The A3112 runs along the eastern boundary of the site, with all other boundaries comprising of hedgebanks, overhead cabling runs across part of the site, with a below ground water line being located along the eastern edge of the site. The soils of this area are the well-drained gritty loamy soils with an occasional humose surface horizon of the Moretonhampstead association; with the permeable coarse loamy soils with a humose or peaty surface horizon of the Laployd Association to the west (SSEW 1983). These soils overlie the igneous granite from the Isles of Scilly Intrusion; superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel are identified close to the site and may occur within the site (BGS 2022).</p> <p>The site is located to the north of Ennor Castle, which occupies a prominent position to the north of Old Town Bay. The earliest reference to the castle is 1244, at which time Ennor would have been the main settlement on the island, although it was somewhat eclipsed following the construction of the Star Castle in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The two other principal elements making up the remains of Old Town or Ennor as a medieval settlement are the Old Quays and the Old Church which surround Old Town Bay.</p> <p>The evaluation trenches were positioned to target the results of the earlier geophysical survey (Bonvoisin 2019) and to give a representative sample of the site. A total of six trenches were opened across the site, for a total of c.120m in length. All trenches were c.20m in length, c.0.8 to 1.0m wide. The trenches were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket to the depth of the top of where undisturbed natural geology was visible. This varied a little across the site, with both a white-grey gritty clay (103), (202), (302), (402), (502) and (604), and an orange-brown and black-brown mottled gritty clay with degraded granite (205), (303) and (504). In portions of the trenches, it appeared that the white-grey clay deposit overlay the orange and black mottled natural.</p> <p>The upper soil layer(s) across the site consisted of light brown topsoil overlying mid brown and occasionally mottled subsoils, potential peaty horizons occasionally existed within the subsoil deposits. No significant archaeological features were discovered during the excavation, with only anomaly group 6 being visible and representing the footings for a previous overhead cable pylon. Large granite stones &lt;0.86m, were present in trenches 02, 03, 04 and 06, between the subsoil and the natural geology (i.e. projecting out of the natural). Anomaly groups 2 and 3 which were targeted by Trench 6, are both likely related to the presence of large stones projecting from the natural. Some post-medieval ceramics, including x2 sherds White Refined Earthenware with some blue patterning and x3 undecorated White Refined Earthenware sherds were present within the topsoil; a single unworked flint flake was recovered from the top of the subsoil of trench 01 (101). These finds were discarded on site.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present, with the site appearing to be almost entirely void of historic activity. The presence of a small number of post-medieval pottery sherds indicates the site has been in use during this period and likely earlier but the lack of archaeological features suggests nothing more than its continued use as farmland despite it's close proximity to Ennor Castle.</p> <b>Bibliography</b> <p><b>Bonvoisin, P.</b> 2019: <i>Land North of Ennor Castle, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly: Results of a Geophysical Survey</i>. SWARCH Report No. 190507. <b>Boyd, N.</b> 2021: <i>Land at Ennor Farm, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. MEF21WSlv2. <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2020: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a> <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Bonvoisin		<b>Date Sent to HER:</b> 04.04.22



FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND TRENCH PLAN OVERLAYING GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY INTERPRETATION.





FIGURE 3: REPRESENTATIVE SECTION OF TRENCH 06, FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALES).