



# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

## Historic Environment Record, Historic Environment Service, Environment & Heritage, Cornwall Council

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Site Name: Blable Farm, St. Issey, Wadebridge, Cornwall

Grid ref (10-fig): SW 94556 69071

OS Map No:

Parish: St Issey

Site Type: Wind turbine and access road (Planning application no.: PA12/12039)

Period: Post-medieval and Modern

Form: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

### Description:

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Chloe Bines of Mi-Grid Ltd. (The Agent), on behalf of Mike Roberts (The Client) prior to the erection of a wind turbine on land at Blable Farm, St. Issey, Wadebridge, Cornwall (Figure 1.1). This work was undertaken by S. Walls on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in consultation with Phil Copleston, Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer.

The development area lies on farmland at Blable Farm, to the south of St. Breock Downs, on a spur of land within an area of former downland which was enclosed to agriculture during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, at a height of about 170m AOD.

The place name of Blable is first recorded in 1250 as 'Bledbol', though it is not until the 1808 OS map that an enclosure near the location of Blable Farm is recorded. Subsequent OS mapping and Tithe Maps show the area to have remained as arable and pasture.

Results of a geophysical survey (Roseveare 2012) and archaeological assessment (Sharpe 2012) along the route of the cable run, access track and turbine base suggested a possible series of ill-defined ditches and later field drains laid out in a herringbone pattern, along with a possible enclosure or structure to the north.

An area encompassing the footprint of the turbine and crane bases along with access routes (approximately 55m by 20m) was excavated by a tracked 360° mechanical digger using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision and in accordance with the WSI (Figures 1.1, 1.2, and 3).

The Topsoil (100) consisted of turf and a grey-brown, soft silt-clay (0.15-0.3m in depth). This overlaid Natural (101); a red-yellow gritty silt-clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. Within the natural were bands of loose grey-yellow silty-sand with frequent sub-angular stones. A single sub-circular cut feature, most likely a stone-pull [102] with a gentle concave profile and filled by compact grey-brown clay-silt was identified (Figures 1.3, 1.4, 2).

There were also slight traces of the very bases of a stone filled land-drain and a modern service trench which were noted during the stripping of the site. The location of these two features appears to closely correspond with anomalies identified on the geophysics survey (numbers 29 and 30 on Figure 3).

The excavation revealed no other archaeological features or significant remains.

No finds were recovered during the excavations.

### Bibliography:

Roseveare, M. 2012. *Blable Farm, Wadebridge, Cornwall: Geophysical Survey Report*. ArchaeoPhysica Ltd., Hereford.

Sharpe, A. 2012. *Blable Farm, St. Issey, Wadebridge, Cornwall: Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Wind Turbine*. Cornwall Council Historic Environment Advice Projects Report No. 2012R076, Truro



Figure 1: Location map.

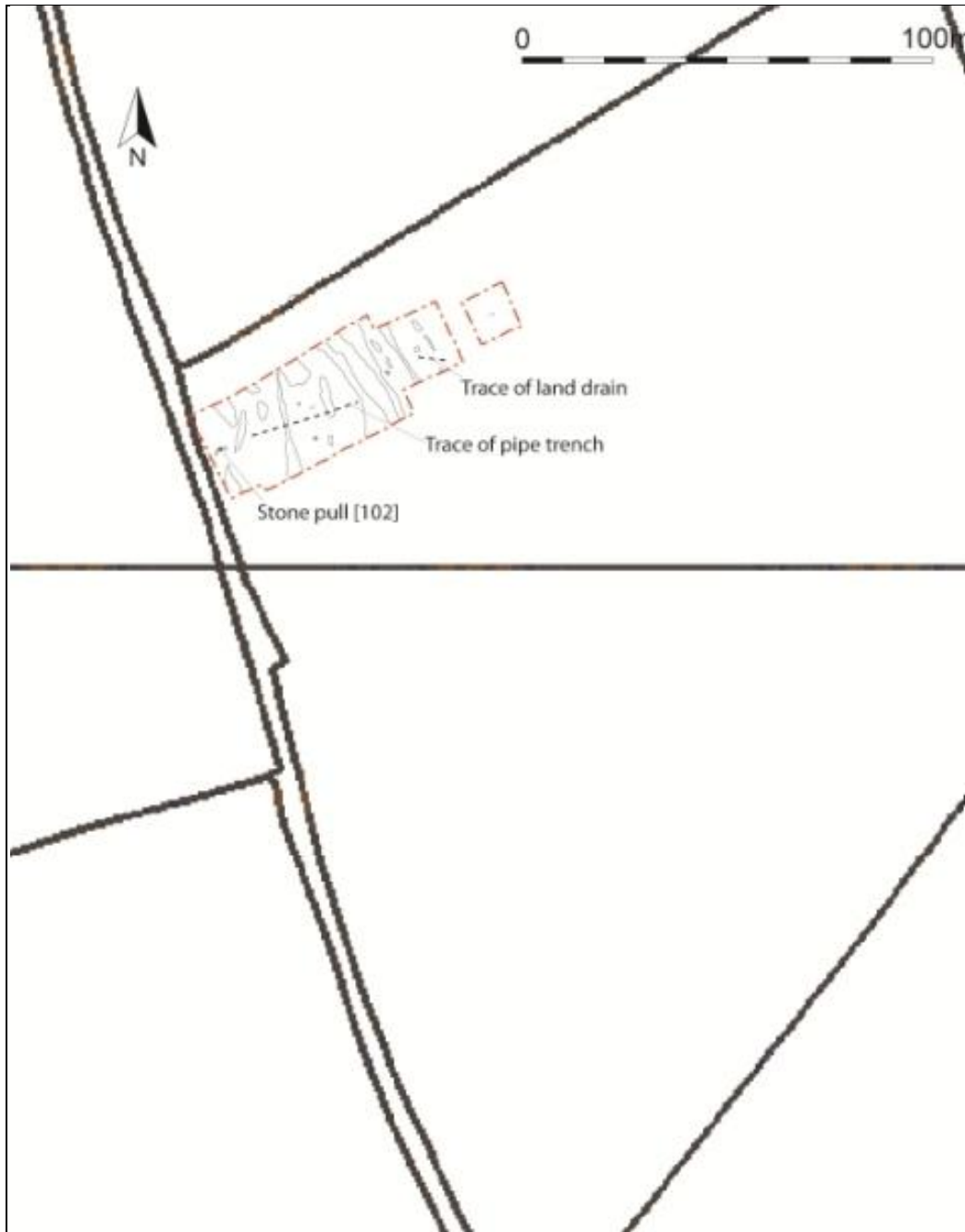


Figure 2: Site Plan, the area of excavation.



Figure 3: Area of excavation overlain on the geophysical results (after: Roseveare 2012).





Figure 4: Excavated area, from the north-east (scale: 2m)



Figure 5: Stone pull [102], from the north-north-west (2m scale).

Land Use (Area): Farmland

Land Use (Site): Farmland

Date of Site Visit: 09/06/2014

Recorder's name, address and phone number:

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