



Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

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

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Tel: 01872 323 603; Email: hes@cornwall.gov.uk

Site Name: Par, Polmear Parc

Grid ref (10-fig): SX 0848 5374

OS Map No:

Parish: Tywardreath and Par

Site Type: Construction of residential housing (Planning Application PA10/05031)

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 Kathryn Prout of Fernside Developers (the Agent) on behalf of Michael Hoskin of Mansion Developments Ltd. (the Client), to undertake archaeological monitoring during groundworks for the construction of residential housing on land at Polmear Parc, Par, Cornwall (Figure 1). The results from this phase of monitoring are included within this report. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the excavations. A copy of this HER will be submitted to the OASIS database under reference Southwes1-181094.

The monitoring was undertaken by Peter Webb on 7^h August 2014 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in consultation with Phil Copleston of Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service (CCHES).

The development lies on land on the southern fringes of an area which recent research suggests was the site of a substantial Civil War skirmish following the battle of Lostwithiel in 1644. This battle is recorded on the Cornwall and Scilly HER as MCO53839 TYWARDREATH Post Medieval findspot; Post Medieval Battlefield. Following a last stand by the Parliamentarians at Castle Dore, the historical research by the Cornwall Archaeological Society's Cornwall Civil War Battlefields Project and archaeological evidence (largely the results of a programme of metal detecting led by a local amateur, John Andrews) suggest fighting involved musket and canon across the whole landscape between Castle Dore and Tywardreath/Par Bay. It is thought likely that the fighting stretched over as many as three weeks and was constrained to the west by the former Tywardreath estuary (the approximate location of the current mainline railway). The site is not currently on the English Heritage Register of Historic Battlefields (for more details see Bray and Gould 2010).

The site is situated at a height of approximately 40mAOD, on the southern slope of Tywardreath Hill, on Lower Devonian slates, siltstones and sandstones of the Meadfoot Group (British Geological Survey 2014) with overlying topsoil deposits of fine loamy and silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Soil Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

The excavation comprised a triangular area, orientated east – west, measuring c.230m x 45m at its eastern, widest end (to c.20m wide at the western, narrowest end). Groundworks were carried out by 360° tracked mechanical digger using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision in accordance with the WSI.

The area was stripped of topsoil (100); a dark brown friable silt loam (c.0.1m thick) and subsoil (101); a mid orange-brown friable silt loam with 3% sub rounded stone 2-20mm (c.0.4-0.5m thick); and (102); a mid-dark brown soft-friable clay silt loam with 2% sub-rounded stone less than 10mm (c.0.2m thick). This overlaid weathered natural (103); a yellow friable silt clay with 60% sub-angular slate/shillet 30-100mm.

The excavation revealed no archaeological features or remains.

No finds were recovered during the excavations.



Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Site plan showing excavated areas.

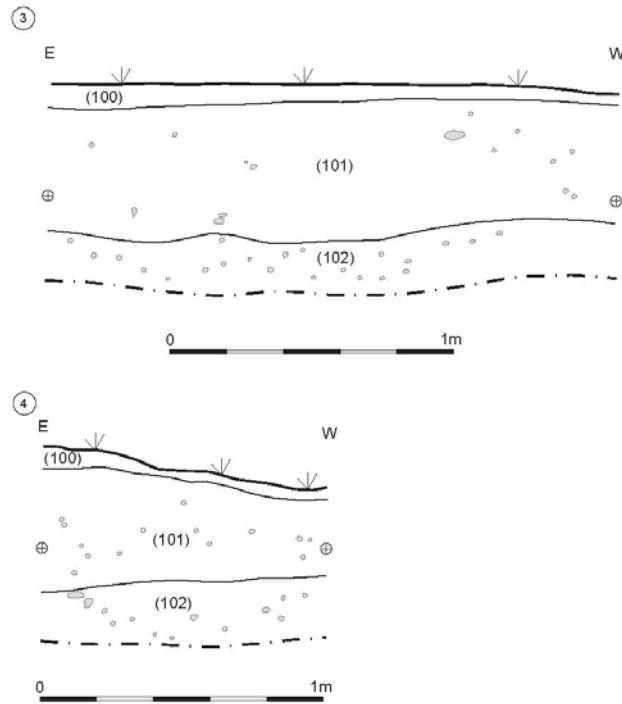


Figure 3: (3) North facing representative section of Area 01, east end; (4) North facing representative section of Area 01, west end.



Figure 5: Post excavation view of Area 01; looking south-west (1m and 2m scales).



Figure 6: North facing section of Area 01, east end; looking south (2m scale)

Bibliography

Unpublished sources

Bray, L. and Gould, J. 2010: *Land at Polmear Parc, Par, Cornwall Results of a metal detector survey with archaeological monitoring.* South West Archaeology Report Number 101123

Cartographic sources

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations).*

Website sources

British Geological Survey 2014: *Geology of Britain Viewer.*

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 08.08.2014]

Land Use (Area): Pasture

Land Use (Site): Pasture

Date of Site Visit: 07/08/14

Recorder's name, address and phone number:

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