

Site Name: Land West of Moorlands, Towednack Road, St.Ives, Cornwall		Planning Ref: PA21/09771 – Condition 8
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 50244 39689		OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: St. Ives		OASIS Ref: SOUTHWES1-505266
Site Type: Nine single storey residential units, together with associated works		
Period: Modern		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) during the commencement of groundworks on land west of Moorlands, Towednack Road, St. Ives, Cornwall. The work was carried out by B. Morris and S. Walls in May 2022 in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2022) drawn up in consultation with the Historic Environment and Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO) at Cornwall Council. The site lies at the south-west edge of the St. Ives and at the time of commencement comprised a disused area of scrub, bounded by Towednack Road to the east. The site lies on a slight west-facing slope, at a height of c.106m AOD. The soils of the site are the well drained gritty loamy soils with a humose surface horizon of the Moretonhampstead Association (SSEW 1983) which overlie a bedrock geology of igneous granite of the Land's End Intrusion (GBGS 2022).</p> <p>The site is located within an area of known mine workings, although outside of the World Heritage Site boundaries. Historic OS mapping suggests the former presence of a rectangular building (first appearing on 1936 OS revision) and several field boundaries are located within the site limits. There are also boundary stone indicated in the immediate vicinity of the site, although not within the redline boundary to the site (see Figure 2).</p> <p>The site was cleared of vegetation under archaeological supervision due to the potential for upstanding archaeological remains. This demonstrated the presence of several earthworks, including what appeared to be a raised platform, gently curving, but running broadly east to west. There were also several large granite boulders on the site, some of which had evidence of having had parts fractured off them. Two medium sized stones (c.1m x 0.5m x 0.2m) were located along the upper edge of the curving earthwork. A much large boulder, c.3m x 2m x 2m was located in a hollow to the north of the earthwork. Broken window glass and concrete were noted in the location of the building visible on early 20th century Ordnance Survey Mapping, and this area was broadly level.</p> <p>Following the vegetation clearance, the access road was stripped across the site by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket and under archaeological supervision. The excavations were to the top of the natural a slightly reddish-yellow silt loam with occasional granite boulders. The site stratigraphy consisted of up to 0.15m of leaf litter, vegetation and topsoil which directly overlay the natural. Given the shallow depth of soils, and verified by local residents who spoke to us on site, the site has clearly been stripped previously, and this likely removed any evidence of any further archaeological features or deposits.</p> <p>Three features were noted, the broke-up concrete footing and stone of the demolished 20th century building footprint. A small square pit, c.1m x 1m was located in close proximity to the building footprint, perhaps the remains of a further small structure as it was filled with slate and concrete rubble. The strip also ran across the curved earthwork, which demonstrated that the earthwork related to differing levels of the natural, suggesting that this earthwork may have once been a boundary, there was noticeably more stone along the lower edge of this feature, but no trace of any ditches survived. It survived to a width of c.1m. Only the eastern end corresponds to any boundaries shown on the historic mapping, which may suggest that it is largely a modern earthwork created by partial stripping of the site previously.</p> <p>No finds were recovered from the site, although an assemblage of 1990s and later finds including dozens of glass bottles, mainly rattler cider, and tape cassettes were noted. These were left on site.</p> <p>Summary The concrete footing of a building constructed sometime between 1907-1936 and a possible boundary were the only features noted during the works and the level of disturbance across the site is very high, and in agreement with HEPAO at Cornwall Council, no further archaeological works are to take place as part of this development.</p> <p>Bibliography: Boyd, N. 2020: <i>Land West of Moorlands, Towednack Road, St. Ives, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief</i>. SWARCH WSI No. SITR22WSIv3. British Geological Survey 2021: <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): Residential, edge of settlement		Land Use (Site): Waste
Date of Site Visit: 20 th and 23 rd May 2022		
Recorder's name, address and phone number: Dr. S.H. Walls 01769 57355 South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH		



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

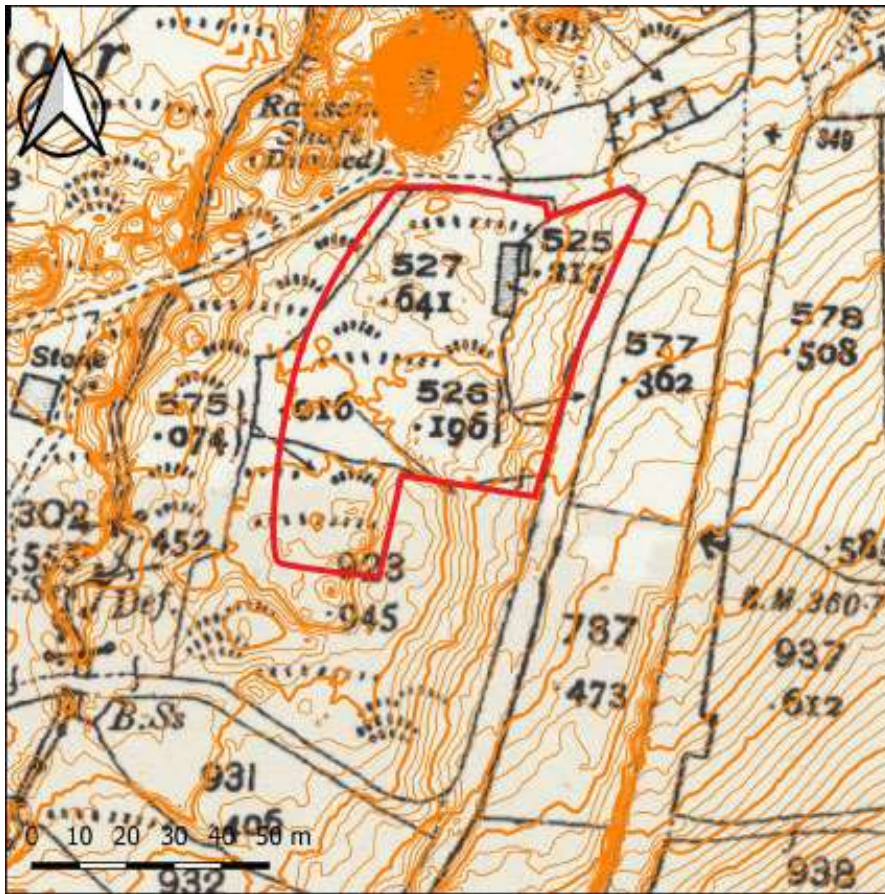


FIGURE 2: LIDAR ANALYSIS OVERLAYING 1936 OS REVISION MAP.



FIGURE 3: THE FOOTING OF THE 20TH CENTURY BUILDING, AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURE (OUTLINED IN BLUE), FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (0.4M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: THE SLIGHT BANK (MACHINE SAT ON HIGHER GROUND), VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (0.4M SCALE).