

Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

Site Recording Form



Site Name: Land East of Greenbank, Connor Downs	Planning Ref: PA19/00988
Grid Ref (10-Fig): SW 59849 39353	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: Gwinear-Gwithian	OASIS ID: southwes1-512879
Site Type: Small Housing Development	
Period: Modern	Form: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
<p>Description: Archaeological monitoring of a topsoil strip was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (The Client). This work followed on from a geophysical survey (Webb 2021). The work was carried out by B. Morris and J. Bampton during the week commencing the 6th of June 2022, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2021) drawn up in consultation with Cornwall County Council. This report has been produced to fulfil Condition no. 6 of the planning permission PA19/00988.</p> <p>The site consists of a long narrow basically rectangular field c.1.9ha in extent, of which the western c.0.9ha was the subject of this programme of monitoring. The field is located behind Willoughby Way and to the east of Greenbank. It is separated from the A30 to the north by another narrow field. The field was called Long Croft in c.1840, attached to a cottage occupied by John Gilbert, an agricultural labourer. The half of the field stripped of topsoil slopes very gently to the west from an altitude of 77m to 74m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils over rock of the Manod Association. The bedrock geology of the site is the slate and siltstone of the Mylor Slate Formation.</p> <p>Within 300m of the site the HER records four Bronze Age barrows (MCO2894, MCO2893, MCO2892, MCO56439). Barrow MCO2892 is recorded as partially ploughed and Barrows MCO2893 and MCO56439 are noted as identified via documentary evidence only. Barrow MCO2894 is the closest to the development site and is recorded as 19m in diameter and 0.5m high, suggesting it has also been damaged by ploughing; a Middle Bronze-Age urn containing burnt bones has been recovered from the barrow. Also within 300m of the site are the remains of post-medieval mining and extraction activities (MCO52495, MCO12881). Just outside this area, to the south and east, are two Iron Age/Romano British 'rounds' at Roseworthy Barton (MCO36545) and Trenowin (MCO52494). Fieldwork at Horsepool Road (Bampton 2015) identified a single post-medieval field boundary. Five evaluation trenches on a site off Angarrack Lane determined the topsoil here to be c.300mm thick over the weathered shillet natural, and investigated a series of relict field boundaries (Walls 2021).</p> <p>An area c.0.9ha in extent was stripped of topsoil by a 21t 360° tracked mechanical excavator, served by a tractor with 14t trailer. The work took place under archaeological supervision. The topsoil was a dry, friable light buff grey-brown slightly sandy silt loam c.300mm thick (maximum). This overlay the natural substrate, a compact to hard mid pinkish-brown weathered shillet. The upper surface of the natural was scored by numerous plough scars orientated roughly east-to-west and parallel to the long axis of the field. The only features to be identified were two modern service trenches filled with pink shillet or gravel, and two geotechnical pits (GTP).</p> <p>Finds from the topsoil consisted of six sherds (35g) of industrial whitewares, a broken screwdriver (73g), a twist on galvanised wire (12g), a small plastic pellet (<1g), and a semi-translucent soft plastic ball or float (43g). All the finds were discarded.</p> <p>Conclusion: No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the stripped area.</p> <p>Bibliography: Bampton, J. 2015: <i>Land at Horsepool Road, Connor Downs, Gwithian, Cornwall: HER entry.</i> Boyd, N. 2021: <i>Land East of Greenbank, Greenbank, Connor Downs, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation.</i> SWARCH Report No. CDLG21WSIv1. 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> Walls, S. 2021: <i>Land off Angarrack Lane, Conner Downs, Hayle, Cornwall: results of an archaeological evaluation.</i> SWARCH report no. 211123. Webb, P. 2021: <i>Land at Greenbank, Connor Downs, Gwinear-Gwithian, Cornwall: results of the geophysical survey.</i> SWARCH report no. 210707.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Settlement	Land Use (Site): Residential
Date of Site Visits: 08.06.22 - 09.06.22	
Recorder's Name, Address, and Telephone Number: B. Morris, South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH, 01769 573 555	

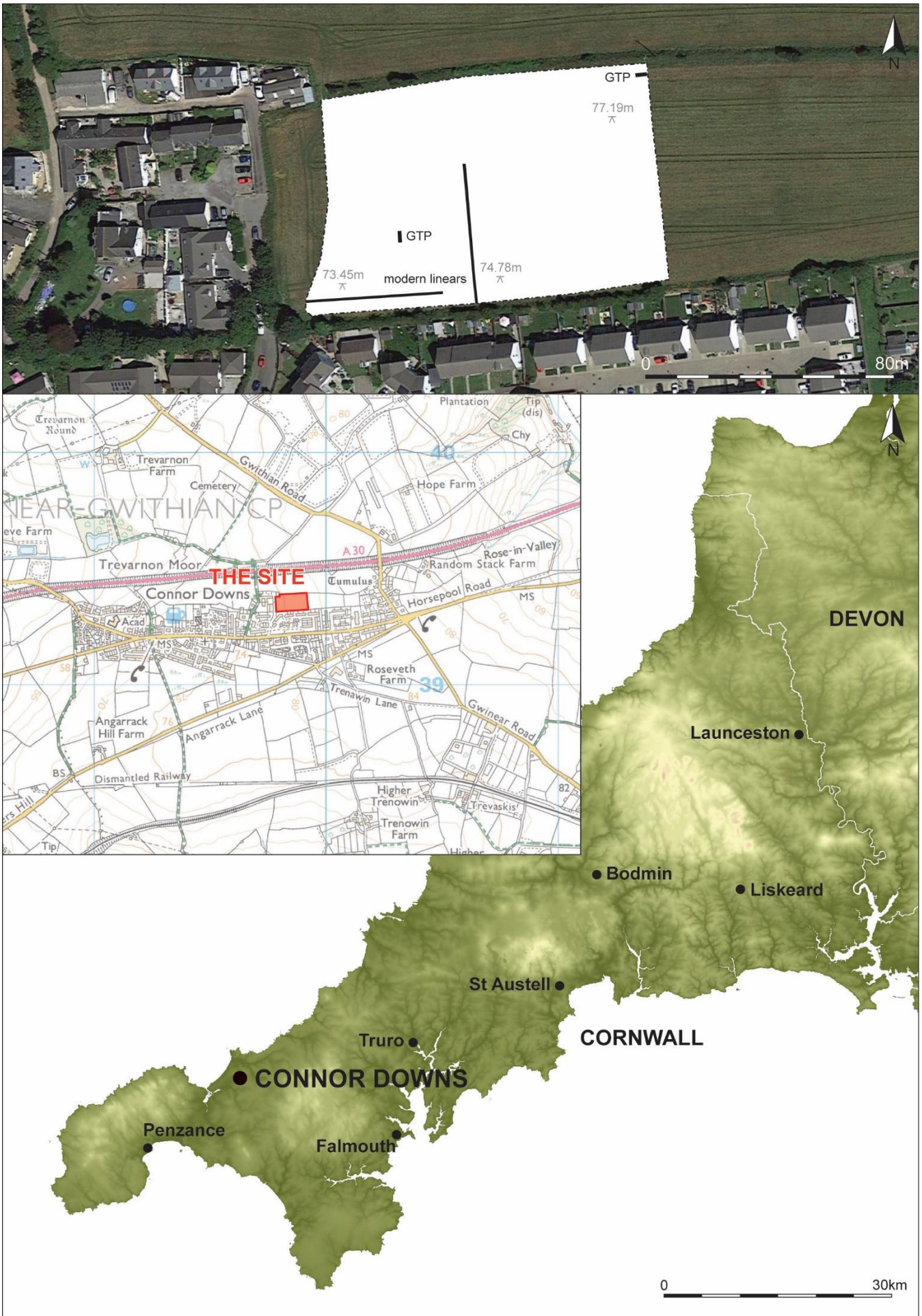


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP AND PLAN OF THE SITE.



FIGURE 2: THE NORTHERN STRIPPED AREA; VIEWED FROM THE ESE; NOTE THE PLOUGH SCARS.



FIGURE 3: THE SOUTHERN STRIPPED AREA; VIEWED FROM THE ENE.



FIGURE 3: MODERN SERVICE TRENCH; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.