

Site Name: Land at Tredarvah Farm, Alverton Road, Penzance	
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 46296 30145	OS Map No:
Parish: Penzance	
Site Type: Construction of a detached bungalow (PA14/05735)	
Period: Post-Medieval to Modern	Form:
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Natasha Morgan of Design Team (the Client) in advance of the construction of a detached bungalow on land at Tredarvah Farm, Alverton Road, Penzance (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on 26/08/14 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in accordance with a brief issued by Phil Markham of Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service (CCHES). An area encompassing the footprint of the proposed building was excavated to the depth of weathered natural (Figure 2, Photo 1). A copy of this HER will be submitted to the OASIS database under the reference Southwes1-188453.</p> <p>The site was immediately north of the Grade II listed Tredarvah Farm House. This is recorded on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) as a 17th or 18th century two storey stuccoed rubble and cob building with a thatched roof with gable ends. The HER also records Alverton as a site mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 as <i>Alwareton</i>. A place-name derived from a personal name and the Old English <i>tun</i> meaning 'farmstead'. The centre of the manor was probably somewhere near Alverton Bridge. Alverton is now part of Penzance.</p> <p>Site Stratigraphy: (see Figures 1 and 2; Photos 1, 3, 4)</p> <p>0.20-0.50m of Topsoil (100). Dark grey-brown, soft clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular stones and frequent root disturbance. Finds recovered included; ×6 sherds (70g) White Refined Earthen ware ; ×1 sherd (15g) C19 stoneware; ×1 (603g) complete C19 stoneware jug; ×1 sherd (22g) C20 flowerpot; ×1 sherd (115g) C19 industrial red ware; ×1 fragment (99g) modern brick;. The finds were discarded.</p> <p>There was a 0.15m thick layer of made-ground (103), which occurs below re-deposited topsoil and is pressed into the natural across the north-eastern half (5m wide of an 8m wide excavated area) of the excavated area at the same depth as the surviving adjacent tarmac footpath. 0.05m dia. angular stone mixed with topsoil and modern debris. A sample of finds recovered included; ×1 fragment (88g) Fe object; ×1 fragment (19g) slate; ×4 fragments (442) machine brick, one having been fired; ×6 sherds (225) C19 stoneware; ×6 shards (149g) glass, window and bottle; ×2 (4g) clay pipe stems; ×1 fragment (7g) animal bone; ×6 sherds (86g) White Refined Earthen ware; × fragments (24g) slag; ×1 fragment (8g) coal; ×2 fragment (14g) lime mortar; ×1 fragment (19g) cement; ×2 sherds (16g) red industrial wares ×1 sherd (8g) C20 flowerpot; ×1 (7g) C18 North Devon ware; ×1 sherd (30g) C18-C19 dish. The finds were discarded.</p> <p>To the south-west of the excavated area (c.3m wide) was a 0.32-0.65m deep lower topsoil deposit (101); a mid orange-brown, soft silt-clay with occasional large- and moderate medium angular stones and frequent root disturbance. No finds were recovered from this deposit.</p> <p>Occurring below a depth of c.0.35-0.95m, was the Natural subsoil (102); a light buff-yellow, friable-soft silt-clay weathered natural with frequent large angular stones. A patch of alluvium/colluvium, possibly deposited from an upslope spring, was noted in the southern most corner of the excavated area.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>The groundworks revealed no archaeologically significant remains or distinct evidence of earlier activity relating to the Trevardah Farm or the recorded Medieval settlement of Alverton.</p> <p>Terracing of existing undulations in the slope occupied by the site will have truncated a large portion of the site. This can be seen on the north-east side of the adjacent footpath, in which bedrock has been uncovered (Photo 2).</p>	

Neither does any subsoil survive in the north-east half of the excavated area, which was then subject to modern disturbance accounted for by the Made-ground deposit (103). This was a stoned surface not unlike the stoned surface between the garages/sheds immediately south-east of the site. Also, as it was at the same level as the adjacent footpath, it was probably contemporary of these features, but with the 20th century development of structures to the north-west or of the afore mentioned garages, excess soil was spread across the site and then it was used for horticultural purposes. Trees including some large ones with extensive root systems also occupied the periphery of the site and caused severe bio-turbation of the surviving soil layers and top of the natural.

No archaeological features were revealed and all finds were discarded.

Land Use (Area): Sub-urban development	Land Use (Site): Horticultural
Date of Site Visit: 26/08/2014	
Recorder's name, address and phone number: J. Bampton; South West Archaeology Ltd, The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH; 01769 573555	

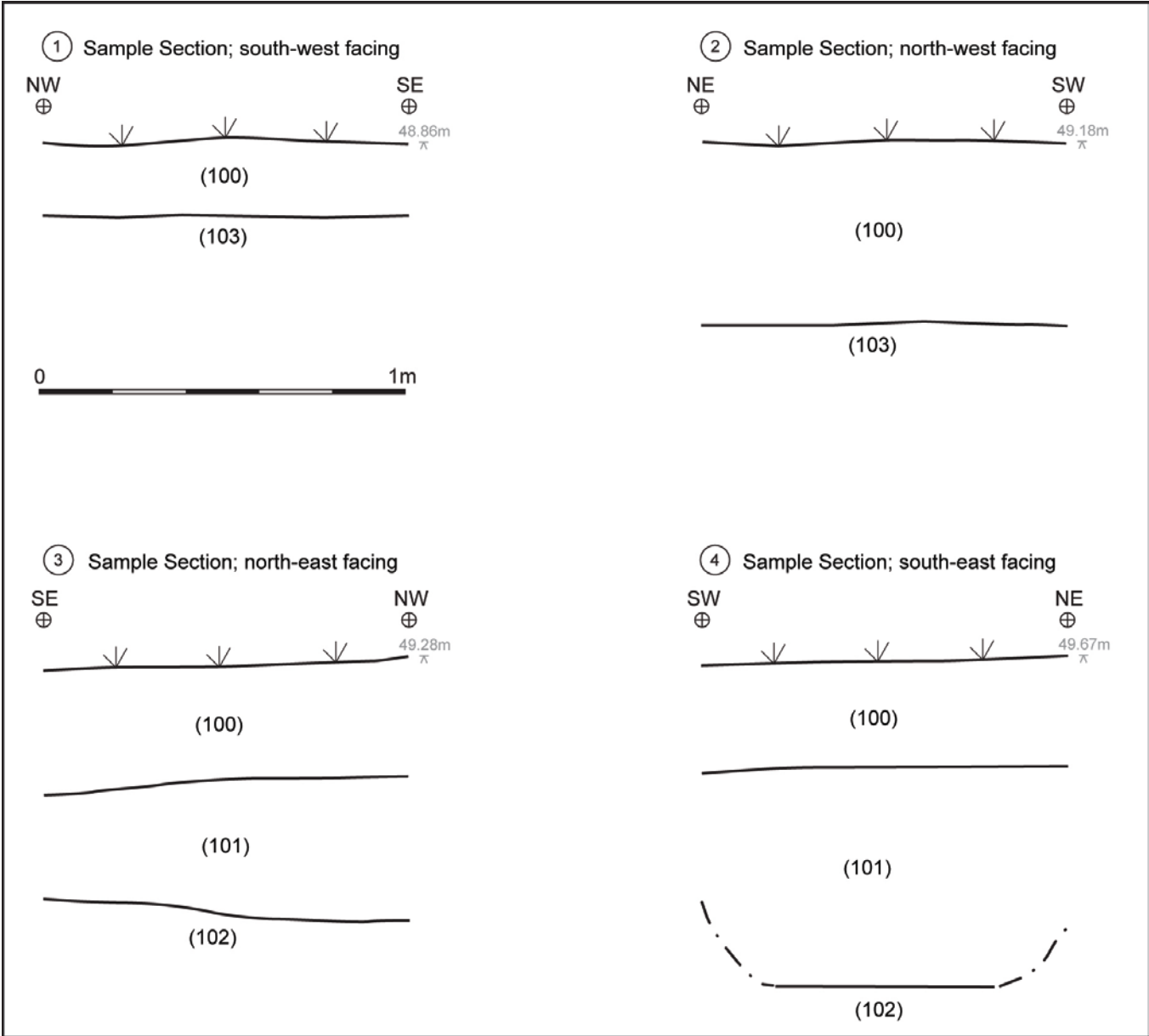
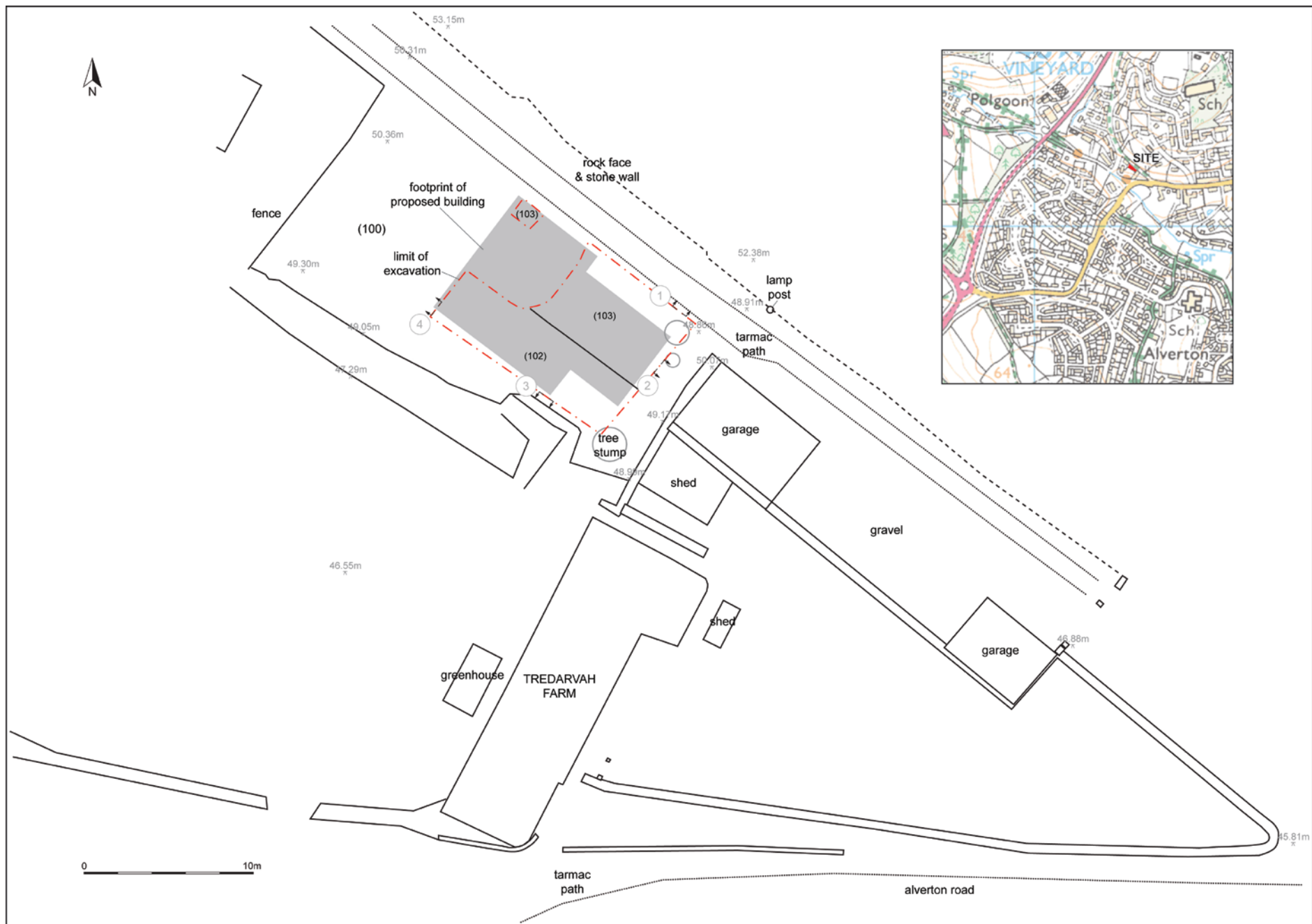


Figure 1: Sample sections of excavated area, drawing numbers correspond to greyscale numbers in Figure 2.



Figures 2: Site location plan, greyscale section numbers correspond to drawing numbers in Figure 1.



Photo 1: Excavated area; viewed from the south-east (2m scale). Made-ground (103) is on the right.



Photo 2: Rock face and stone retaining wall along path north-east of site; viewed from the west (2m scale).



Photo 3: Sample Section 3; viewed from the north-east (1m scale).



Photo 4: Sample Section 4; viewed from the south-west (1m scale).