



# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

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

Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3AY  
Tel: 01872 323606 Fax: 01872 323811



Site Name: Land at Horsepool Road, Connor Downs, Gwithian, Cornwall, TR27 5FG	
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 59925 39271	OS Map No:
Parish: Gwithian	
Site Type: Housing development	
Period: Post-Medieval to 19 <sup>th</sup> century ???	Form: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of John Cox of Randall Simmonds LLP (The Agent), during phase 2 of a housing development of 33 homes on land at Horsepool Road, Connor Downs, Gwithian, Cornwall (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Phil Coplestone of Cornwall County Historic Environment Services (CCHES).</p> <p>The proposed development lies in a relatively flat field on the north side of Horsepool/Turnpike Road in Connor Downs, just south of the A30; 4.5km west of Camborne and 3.25km east of the north coast of Cornwall (St Ives Bay) at a height of c.75m(AOD).</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). A geophysical survey was conducted on the proposal site by Stratascan (Ref.J2683) and Bristol and Region Archaeological Services in 2010 which identified the potential for relict field boundaries and pits of possible archaeological origin on the site.</p> <p>Topsoil (100) was removed from the majority of the site under archaeological supervision to the depth of <i>in situ</i> weathered natural using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The topsoil was on average 0.30m deep and was a mid grey-brown, friable-soft clayey-silt (see Figures 2 and 5). It was generally very clean and contained only a few finds of modern pottery. All the topsoil was removed from site due to levels of arsenic in the soil and spread on an adjacent field. Topsoil (100) directly overlaid the Natural (101), a light pinkish-brown, firm-compact silt-clay with frequent angular quartz stones (&lt;0.25m dia., but mostly &lt;0.10m dia.) and platy shillet grit. The north-west and south-east parts of the site had been recently disturbed/truncated during the adjacent development to the west.</p> <p>The only archaeological feature present on site was a Post-Medieval Ditch [102] (see Figures 2, 3 and 4), aligned east-west, it was 2.10m wide and 0.22m deep, with a very gentle south slope and gentle north slope with a flattish base made irregular from the frequent amount of stone protruding from the natural. It contained a single fill, (103), a mid yellow-brown, friable sandy silt with moderate-frequent sub-angular stones (&lt;0.11m dia.). Fill (103) contained occasional fragments of coke (&lt;1g recovered and subsequently discarded) and a single clay pipe stem fragment (1g), which was also subsequently discarded. This probable 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> ditch ran parallel to the existing field boundaries and was probably part of the same field system. It had gone out of use and was absent by the time of the 1879 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. There were some large stones noted projecting out of the natural near the middle of the site, which may account for pit-like geophysical responses in the geophysical survey.</p> <p>A representative sample of finds were recovered from the topsoil and subsequently discarded. The topsoil finds included: 5 sherds (26g) of white refined earthenware, 2 of which had blue transfer print decoration; x1 sherd (19g) of 19<sup>th</sup> industrial ceramic.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Arable and residential	Land Use (Site): Arable
Date of Site Visit: 26-28/01/15	
Recorder's name, address and phone number: J. Bampton (SWARCH), The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH (01796 573555)	

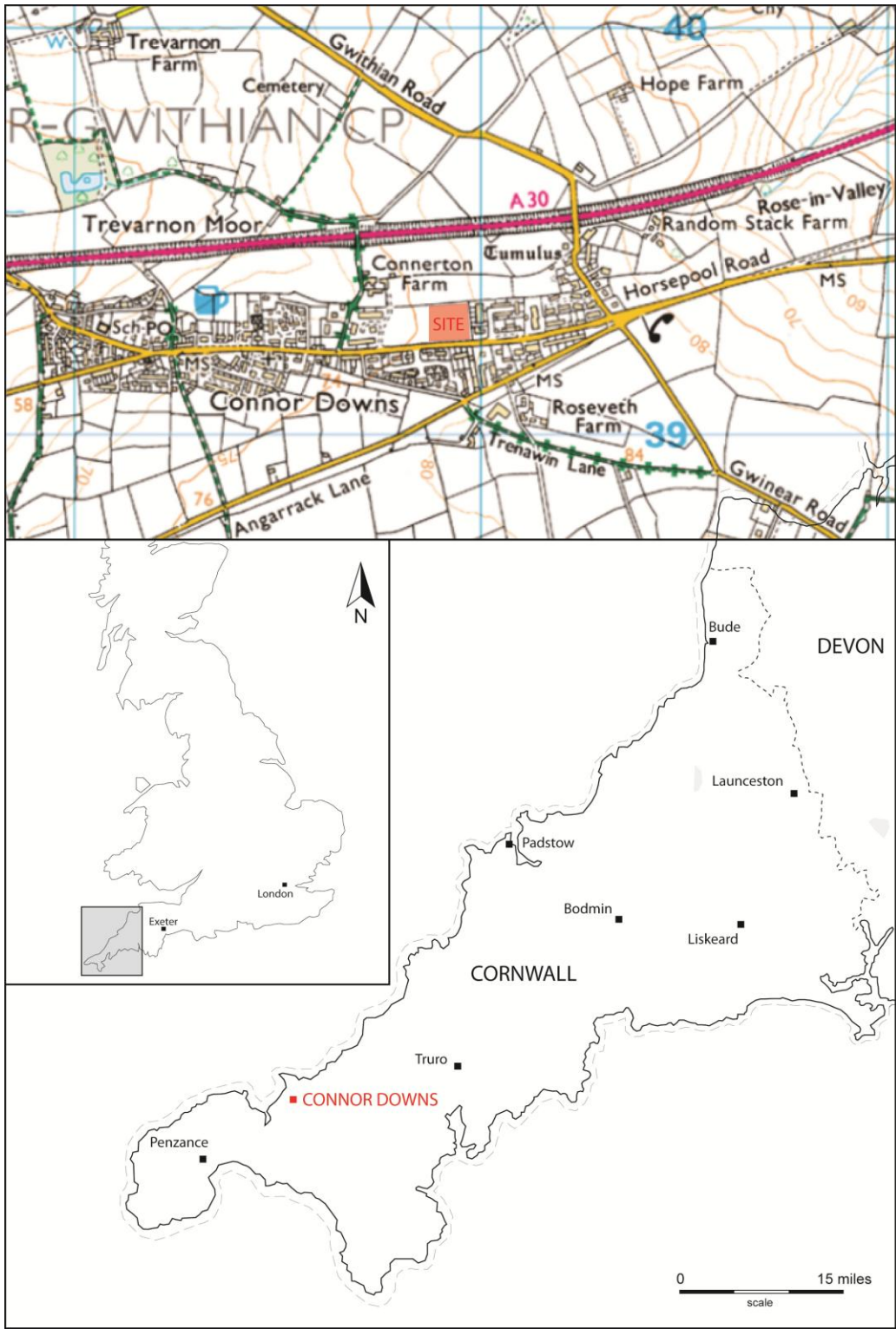


Figure 1: Site Location (the site is shaded in red).

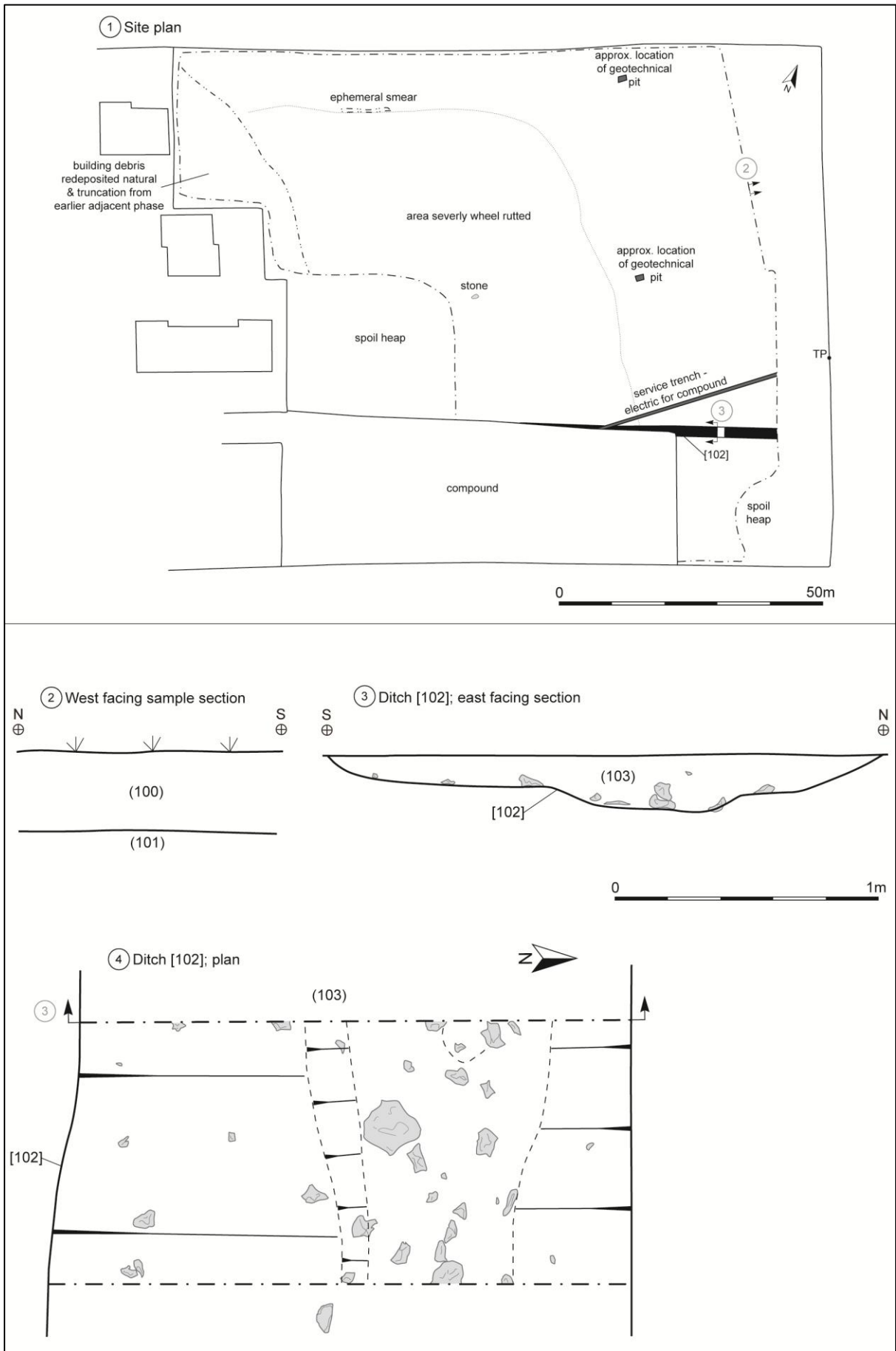


Figure 2: Site plan, sample section and Ditch [102] section drawing and plan.





Figure 3: Ditch [102], viewed from the west (2m scale).



Figure 4: View along Ditch [102], viewed from the west (2m scale).



Figure 5: Site shot, post-excitation, viewed from the north-west (no scale).