



Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

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

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| Site Name: St. Euny's Church, Redruth, Cornwall | |
| Grid ref (10-fig): SW 69143 41285 | OS Map No: |
| Parish: Redruth | |
| Site Type: Piling in preparation of a new extension (Planning Application PA14/03079) | |
| Period: Post-medieval and Modern | Form: Archaeological monitoring & recording |
| <p>Description:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Charles Green of Charles Green Design (The Agent) on behalf of St Euny Church Planning Committee (the Client), to undertake archaeological monitoring during groundworks for the construction of an extension to the Church of St. Euny, Redruth, Cornwall (Figure 1). The results from this phase of monitoring are included within this report. The excavations did not intrude onto any previously unknown archaeological features.</p> <p>The monitoring was undertaken by Peter Webb on 18th and 29th July 2014 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in consultation with Phil Markham of Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service (CCHES).</p> <p>The development lies immediately adjacent to the tower of the Grade II* Church of St. Euny, in the hamlet of Churchtown, located to the south-west of the planned medieval town of Redruth and to the east of the village of Carn Brea. A previous desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the site revealed that the church tower was built in the late 15th century and that the main body of the church dates to 1758, with later renovations. There are five visible graves/tombs located within the footprint of the proposed extension, and these, like most (if not all) of the extant tombs and grave markers in the churchyard, date to after 1758. The settlement at Churchtown (<i>Merther Euny</i>) is of earlier origins and is first recorded in 1302. The name is derived from Cornish meaning 'Saint Euny's grave' (Walls 2013).</p> <p>The underlying geology is comprised of Hornfelsed Slates and Siltstones of the Mylor Slate Formation (BGS 2013), overlain by well-drained gritty loamy soils of the Moretonhampstead Association (SSEW 1983).</p> <p>The upstanding elements of the marked tombs affected by the groundworks had been removed prior to the monitoring, along with the formerly upstanding brick built boiler house. The excavation consisted of a rectangular area encompassing the footprint of the extension (c.3.3m by 4.7m), which was excavated by a tracked 360° mechanical digger using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision in accordance with the WSI.</p> <p>The area was stripped of topsoil (100); a dark brown friable silt loam (c.0.25m thick). This overlaid subsoil (114); a mid-brown gritty silt-clay (c.0.15m thick). The strip revealed the footprints of two of the tombs (Figure 2) identified in the desk based survey; those of the Mason Family [118] and the unknown grave [120]. A number of modern features, including a lightning conductor, plastic water pipe and plastic drain were also identified.</p> <p>Tomb [118] comprised a square stone built granite structure (c.2m x 2.1m) with white lime mortar bonding cut into the subsoil, and filled by re-deposited natural (105); a light pinkish-brown firm silt-clay and contained three fragments of human bone (left with the vicar for re-burial).</p> <p>Tomb [120], rectangular in plan (c.1m x 2m), was visible as the western granite kerb foundation cut into the subsoil. The remaining three sides were masked by the cut for the tower's lightning conductor (east and south) and the foundation trench for the brick boiler house (north).</p> <p>A series of eight holes were subsequently drilled as piled foundations by crawler mounted hydraulic piling rig at locations between the tombs to a depth of between 6-8m, into the natural bedrock. The nature of this method of excavation and size of the holes prevented potential archaeological features from being visible, whilst no archaeological remains or finds were identified from the extracted spoil.</p> | |

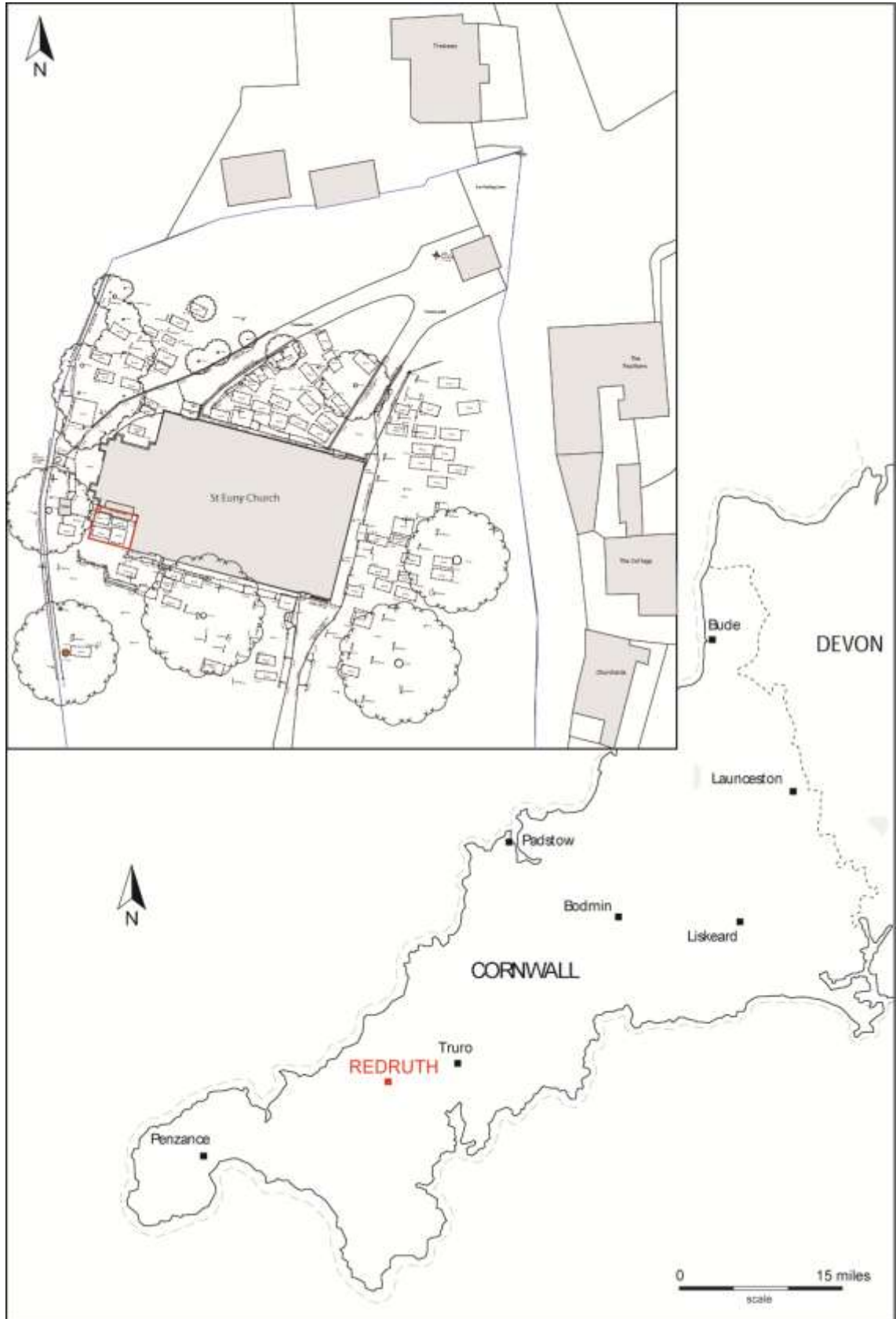


Figure 1: Site location

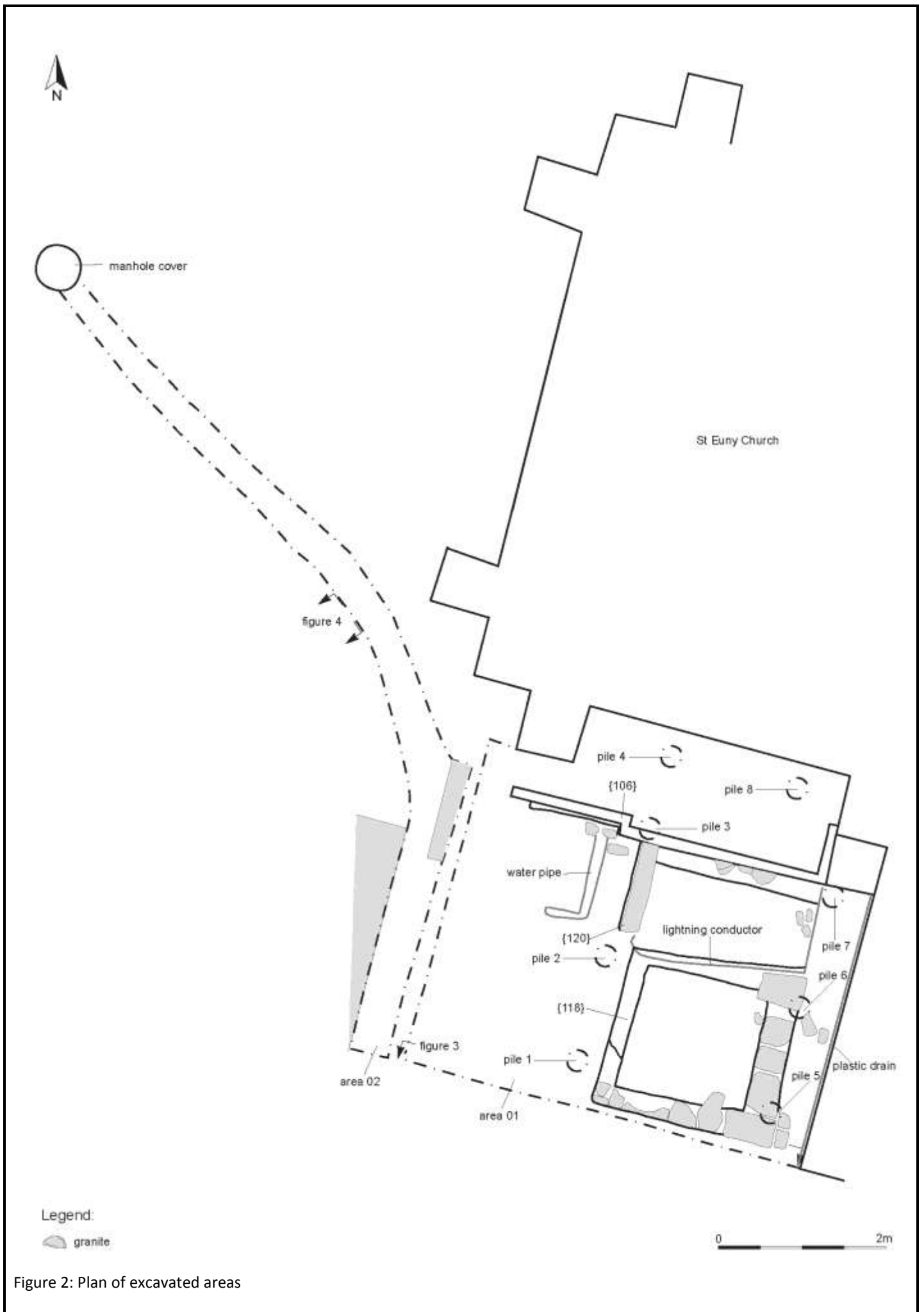


Figure 2: Plan of excavated areas

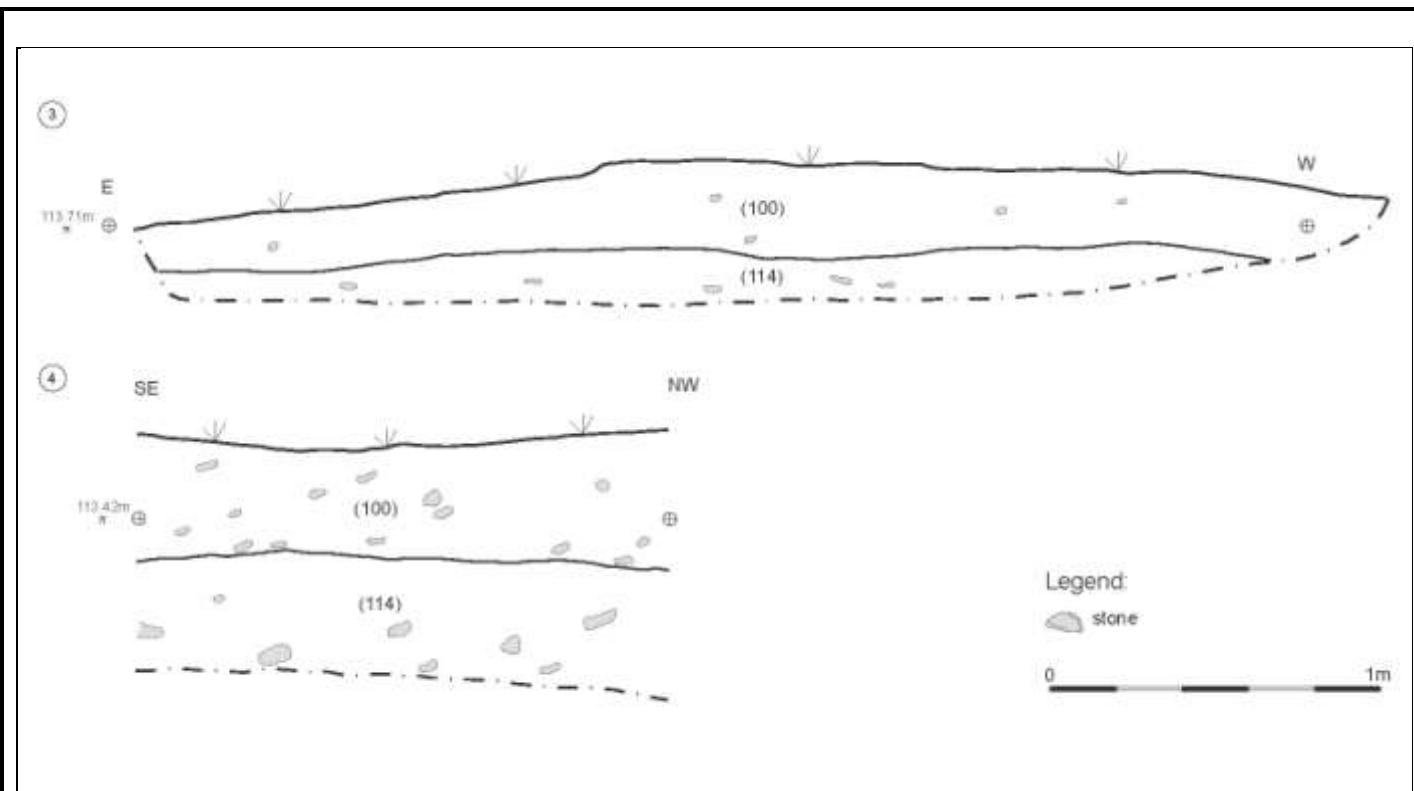


Figure 3: North facing section of Area 01; Figure 4: Representative north-east facing section of Area 01.



Figure 5: Post excavation view of site showing tomb footings [118] and [120], looking east (1m and 2m scales).



Figure 6: Post excavation plan view of pile 3; looking east (1m scale)



Figure 7: Post excavation plan view of piles 2-4

Bibliography

Walls, S. 2013: *St. Euny Church, Redruth, Cornwall: Desk-Based Assessment & Walkover Survey*. SWARCH Report No.131206.

Land Use (Area): Churchyard

Land Use (Site): Churchyard

Date of Site Visit: 18/07/14-29/07/14

Recorder's name, address and phone number:

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